

Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club (CVPC), Eau Claire, WI
Board of Directors meeting, Thursday, March 13, 2025
YMCA Indoor Sports Center, Eau Claire, WI 54701

ATTENDEES:

Karen McDermott, Pattie Rogstad, Mike Mai-Treasurer*, Carol Wilczek, Carolyn Johnson, Dan Bee, Kathleen Skarvan, Steve Wood, Scott Nicasastro-USPA rep*, Absent: Joe Neisinger

*Attended virtually

- 1) **Call to order** – 6:34 pm – President, Karen McDermott

- 2) **Big Brother, Big Sister (BBBS) Fundraiser Event Update – Lake Hallie Pickleball at Gower Park**
 - a. Travis Austad and Cherity Nelson joined the meeting to share information regarding their fundraising event approved by the board at a previous board meeting and scheduled for August 15, 2025, at Lake Hallie Pickleball at Gower Park (rain date August 22, 2025).
 - b. Following Travis sharing additional details on their direction and expectations of the fund raiser, and board members sharing our expectations, the following actions were agreed to:
 - Dan and Steve agreed to be the primary club contacts to advise Travis and his team on the MLP tournament format for the event.
 - Kathleen, Scott and Mike – complete draft of usage agreement, have attorney review and then review with Travis. BBBS requesting finalization and signatures of the Usage Agreement prior to June 22 when they plan to push out marketing communications on the event.
 - Key requirements in the Usage agreement that BBBS agreed to: appropriate level of liability insurance policy, individual participants will have signed waivers of liability, alcoholic beverages not allowed by players during play due to safety issues, grounds and facilities need to be maintained as expressly outlined in the usage agreement, court shoes required for all participants, participants must have a strong knowledge of pickleball rules and have played previously; the event .is targeted at people with pickleball play experience not those who have never played.
 - Club may offer a workshop to participants regarding safety, court protocols, etc. They are targeting 24 teams of 4-6 members.

Travis and Cherity left the meeting.

- 3) **Discussion on court opening days at McDonough and Lake Hallie** – John McDermott – Facilities Committee Chair
 - a) Estimating court openings to coincide with City of Eau Claire clean up on **April 19** – 8-10 am at McDonough and then transition to Gower at 10 am to install windscreens and nets. John will monitor the 30-day weather report and if the weather turns warmer sooner an earlier opening may be possible. **Note: subsequent to the meeting, court opening date was changed to April 12 due to improved weather.**
 - b) McDonough – six of the eight blue benches are missing padlocks and chains. John will work with Gordy, a club member, to replace the padlocks and chains to avoid theft.

- c) John presented a priority equipment list to be dedicated to Lake Hallie courts. These include: two Vermont heavy duty squeegees \$250/ or \$500 total; two 8-foot Type 2 fiberglass step ladders \$140/ or \$280 total; one gas blower (Stihl comparable), 60 cm, \$430; battery operated Eagle blower 5 amp hours - \$330, and \$100 for the extra battery (10 amp hour battery for \$200); SST shelving with totes for the new facility shed, \$150-\$175.

Motion approved to fund \$2,000 for priority equipment and to also solicit donations from club members for the equipment to offset the expense to the Club.

Action: Compile the complete list of priority equipment and send communication to club members requesting donations to offset the equipment expense to the Club – Mike and John.

- 4) **Indoor Play Committee Update** – Committee – Bill Bethke joined the meeting via teleconference to respond to an email sent to him by Steve Wood, indoor facility committee, requesting information on rumors of private entity interest in opening an indoor pickleball facility in the Eau Claire area.

a) Bill 's Comments:

- Private entities looking at multiple sites in the area, but no decision yet. Facilities that are successful have multiple use sports, not just dedicated to pickleball, and often include restaurants, etc. Toledo Pickle Company (Toledo, Ohio) is a highly successful business with a restaurant; \$5 million facility.
- His experience is that other communities with private pickleball facilities have not seen pickleball club membership decline but just the opposite, more people play pickleball.
- He believes that the best option for the Club would be to partner with a non-profit, i.e., YMCA, etc., to expand the current indoor courts or an investment in new facilities.
- Private entities may partner with us to offer CVPC members a discount fee for membership but won't partner beyond this unless you are an investor. Also mentioned that Blue Zone in LaCrosse is not realizing the return on investment expected.

b) Additional Updates:

- Lake Hallie: Market and Johnson (M&J) stated building permits done, septic dug by end of March, running electrical and internet service next and on schedule. Ordering shades and M&J will put in the footings; shades installed by end of April (these will be taken down and reinstalled seasonally).
- Coordinating the PPA Challenger Tournament at Lake Hallie with the tournament coordinator and scheduling weekly meetings. Dave Marquart donated additional pro prize money to attract additional participants.

Bill left the meeting.

- 5) **Secretary Report** – Kathleen

a) Minutes approved as presented.

- 6) **Treasurer Report** – Mike

a) Donations for the Lake Hallie building fundraiser are \$4,420. Included in the general donations is a check from LE Phillips Family Foundation for \$2,500.

- b) One light pole and two shades for Lake Hallie were paid for this month.
- c) The ending cash balance was \$59,418.45.
- d) Treasurers report approved as presented.

7) Membership Report – Steve

- a) 662 members (including members past due). Six new members joined last week and 6 renewed this week. We have 77.2% renewed to-date. 151 need to renew and a follow up email was sent asking them to renew, and if not, notify us and why you aren't renewing. This information will be helpful for retaining members in the future.

8) Update on Court Use Agreement – Mike, Kathy, Scott

- a) Outline reviewed by all board members.

Action: Finalize the agreement, recommend usage fees and present to the board in April – Mike, Scott and Kathleen.

9) Organized Play Guideline

- a) It was agreed by the Organized Play committee that they would use the far end courts at Lake Hallie for league play following a request by Karen. This will allow people participating in open play to have easier access to courts.

10) Raffle Fundraising Update - Joe via email, Mike

- a) Applied for the Class A license and it was approved on March 13.
- b) With the license approved, tickets can be printed and ready to sell. It is critical that the tickets reflect the exact information from the license per Mike.

Action: Joe and Steve will work together on communication to Club members promoting the cash raffle fundraiser and benefits to members of the Club.

11) Hallie Open Update - Carol

- a) June 21/22 - 16 registered.
- b) PPA (August 24-27) – 16 registered.

Action: Steve re-post Lake Hallie Open announcement and registration information to CVPC website to improve participation. Carol will post similar information to social media and include it in future newsletters.

- c) Tournament introduction and mini tourney/USA Pickleball Rules workshop - May 9/10 - Carol and Scott

Workshop purpose: encourage people to learn and become more comfortable and confident registering and playing in tournaments. Scheduled for Friday late afternoon/evening and then a mock tournament either Friday evening or Saturday. The Board agreed to not charge a fee for the workshop. April is National Pickleball month. Scott, USA Pickleball Ambassador, applied to USAP for this event. USAP will provide 100 balls at no cost and those attending the workshop will be asked to

sign up for free **USAP annual membership** as part of the USAP offer. A QR code will be available at the event for participants to sign up.

12) City of Eau Claire, McDonough Park Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update - Karen

- a) Final MOU is with the city's attorneys, and we are waiting for feedback.
- b) Karen encouraged board members and all Club members to maintain a cordial and collaborative relationship with the City of Eau Claire despite the changes now in place between the Club and the City regarding McDonough Park pickleball courts. The MOU process identified changes regarding the use of McDonough, and there may be some false perceptions that the club is pulling away from McDonough; the Club will continue to support McDonough for Club play as well as Lake Hallie Pickleball at Gower Park. Karen suggested a special member meeting be scheduled to update on the McDonough situation and Lake Hallie, in general. The purpose of the meeting would be to provide information on both parks and to allow members to ask questions following a presentation.

13) Continue discussion about camera/security at Hallie (Court Locking) – add to April agenda

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Skarvan, Secretary