

CAPITAL AREA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2024

12:00 PM ZOOM

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

Minutes were approved from the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Kevin summarized the financial report that Jerome sent to the board prior to the meeting. There were no questions. The financial report was approved by the board.

Membership report:

Mick reported CAPA has 1251 active members at this time. 10 renewals overdue, 3 lapsed, and 24 renewals pending. There were 4 new members in the last 7 days and 25 new members in the last 30 days. The skill level breakdown is: 169 Advanced, 292 3.5-3.99, 432 3.0-3.49, 156 2.0-2.99, and 198 1.0-1.99. Fifty-nine percent of our members fall into the 3.0-3.99 skill level. Mick would like to see the reminder letters that are sent to the members be edited to better sell becoming a CAPA member.

Administration:

Volunteer Committee Update: Jill shared her screen to show the board the volunteer survey draft that contained the edits she received. She also explained that there will be a link in the email that explains the duties of the committees. She requested that committee leaders submit those duties by Friday. There were a few more edits made on the survey. The board agreed that the survey looked ready to be sent to members. The survey will be sent first to the members that indicated an interest in volunteering either when they registered or on a sign up at the annual meetings. After the initial responses are received, we can revisit the survey and adjust as needed and then possibly send it out to all members. Joanne and Jill will work together on sending the email out as soon as possible.

Kevin asked the board for an approximate number of volunteers that helped in 2023. It was estimated to be 115 total but since some volunteers have helped at more than one event, we are estimated to be at 60-75 volunteers. Having more volunteers to support CAPA work would be good. A goal for volunteer numbers would be 10% of the membership.

Committee Reports:

Organized Play: Mark reported there are February leagues taking place a Pickle Pro. The leagues will probably run through March. He will then decide if the weather will permit moving the leagues outdoors.

Player Development: Jerome informed Kevin prior to the meeting that there was nothing to report. The committee was waiting for feedback from the parks and recreation staff.

Communications: Joanne will be sending an information email to members about February 26th or 27th. She plans to include fun facts about pickleball, Joe Carters "funny thing" email, direct members to blog/website and resale of pickleballs reminder. Other ideas given were to mention of volunteer survey, St Patty's event at PAC, and possibly save the date for CAPA Cup. Would like to have the information you want included by February 23rd.

Technology/Website:

Technology items needing action:

1. **Membership for individuals under the age of 18**

Some communities/courts are starting youth programs. In addition, some parents have requested that their children be allowed to play in scheduled events. Since anyone becoming a member needs to sign a waiver allowing minors to sign waivers does not seem prudent. Wild Apricot does allow bundled memberships. A membership bundle is a collection of members who are linked together and managed by one member who serves as the bundle coordinator. Bundle members all share the same renewal date. The entire bundle is charged one membership fee, which is invoiced to and paid by the bundle coordinator. Bundles can be used to offer a special shared membership to companies, teams, or families.

Should we offer bundled memberships? If so, we should consider multiple bundle levels depending on the number of members in the bundle - in essence so that all pay the \$15 fee.

The board had a discussion on this action item. They felt that having a Family/Household bundle membership with a fee of \$15 for each person is a good idea. However, there is concern about liability. Kevin is going to talk to the insurance company about CAPA liability. The waiver will be looked at also to determine our liability. A decision on how to move forward will be made after these two tasks are completed.

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Should we develop the process to only allow imported DUPR scores via an import action?

The board had a discussion on this action item and determined that members will continue to self-report their DUPR score rather having them imported.

Mick's Technology/Website Report

1. Blogs are being posted by Abigail Darwin.
2. Help request for spam in our contact us emails.
3. Jen Feldman updated GoDaddy so our emails will come from capareapb account.
4. Working on the Tournament page – how to handle it so others can post.

Finance: Jerome had nothing to report.

Area Rep Report:

Karen: DeForest has reached out to Karen asking for volunteers to run learn to play sessions. Karen sent the information to several people who she felt would be interested and had them contact DeForest.

Jill: Oregon, Jill talked to Mike Barone the indoor pickleball is going well in Oregon, but they could use more courts. Outdoor courts were winterized (removed nets, rolled up sunscreens and secured them to the top of the fence), locked facility gates. They have raised enough money to fabricate and install permanent shade structures in the corridor between the courts.

Mt Horeb, Jill talked to Chris Pfahler on the phone several times and he invited her to attend their first MOHOP (Mt Horeb Pickleball) meeting of 2024 which was Tuesday night. They have 6 courts that are pretty new, and those courts are on land that is shared between the village and the school district, so they have some issues with that. The school district must buy-in and approve of what MOHOP wants to do. The school district doesn't contribute any funds. MOHOP raised \$30K and has some money left over. They want to do sponsorships of equipment at the courts for things like wind screens but currently, the school doesn't allow that. However, the Board of Education is supposedly going to approve a new policy on this. They don't know the details yet. They are looking for court reservation software that is inexpensive. They were asking what is being used around the area and what might be free. Concerned about Madisonians invading and taking over so there isn't court time for Mt Horeb residents. Jill will be sending a copy of Sun Prairie's schedule to them.

Brooklyn, Jill spoke to Pat who feels they don't need anything from CAPA at this time. They have a deep network of people who play there and are a close-knit community.

Shelley: She is working with the Fitchburg Pickleball Advisory group to offer events like what Sun Prairie offers.

Mick: Cottage Grove organized an advisory committee. They will begin looking at court schedules for their two locations.

Heidi: Waunakee has additional courts for indoor play. She is going to send photos of the court dividers that Hitters are using as an example for the outdoor courts.

New Business:

CAPA Cup: Kevin will be scheduling a meeting of the committee for the 28th of February. He and Rico met with Baird about sponsorship. They are interested in looking at a 5-year deal for Title Sponsor. Decisions will be made by the committee. Kevin will keep the board informed of the decisions that are made. Richard Russell has agreed to be co-director. The board discussed who the proceeds should be donated to. It was agreed that donations will go to the Boys and Girls Club as it did last year. Tentative dates are August 16th-18th.

Recreation Staff Follow up: Kevin will draft a letter and send it to the area representatives to edit. The area representatives will send it to their area parks and recreation staff.

Other: Karen was asked to approach the board about transgender players playing in leagues and tournaments. The board agreed that they will hold off until the larger pickleball organizations have weight in on the subject.

Joanne reminded the board of the policy that at least a 10% discount needs to be offered to CAPA members for an email to be sent to members regarding a for-profit event.

Kevin said there is an effort to recycle broken pickleballs that is just starting up in the pacific northwest.

Kevin has a meeting scheduled with Lake County Pickleball Club in Oconomowoc to discuss best practices.

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 13th at 6:00 pm via zoom.

Submitted by Joanne Crapisi