

CAPITAL AREA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023

12:00 PM WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING, SUN PRAIRIE

Present were board members, Kevin McPherson, Shelley Reynolds, Jerome Klein, Karen Jerg, Mark Blitz, Mick Viney, Jill Jorstad, and Joanne Crapisi. Not present Heidi Lawton.

Treasurer's Report:

Jerome sent the board the financial report for their review prior to the meeting. Wix subscription was canceled. Jerome contacted them and was able to get a refund. The 2 grant requests of about \$560 from Frank Durham were paid.

Membership report:

Mick reported CAPA has 1240 members at this time. Prior to the meeting he sent out the skill level breakdown of the members. About 57% of the members' skill level falls between 3.0-3.99. Joanne sent an email to the members that rated their skill level as Not Sure. They were given until December 30th to update their skill level, or they would be listed as a 1.0-1.99. Mick will remove the Not Sure skill level option January 1st. Now that memberships renewal is one year from the date that a member signs up, January will have about 24 renewals will come due. Members can renew their membership 90 days prior to their renewal date.

Administration:

Jerome moved that the minutes from the December meeting be approved as edited. Shelley seconded the motion. All present approved.

New Committees and Leadership:

The board agreed CAPA needs a Volunteer Committee. Jill is willing to take on the big job of heading the volunteer committee. Kevin, Jill, and Shelley will work on the duties of the volunteer committee and bring it back to the board. Jerome said the Player Development found that there was more than one type of volunteer that the Player Development needs. The duties of each type of volunteer need to be written up. Each of the 5-committee chairman need to document duties volunteers would be responsible for. The 5 committees are Organized Play (Mark), Player Development (Jerome), Communication (Joanne with Mick's help), Technology/Website (Mick), and Finance (Jerome). One other committee the board will discuss at a future meeting is the Social Committee. The plan would be that Jill would maintain a master list of volunteers and committee chairperson would contact Jill when volunteers are needed. Jill said she would like to start with the committees that CAPA has right now and get something rolling. She would like to see a survey on the website to help find volunteers to fill CAPA's needs. She shared what she had done at the Dane County Humane Society as far as structuring the volunteers.

The board had a lengthy discussion regarding whether there should be a Tournament Committee or if the Tournament committee should be a sub-committee of the Organized Play Committee. A tournament would be described as an event that is more than one day. Mick made a motion that the Tournament Committee be a committee on its own. Shelley seconded the motion. 3 board members were for the motion, 4 were opposed. The motion did not pass. The Tournament Committee will report to the Organized Play Chairman who will report to the board. In the future it may be necessary to have a separate Tournament Committee.

Committee Reports:

Organized Play: Mark has set up indoor leagues for January at PicklePro. He created a sign up for each day because of the cost. He sent skill level targeted emails. The sessions are filled there are openings for substitutes.

Player Development: Jerome reported the committee have identified what volunteers are needed. The committee started to list the duties of the volunteers that were identified.

Communications: Joanne reported she wanted to send out a December email to members on the 16th or 17th. Information that would be included is the Sun Prairie event on the 18th, Franklin pickleball update, tip on website help, and wish members a safe and healthy holiday season. Another suggestion is to have a teaser about looking for volunteer email after the first of the year.

Technology/Website: Mick reported that the drone pictures that Quentin Conklin took are posted on the website. The photos are all stored on a shared google drive. Mick has been working on the event application for tournament registration. The options for signing up are one person signs up for both partners, signs up separate and list a preferred partner, and sign up without a partner. Prefer not one person sign up for both partners. With the separate sign up with the preferred partner and no partner there would be work in the background to match up partners. Wild Apricot can't distinguish the second event to give a discount to that event. It was agreed that the best case would be to have the registration be via Wild Apricot. Mick will work with Micheal to see what they can come up with. Mick shared 4 emails that were received from Contact Us. There was a person who was looking at building an indoor court facility who was looking for advice. Up North Expo asking for contact info for setting up a temporary court. Kevin connected him with ProLite. There was an email from the Milwaukee Brewers Group Sales regarding having a Pickleball Night. And an inquiry from Black Men Run group wanting to set up an indoor league.

Finance: Jerome has signed up for a virtual address to eliminate the use of board members personal address for CAPA business. It is \$12 a month. He is going to test it with the bank and if it works, he will send the board the address.

Area Rep Report:

Mick: Cottage Grove Meeting (Mick felt that this is a positive result of the parks luncheon)

- Creating a Pickleball Advisory Board composed of about 5 community members, specifically people who live in the village or town, covering a broad range of skill levels. The first meeting would be sometime in January.
- Keeping basic Open Play hours at Bakken Park for now in the mornings (8:00 - 11:00?) with 2 groups of 4 courts to accommodate lower-level and intermediate/advanced players. This would involve mandatory rotation with 2 paddle saddles. We may identify specific days for this (MWF) and allow for first-come-first-served court usage on other days/times. We recognized, too, the need for some designated Open Play in the evenings for the working crowd but did not expand on that.
- Leaving Community Park less structured for now concerning Open Play. We asked if the paddle saddle could be moved to the middle/east side of the fencing to improve court visibility and flow. Sean indicated that they could add some benches out there for now and possibly add a pad/path across the area when the shelter is rebuilt (2026?). Adding a gate there did not seem to be an option.
- I conveyed that the community was making good use of Playtime Scheduler at both parks, although the arbitrary skill level ranges being used are confusing/troubling.
- Sean expressed interest in working with CAPA on leagues, tournaments, etc. He likes the idea of some sort of regular Pickles and Beer event. He also mentioned the need for temporary nets for the tennis

courts and is concerned about costs. We confirmed that the Bakken Park shelter has a storage room for any extra items we might want to keep in there.

Shelley: Fitchburg just approved 4 new light courts. The Boys and Girls Club is interested in doing an after-school program at McGaw. Shelly is helping apply for a grant to be used for busing kids to the park.

New Business:

New initiatives Kevin reported the Pickleball Kingdom is going in where Bed Bath and Beyond was on Junction Road. And that Verona is talking about potentially building indoor/outdoor pickleball courts.

Recreation Staff Follow up: Player Development was going to draft a follow up letter to the recreation staff. Kevin felt it would be better for the Area Reps to send the letter, so the recreation staff have a contact. Kevin will draft the letter which will be sent after the first of the year.

Franklin Pickleball program: Kevin reported that the program has been very successful and is expecting the second shipment soon. He will update the resellers for the website.

Other: Nothing to report on the storage unit.

The Madison semi-pro league has their championship this weekend.

Next Meeting: Wednesday January 10th at 12:00 pm via zoom.

Submitted by Joanne Crapisi