

AGENDA/Minutes for Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club (CVPC), Annual Membership Meeting,

Oct. 2, 2025, 630 pm, YMCA Indoor Sports Center, 3456 Craig Rd, Eau Claire, WI 54701

1. Call to order at 6:36 pm– Karen McDermott, President
 - a. Shared the order of the agenda; comments and questions by members will be timed to two minutes.
2. Introduction of Board Members (Karen) – Karen introduced all the board members and their responsibilities.

Secretary Report/2024 Annual Meeting Minutes Approved (Kathleen Skarvan). Motion by David Knefelkamp and a second by Greg Helgeson to approve the minutes. Members voted and passed the motion.
3. Membership Report (Steve Wood)
 - a. Membership has increased rapidly from a year ago, from 624 to 686, a 10% increase. Two years ago, membership was 477. With Club growth, more members, it means that there are many different needs and wants. The board is planning to conduct a membership survey soon to better identify those needs and wants.
4. Treasurer Report (Mike Mai)
 - For fiscal year ended May 31, 2025, 1) \$19,425 received for membership dues, 2) \$197,000 in donations for Lake Hallie courts, 3) \$8,000 for general donations, 4) \$16,700 received from tournaments, 5) \$7,000 for lessons and leagues , 6) \$1,500 from member volunteers at the Eau Claire marathon.
 - Expenses: \$287,000 paid out for Lake Hallie construction. \$4,400 for tournaments, \$2,000 for credit card fees.
 - After paying all remaining construction bills cash available for operations is \$46,829.
 - Lake Hallie total donations received were \$496,000. Construction expenses of \$547,000, a difference of \$51,000, which is the total provided by the Club. Considerable labor and materials were donated in addition from contractors. The total cost of construction without in-kind labor and materials, estimated at \$800,000. The Club's contribution represents 6.4% of the facility cost. The Village of Lake Hallie provided 14% of the expenses, 80% came from donations.
 - Update on Club's historical monetary support for community pickleball. At the McDonough site, \$250,000 was donated by members and others in the community to cover the tennis court conversion to pickleball in 2014, to cover the additional six courts in 2019 and the repairing of cracks and resurfacing of six courts in 2023. In addition, the City of Eau Claire provided approximately \$100,000 to support improvements at McDonough. At the YMCA indoor sports center, a member donated \$100,000 to install a new floor. At Lake Hallie, \$640,000 was donated by members and others in the community. These total contributions amount to \$1,090,000 for pickleball construction and improvement in our area.
 - How did Lake Hallie courts' expansion start? In 2022, \$38,000 was raised by members of the Club to repair cracks at McDonough on the six west courts. In addition, at about the same time, the Club was talking to the City of Eau Claire about expanding and adding to the existing 12 courts. The City of Eau Claire said no to our possible expansion due to the size of the existing park. Soon thereafter Lake Hallie offered \$110,000 and land to expand at Gower Park which already had six pickleball courts.

With that information, the Club board acted after consulting other entities on the project. A signed agreement was negotiated and executed. The Club takes responsibility for

windscreens, nets and courts; the Village of Lake Hallie takes responsibility to clean bathrooms, provide supplies, lightbulb replacement, open play liability insurance, property insurance, parking lot maintenance mowing and trimming, and utilities. The Club operates the courts and has the authority to run leagues, tournaments and can keep all the money we earn from those events. Early there were concerns by the board that the club might be taking on too much and need employees, but we have avoided that using volunteers which we estimate at 10,000 hours for the latest two years.

5. Committee Reports/Other/Highlights of 2025

Lessons/Skills (Carolyn Johnson) – Past season had 16 amazing volunteers to teach and share their knowledge.

Three sessions of lessons were provided to 72 participants in Eau Claire, and three sessions of lessons were provided to 22 participants in Altoona.

In addition, this year, 24 club members had the opportunity to take part in a workshop that taught them how to organize and run their own drill group. Various drills were taught as well as suggestions on how to run a drill group and resources to help locate additional drills.

Lastly, and also new this year, was “shot of the week. Five individuals: Bill Bethke, Teri Neumann, Tim O’Reilly, Eric Lindquist and Keven Stevens provided instructions to 64 participants on how to correctly execute the forehand stroke, backhand stroke, the serve and return and the 3rd shot drop.

Facilities (John McDermott)

Volunteers do it all! Special recognition to the volunteers at McDonough. Thank you to those at McDonough and Lake Hallie. A second battery operated blower was placed at McDonough and windscreens have held up well as several of them were new this year. (120-pound zip ties can’t be used at McDonough due to the fencing.) Shutting down bathrooms and water at Lake Hallie on Oct. 9 but will add a portable toilet. Closing outdoor courts will be determined depending on the weather and announced for help from volunteers with two separate dates for McDonough and Lake Hallie due to the amount of work.

Tournaments (Carol Wilczek) - Club-sponsored tourney: The Lake Hallie Open, our club sponsored tournament, was played on June 21 and 22. It featured competition across two different age ranges (8-49 and 50+), three skill levels (3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 and above) and three events (men, mixed, and women) to play in. There were 130 players registered (61 female and 69 male). Most were from Wisconsin with ten from Minnesota and a few from other areas AZ, NV, IL, CA, FL, and Germany. Next the Club tournament will be June 20-21, 2026. Special thanks to Nancy Hanson-Rasmussen for creating the digital flyer and logo, Susan Israel and Bev Hilton for snack table, water duty, and help at the tourney desk, Sandy Johnson for all the social media posting, and John McDermott and his crew for all the building and grounds work that was done.

Social Events (Pattie Rogstad (board liaison), Co-Chairs Lori Cline and Lisa Bee) – Thank you to Lori and Lisa for their many successful social gatherings. Key events: 1) October Play for Pink – raised \$4,000 for Marshfield clinic, 2) December membership appreciation holiday party at the YMCA with donated prizes and the club providing \$200 in prizes, 3) February valentines day party at Y, donated cards by Sally Holldorf and Carla Brandrup, and Penny Graham donated cookies. 4) March Social and Cribbage tournament at Brewing Projekt. Thank you to Bev Hilton for assisting. 5) June summer kick-off at Lake Hallie with Bob Hume providing the meat and barbecuing. Club members donated chips, Kathleen Skarvan water, with Social Committee members donating desserts. 6) McDonough round robin event – root beer floats, with over 70 people.

We understand that most of the social dates are daytime and winter timing since the YMCA does not charge us a fee and is a large enough space. We will continue to try to accommodate players that are only able to play in the evening. The committee is looking for volunteers and Lori asked if anyone would be interested in chairing the committee.

Next event – December 6, 9-noon membership appreciation day.

Court Ambassadors (Kathleen Skarvan)

- a. Thank you to the 18 court ambassador volunteers; appreciate their self-direction, motivation, efforts welcoming new people to pickleball, helping people find individuals to play with at Lake Hallie and McDonough courts, and indoor at the YMCA locations. Ambassadors were provided codes for court locks, buildings and location of AED.

Organized Play (Dan Bee and Steve Wood)

Play throughout the

year included nine organized play events and round robins at McDonough this summer. The YMCA sponsored a round on Sunday afternoons and the club provided volunteers to run it. 1) Open round robin (RR) play at McDonough included over 1100 players this summer with 50-70 people per night. Thank you to Marilyn Skrivseth, John Rehauer, Jeff Lorentz and Carol Campbell for organizing. RR scheduled at the YMCA was successful and will run again 4-7 pm on Sundays, 2) Two winter Teamwork makes the Dreamwork (TMDW) leagues were held with 100 participants, 3) Women and Men's Ladder League play in June with 56 participants, 3) Coed ladder league at Lake Hallie; 2nd group evening social novice league in August, 4) Coed intermediate and advanced ladder leagues with 40 participants in late summer, 5) TMDW tourney in October had 72 participants. In total there were 342 member participants with 115 subs.

Fund Raising (Joe Neisinger)

100 - \$100 raffle tickets sold with the first raffle fundraiser, and it was a huge success selling out in 30 days. \$6000 netted with \$40 of expense. It is to be determined if a raffle will be part of fundraising in 2026.

Hallie paver brick project – location on the edge of the pavilion - 100 bricks for \$100. There will be a sign up on our website in December and bricks placed next summer. A donor recognition wall will be placed above the water filling station at Lake Hallie and a donor signs placed for the shades and light poles coming.

USA Pickleball Ambassador (Scott Nicastro)

2,500 ambassadors in the U.S. – The Club received a donation of 100 Franklin pickleballs from the association. Recently held a 1960s social event at Lake Hallie to celebrate the 60th birthday of pickleball and played with wooden paddles. They have now reorganized USA Pickleball, and you can join for free. This is needed for any USA sponsored PB tournament with only \$12 fee.

6. RCU Charity Classic recipient (Judy Mirr)

The CVPC has provided volunteers for the Eau Claire Marathon for several years. As a way to say thank you, ECM nominated the CVPC to be a financial beneficiary for 2026 through the RCU Charity Classic Foundation. They choose three organizations, and our Club was selected in the “exercising through life” category. The least the club will receive is \$2,000 but we have the opportunity to receive up to \$8,000. Judy described how we can earn more money through race participation, going on the ECM site to vote and volunteering for events with ECM. She and two other club members working with her will keep members informed on how they can participate to help us reach the \$8000 goal.

7. Info Regarding Upcoming Member Survey (Carol Wilczek)

The survey will have approximately 25 questions and expect distribution in the week of Oct 19. Questions will be related to demographics and what we can do better and understand what members

see in the future. We will share the results with members and the YMCA, and these results will help guide future play.

8. 2025 Additional Highlights/Comments from the President (Karen)

- McDonough history: in 2022 there was a fundraising to repair cracks, and the cracks were repaired in 2023, but the work did not hold, and the cracks continued to get worse. This summer, a non-club member volunteered to do crack repair. He had done research on materials and the process to do the repairs. The board asked him if he would contact the city for permission to do this as it was not a CVPC project. After a meeting at the courts with two individuals from city and John McDermott from the club, (at the request of the city) he was given permission to repair the cracks. The end results look good, and this may help avoid resurfacing in the near term giving the club time to explore with the city possible resources to resurface. The Club did offer the individual (who wishes to remain anonymous) \$1,000 to cover material cost and a portion of his labor. The individual did accept a portion of the money but stated he wanted to contribute as well by covering part of the material cost and providing the labor.
- Completion of Lake Hallie – Karen thanked the many individuals involved in donation time and/or money to the project. In particular, she mentioned Bill Bethke, Dave Marquardt (project managers) and Mike Mai who were instrumental and without whom this project would not have been completed in the time frame it was.
- Many drill groups came together at Lake Hallie and McDonough, including a beginner group that now drills on their own because of their pickleball interest.
- Three senior phy-ed classes from Chippewa High School joined club members at Lake Hallie in both the spring and fall.
- Recognized the many facility member volunteers for supporting both courts.
- Recognized people who volunteered for our different events – over 50 people at Eau Claire Marathon, Big Brothers and Big Sisters fundraising event on 12 courts in place of golf scramble. Steve Wood helped organize the format for the play. We were a \$1,000 sponsor with a mention for the Club on their site, free team and ½ price to Club members.
- Chippewa Chamber event – Five people from the club provided a quick lesson for 39 business participants prior to the start of the event.
- More kids and families are showing up at both courts to play and at RRs.
- In the Fall of 2022 Karen came on the board as the membership person and everything was by hand. Dec. 2022 we had 375 members, and halfway through 2023, Steve Wood set up online membership sign up that has been highly successful.
- With 686 members we have had over 82% member growth since December 31, 2022, and we all play with no outdoor court fees.
- The Lake Hallie construction project was completed very quickly within months.
- Karen noted that there have been growing pains with member growth:
 - McDonough Courts' update: we have recently had productive meetings with representatives from the City of Eau Claire re: the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). Although, as mentioned in a May, 2025 letter to the club, we are no longer be able to do things at no cost at McDonough but would need to pay court reservation fees to host lessons, run tournaments and provide insurance for all events. Any events producing revenue would have to be approved by the city council. It was stressed that this situation is not unique to the CVPC but is true for

all organizations using the parks (e.g baseball, soccer, etc.) and is simply the city's policy. Due to the agreement with The Village of Lake Hallie, we can schedule events there at no cost to the Club and keep the money earned so this is why most events are scheduled at Hallie. Karen emphasized that it is not the board's intent to leave McDonough behind and reminded members that Lake Hallie is for everyone. She encouraged members not to dwell on what didn't go well. We can acknowledge that there are things we need to take a look at and we can always improve, but going forward let's keep our mission in mind and be the Club that figures out how to work together.

9. CORP with the City of Eau Claire (Mike and Karen) – overall plan – thank you to Greg Helgeson who was a member and chair of the Eau Claire Planning Commission and arranged a meeting with key individuals. There was much more optimism than in previous meetings.
Mike, Karen and Greg met with Lane Berg and Patrick Newkirk from the city. We heard that there is new interest in McDonough court upkeep and the CORP recommends a budget of \$250,000 for court repair and resurfacing. This is not money in hand but allows the city to pursue grants for a project like this. McDonough is #2 park in use within the city. city sets aside money every other year for sport court improvements throughout the city. Money will be earmarked in 2026 for 2027 improvements. Patrick and Lane were asked if it would be helpful for the club to put together a McDonough project plan committee to work with the city to pursue grants, verify the need and justification for court resurfacing and to keep communication going with the club and the city. Both responded positively about this. If interested, contact a board member.
10. Approval of Board Recommendation for Dues to Remain at \$30 for 2026
 - a. Motion by Steve Wood, seconded by David Kneflkamp. Members voted and passed the motion unanimously.
11. Open Board Seats and Nominees (Nominating Committee)
Dan Bee, Julie Booth, Mike Mai, Karen McDermott, John Rehrauer
Nominations from the floor – there were none.
Nominee Self Introductions – all nominees provided information to the members present except for Julie Booth who was unable to attend due to a family matter and presented her information via a pre-recorded video played for the members
Voting was conducted via paper ballot and collected for counting by the nominating committee members.
12. Member Comments/Questions (1-2 minutes/each)
 - Lori Cline – what is the process for absentee voting so all members could vote?
 - Karen – our voting process, in person at the annual meeting, is in our bylaws and we could put this on the board agenda for review. **It was agreed to put it on the board agenda to discuss this topic.**
 - Bill Bethke – believes that our in-person voting is an exception from most organizations and we should change to all members being able to vote.
 - Marilyn Skivseth asked about the strategic plan and if there are any updates.
 - Reply from Dan – no updates this year but we have established an indoor play committee, and conducting a member survey.
 - Lisa Bee thanked the board for the shades at Hallie and asked if shades can be added at McDonough courts?

- David Knefelkamp – members who live in the City of Eau Claire have a voice and we elect people to the city so make your voice heard and the importance of their funding support for pickleball.
- Kathy Abens – thanked the board members.
- Sandy Johnson – The pickleball club store will open in the next couple weeks – email will be sent. The ball machine will be put away for the winter and isn't available indoors due to not having space at the Y.
- Breanna Mitchell - social media could be used more and regularly on events; many people aren't aware of the Club events.
- Bev Hilton – to what are the donor brick monies being earmarked? And can we earmark monies specifically for McDonough?
 - Mike – since the bricks are placed at Lake Hallie, those donations will be used to reduce the club expenses at Lake Hallie.
 - Mike – we can earmark McDonough donations to McDonough.
- Sandy Johnson – there are cool shade structures that go over benches and attach to chain link fences – easy to install that may work for McDonough. She will pass it along to a board member
- Bill Bethke – if we raise money at Lake Hallie, the village will have a problem if it is not used for Lake Hallie.

13. Door Prizes (Steve) – prizes provided were annual memberships and hats.

14. Adjourned – 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Skarvan, Secretary