

Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club Board Meeting Minutes  
March 15,2023  
L.E. Phillips YMCA Indoor Sports Center

Board members present: Julie Booth (Parks and Rec liaison), Harry Gordee, Greg Helgeson, Bev Hilton, Sandy Johnson, Mike Mai (via Zoom), Karen McDermott, Judy Mirr, Linda Nicastro (USPA ambassador; via Zoom), and Stacy Sommers.

Also present: Club members Patti Lien and Steve Wood.

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Club President Greg Helgeson.
2. Secretary's report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February meeting with addition of Julie Booth being listed as present. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer's report. Mike reported that the Club has a balance of \$83,704.74. He also reported that the Club has a \$567.64 balance with Pickleball Central. Rewards can be used for anything that can be purchased from Pickleball Central. A motion was made and seconded that the money be used to purchase 200 balls that will be available when the McDonough courts are opened in April (suggested donation: two balls for \$5). Motion carried.
4. Club member Steve Wood explained his experience with website design. Steve offered to work with several aspects of the Club's website. One variable is the amount of money the Club wants to invest in its website. Steve recommended using Membership Works, and based on the number of Club members, the monthly cost would be \$60 in addition to a monthly website hosting fee. Steve recommended using Hostgator as a website host at a cost of approximately \$3 a month. Greg will talk with Mitch Johnson about Steve taking over website responsibilities. Square Space is the current web hosting site at an annual cost of \$240. A motion was made and seconded to spend up to \$80 a month for the Club to use Membership Works and additional plugins for the Club's website. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded that online payment transaction fees be absorbed in the membership dues. The motion was tabled.
5. The Board needs prior approval for members to be reimbursed for expenses they may have incurred. A motion was made and seconded that going forward, individuals will be recognized for donations through thank yous in the newsletter, website, or FB. Motion carried.
6. Opening day at McDonough Park is April 20. Members will need to bring gloves, rakes, nippers, step ladders, etc. Mike Peterson will be asked for specific supplies that will be needed that day (i.e., zip ties). Memberships will be accepted that day. The Social Committee will provide beverages and a food item. Court ambassadors will sell balls and handle the sign up for the drawing. Club members who paid their membership dues by March 31 will be eligible to have their name in the drawing. Four \$50 gift cards will be given away. Greg is hoping to give an update on the court repair/resurfacing. A motion was made and seconded to spend up to \$200 for windscreens, if needed. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded for the Social Committee to spend up to \$75 for beverages and food items on opening day at McDonough Park. Motion carried.

7. Paddle lines and racks for McDonough Park courts. Harry reported that there are a number of paddle racks available for a cost. Sandy reviewed the issue presented to the Board last September regarding having a paddle line that would allow for equitable play. Linda suggested that white boards are another option in place of using a paddle line. More than one more white board would be needed at McDonough Park because of the number of courts. Judy suggested that we wait and see if a paddle line/white board is needed since there are more courts in the area (Lake Hallie and the Town of LaFayette). In respect to the individuals who had concerns, the Club will communicate to them that the Club is researching options regarding using a paddle line/white board. A motion was made and seconded that court availability will be assessed and if necessary, a task force will be formed to address the issue and options. Motion carried.
8. Shoe recycling. Bev and Sandy reported on a shoe recycling through GotSneakers. GotSneakers will accept athletic shoes and pay the Club a per-pair dollar amount ranging from \$.25 to \$7. A motion was made and seconded to collect athletic shoes twice a year and send them to GotSneakers. The first collection will be when the courts are opened on April 20 when courts are opened. Motion carried. Julie offered to create a flier to advertise this.
9. Sandy updated the Board on the virtual store through Chippewa Valley Sporting Goods. Sandy, Donna Nelson, and Nancy Rasmussen explored merchandise options and came up with 18 items that will be available to members. Members can go into the store and select the items for purchase. A shipping option could be available, or people would go directly to Chippewa Valley Sporting Goods to pick up merchandise. Sandy described the items that will be available. They will either be screen printed or embroidered. Items included both long and short sleeved tee shirts, hats, tank tops, zip-up hoodies, pullover hoodies, visors, sleeveless tee shirts, and half zip pullovers. They will be offered in white, black, gray (ash), and royal blue. Sandy will have garment samples available McDonough Park on April 20. There is no cost for the Club to have a virtual store and there is no long-term commitment. A motion was made and seconded to proceed with having a virtual store through Chippewa Valley Sporting Goods. Motion carried.
10. Selkirk Pickleball Community Growth Program. Linda reported that Selkirk approved application to their community growth program and the Club will receive four paddles. Additional paddles can be purchased for \$20. Linda also reported that Altoona P and Rec has been in contact with her for lessons. Lessons will be held in May 18, June 15, and July 20 at the Hillcrest courts. Linda will work with the Lessons Committee Co-Chairs Judy Mirr and Terry Neuman to coordinate the lessons.
11. Spring tournament. Plans need to get in place for the June tournament. Greg has not been able to find an individual to chair the Tournament Committee. It needs to be decided if tournaments will be held through the City of EC Parks and Rec or if the Club will host the tournament. There are pros and cons for both options. The payout money of \$1,500 earmarked for the canceled 2022 tournament is still in the Club's treasury. The Dells Open would be held on June 24, 2023. A motion was made and seconded that the City of Eau Claire Parks and Rec Department be a co-sponsor of the Dells Open on June 24 with Julie Booth serving as tournament director. Motion carried.

12. Care of Club equipment. It was reported that paddles are stored at the Sports Center in a plastic bin. People have been using balls that are earmarked for lessons. Approximately half the balls have not been returned.
13. April 12 is our work meeting. This will be used to schedule and plan events for the rest of the year.
14. Committee chairs update. Greg will pursue getting a tournament chair for the fall tournament. There is also a need for a chairperson for court ambassadors. Discussion took place regarding having committee members being more involved in the committees they agreed to serve on.
15. Blue Ox shoes. The store is willing to offer a percentage off to pickleball players. Greg will get more details. This could be advertised through the newsletter. Sandy is going to clarify if Scheels will offer a percentage off for to Club members for pickleball related merchandise.
16. Newsletter. Last newsletter was distributed March 7. The next newsletter will be sent early to mid-April. Articles can be sent directly to Lori Jahnke.
17. Agenda for work meeting. Board members are to submit agenda items to Greg for this meeting.
18. The next Board meeting is April 19, 2023. Board members are to submit agenda items to Greg.
19. Other. Judy reported that 34 club members have signed up to work for the EC Marathon on April 30; 16 more volunteers are needed.
20. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Bev Hilton  
Secretary