

Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2023, 12 Noon  
McDonough Park Pavilion

Present: Julie Booth, Harry Gordee, Greg Helgeson, Bev Hilton, Sandy Johnson, Jeff Lorentz, Karen McDermott, Mike Mai, Linda Nicastro, and Stacy Sommers.

Also present: Kathy Abens, Diane Degenhardt, Pam Herrick, Kathy Krieger, Dean Mathwig, Kathy Preston, and Steve Wood.

The following items of business were discussed:

1. The meeting was called to order by Club President Greg Helgeson
2. Old business.
  - a. Website. Steve Wood, Club member and Club website developer, reported that the system does not allow random donation amounts when people are completing their memberships online through the Club's website. The Club could be missing donations because of this. Set amounts of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, and \$500 were suggested as "other amount" is not an option. Donations can also be made through the Donate tab on the homepage of the website or by mailing them directly to the Club's treasurer. Donations made when paying Club dues are down since the electronic version of paying dues has been implemented. A motion was made and seconded to have predetermined donation amounts as an option when members are paying their membership dues through the Club's website. Motion passed.  
  
Greg asked Steve to write an article for the Club's newsletter regarding the new website and its features. Intro to Pickleball was added as an event on the website. People were able to sign up and pay electronically. Sandy reported that she received a bogus email that had come through the Club's website. Steve will investigate this.
3. Secretary's report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the April Board meeting. Motion passed.
4. Treasurer's report. Mike distributed the treasurer's report. The Club has a balance of \$90,043.92. The Club's money market fund earned \$84.06 in interest since April.
5. Membership report. Karen reported that to date the Club has 386 members. The website is working well for people paying their annual membership dues. Hardcopies of the membership form will be available at the local courts. There will be a membership table at the June 24 tournament. Nancy Rasmussen will connect with Jeff if additional volunteers are needed to staff the membership table at the tournament.
6. Julie Booth, Parks and Rec liaison, updated the Board on the Dells Open tournament which will be held on Saturday, June 24, at McDonough Park. Many divisions are full and wait lists have

been started. Two nationally ranked juniors will be participating in the tournament. Julie reported that Mitch Johnson approached her about selling his remaining pickleball-related merchandise at the tournament with a portion of the proceeds going to the Club. Others interested in selling items at the tournament need to reach out to Julie. Items need to be pickleball related.

7. USA Pickleball Ambassador report. Linda reported that Versa courts are not recommended for court play.
8. Committee reports.
  - a. Judy Mirr was not present at the meeting, but prior to the meeting she sent an email to Board members with an update regarding lessons. The first Intro to Pickleball is scheduled for Monday, June 5. Sign up and payment was done through the Club's website. The class is full at 24. A call for volunteers was sent to committee members and 8 people signed up the first day. Judy and Teri Neumann are composing an email to committee members regarding skill training. It is their plan to hold two sessions for members to learn how to lead a skill lesson with the hope of them starting skill lessons on their own.  
Eleven people have signed up to be court monitors at the Dells Tournament. Nancy Rasmussen will recruit more volunteers to serve in this capacity. Anyone interested in being a court monitor can contact Judy as well.
  - b. Stacy sent out an email to members of the Organized Play Committee inviting them to a meeting on Tuesday, May 23. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss options for organized play this summer.
9. Member comments. Kathy Abens spoke on behalf of several members who were present regarding play at McDonough Park when the courts are full and people are waiting to play. It is felt that the situation will worsen when courts get even busier. By having a paddle stacking system, players would know who is next in line to play. It would also be beneficial to newcomers to the courts. Jeff and Harry from the Facilities Committee offered to build a paddle rack for paddling stacking. A motion was made and seconded to implement a paddle stacking system on the four quadrants of the McDonough on an experimental basis. Motion carried.
10. Old business.
  - a. January 2024 Ice Ball event. Sandy distributed the email she had sent to Amy Foss-Peterson from the Sports Center regarding the event. It outlined the specifics (date and time, reservation of the courts plus one conference room, cost for members and nonmembers, and the registrations process). A committee will need to be created to plan/run the event.
  - b. Discussion took place regarding the promotion of Club members' businesses on the Club's website and in the newsletter. After considerable discussion, the issue was tabled for now. Having the option for individuals to post to the Classified Ads on the Club's website was also discussed. A motion was made and seconded to remove the Classified Ads section from the website. Motion carried. Steve Wood will be asked to remove the option.

- c. Sandy provided an update on the virtual clothing sale: Fifty-two people placed orders and 130 items were ordered.
11. New business.
    - a. Greg reported on a second meeting he had with Eau Claire's city manager and deputy city manager. He asked if the City could provide engineering assistance should it be needed for future court expansion. Greg felt that the City representatives were receptive to that. In-kind services are a more viable option than financial support. It is hoped that pickleball court maintenance could be in the City's long-term plans.
    - b. Harry shared data from 2013-2022 regarding the quantity of calls for service and quality of arrests at McDonough Park by the Eau Claire Police Department. In 2022 there were 91 calls for service with 6 arrests. Board members can be contacted if interested parties would like the data from other years.
    - c. Greg provide an update on the crack repair for courts 1-6 at McDonough Park. The City received two failed bids. Midwest Seal Coating offered to do the work for \$58,000, which was \$10,000 less than what they bid. Tim Huebner from Pavement Consulting will provide a bid for crack repair and the cost for a complete tear out of the six courts. He will also provide a bid for the cost of six new courts.
    - d. On May 24 Greg, Harry, and Jeff will meet with individuals from Visit Eau Claire. They hope to get an idea of what support the Club could expect from Visit Eau Claire. Jeff reported that a five-member task force has been created to study the feasibility of adding six new courts. Data will be collected and presented to the Board.
    - e. The process of sending emails to committee members through the Club's website was explained.
  12. Newsletter. The next newsletter will be sent out late May. Items for the newsletter include the President's column, Drop Shots column, Dells Open tournament, court repair update, website features, and paddle stacking.
  13. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 2:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Bev Hilton  
Secretary