

Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club (CVPC), Eau Claire, WI
Board of Directors meeting, Thursday, December 12, 2024
YMCA Indoor Sports Center, St, Eau Claire, WI 54701

ATTENDEES:

Karen McDermott - President

Pattie Rogstad

Mike Mai-Treasurer

Carol Wilczek – Vice President

Carolyn Johnson

Dan Bee

Kathleen Skarvan - Secretary

Joe Neisinger

Scott Nicastro-USPA rep

ABSENT

Steve Wood

GUEST: Linda Nicastro

1. Call to Order – Karen McDermott, President
2. Linda Nicastro presented an opportunity to recognize a Club member for the annual Red Cross Hero Award. After a brief discussion, the board provided their unanimous agreement to support the nomination.
3. Secretary’s Report – Kathleen Skarvan
Minutes of November 13, 2024, were approved as presented.
4. Treasurer Report – Mike Mai – report approved as presented.
 - a. Cash ending balance including escrow CD: \$50,327.05.
 - b. A second shade contribution was received from Kitri and Mark Boser of \$10,000.
 - c. The YMCA paid \$1,000 for court rental for league play.
 - d. Bill Bethke and Mike met individually with two additional potential sponsors of a light poles.
5. Membership Report - Karen provided a short update due to Steve Wood’s absence. There are 634 paid members/accounts. A few renewals for 2025 have been made. Mid-month members we will begin receiving emails to renew memberships.
6. Summary of Hallie Agreement was presented by Karen and changes suggested by Scott Nicastro were approved.

Following discussion on a previous Board decision to post the Lake Hallie Agreement summary on the Club website, the board decided to postpone posting to the website citing concerns of publicly disclosing certain details of the agreement.

7. Lake Hallie Pickleball@Gower Park historical sign caused a minor injury to a player this summer due to the location, roof's sharp edges and height. It was recommended that the signage be moved near the storage/bathroom building once it is completed to avoid other injuries. Action: Mike Mai will make the request to the City of Lake Hallie.
8. Ball machine Information – Discussion covered ball machine use and training.
 - a. Waiver form needs to be completed, and review instructions provided on usage for anyone trained,
 - b. Only members of CVPC may be trained and must be by the identified trainers, i.e., Sandy Johnson, Scott Nicastro.

New training classes may be offered this Spring when outdoor courts are available; add these dates to Club calendar and discuss the number of people needed as trainers at a future board meeting. A suggestion was made to place the ball machine at Gower Park for the outdoor season due to the availability of courts.

9. Membership Appreciation Event – Approved two hats for drawing; \$200.00 of gift cards were approved at a previous board meeting.
10. Follow up discussion wood paddles: they are located at the Nicastro's versus McDonough Park to protect from the cold weather and minimize them being taken without permission. These will be re-located to McDonough when we have warmer weather. Another group of paddles are stored at McDonough for lesson use.

Membership renewal incentives: at this time the board agreed that we do not need to offer an incentive.

11. Planning Meeting Reminder, January 16, 2025, at 6 pm, YMCA Sports Center - Karen asked that all board members prep prior to planning meeting regarding Club events:
 - a. Carolyn – dates for lessons
 - b. Echo – tournament dates
 - c. Dan/Steve – dates for organized play

12. PPA Tournament Lease Agreement Summary was provided by Mike.

July 24 – 27, 2025 – PPA Challenger Series (professionals play to earn points for playing in future tournaments) at Hallie courts and NorthStar Middle School. Gower Park Lease agreement summary: letter of intent signed in July 2024. Day before and after tournament, Hallie courts will be closed to play, July 23-28. Our attorney identified on item to revise, 45-days on either side, that a tournament could not be scheduled at Lake Hallie. We revised to state that only an AAP or other pro tournament cannot be scheduled during that 90-days, but all local tournaments are permitted and approved by PPA. Prize money is set in the agreement, but Bill Bethke is trying to increase the prize money to help draw more people to the tournament. Bill Bethke and Mike Mai, Club treasurer, are signatories. Lease agreement authority approved by the board for Mike Mai and Bill Bethke on behalf of the Club.

13. Building at Lake Hallie Update - Mike

- a. Building will now be completed this Spring due to delays with state permitting. Still will need approximately \$7,000.00 to finish the project.

14. Fund Raising opportunities for Lake Hallie Pickleball@Gower Park will be emailed to members by Karen. A draft email was reviewed by the board and approved with minor changes. Action: Karen to send in December to all members and repeat in January.

15. Meeting update with Steve Plaza and Patrick Newark from the City of Eau Claire, McDonough Park- Karen

The City of Eau Claire will require a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The City is being asked by entities to rent/reserve courts. Action – Dan and Karen to provide dates, times and the number of courts that the Club wishes to have reserved for Club use. This includes a schedule of open play hours. Open play will always include the public at large. The city will then avoid reserving courts during those times for other organizations. The Club will also spell out the maintenance and benefits provided by the Club at the courts in exchange for exclusive court use at the dates and times indicated.

16. Big Brothers Big Sisters CEO, Travis Austed, contacted and met with Karen to request a pickleball event for their annual fundraiser. Pat Sullivan, Market and Johnson, is on their board and attended the meeting. They are requesting one day, 18 courts, at Lake Hallie. Karen encouraged the board to approve the request due to the support/donations from Market & Johnson with the Lake Hallie courts. Discussion was positive on approving the event and the need to create a policy or guideline for use of the Lake Hallie Gower courts by outside entities. Dan and Kathleen will bring a policy draft to the January meeting. Items to include indemnification from the entity and insurance coverage at

certain dollar minimum and options for fee structure. Action: Karen will let them know that we are open to them reserving either August 15 or 22. She will also clarify if they need the courts the entire day or just a portion of the day and let them know that the Club may require a fee.

17. YMCA Sports Center – open play rotation system

Bonnie Nicolai, YMCA Sports Center manager, was consulted on utilizing a whiteboard system to minimize congestion of paddle stacking and speed up play. Paddle stacking brings issues with identifying people and people not knowing who is up next to play. Bonnie indicated that the YMCA will most likely move to this process. She will keep us advised. Action: There are three Club members who will donate the whiteboard if this system is implemented. The Club will also initially provide some members to monitor and teach players how to use the board.

18. New Business: Joe introduced potential Club fund raising ideas including members who would provide a matching program for funds, cash raffle, bingo night, etc., and Joe agreed to speak more about these ideas at the January board meeting. No action was taken.

There being no other business, the President adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Skarvan, Secretary