

Pickleball Club Board Meeting Notes - October 21, 2024.

ATTENDEES:

Janice Vaplon (presiding officer), Jane Jakubec, Craig Campbell and Phil Bellis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the September 2024 Board meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Report was given by Jane Jakubec. We currently have \$18,307.04 in our accounts.

MEMBERSHIP:

Report was given by Janice Vaplon. We currently have 208 members. November 1st, any new members signing up will be given membership for the remainder of the year and 2025. There are currently 3 early 2025 memberships paid.

BHSU Student Club - Sponsorship:

The following items were purchased and donated by our club:

Net - \$122.99

100 balls - \$195.62

Board Insurance:

Discussion on whether or not to pursue Director & Officer (D&O) liability insurance was held and resulted in a decision NOT to buy a policy. Craig and Lisa indicated that their personal umbrella policies provided them with adequate coverage. Others present felt comfortable without the D&O policy. If we change our mind, we can always pursue this again.

The Board has voted NOT to buy a D&O policy at this time.

Advertising in the Courts:

From Rich - "Someone put up some healthcare signs in various spots on the courts. Did someone approve or should we cut it down?"

Board members present had no knowledge of who put up signs. No one knew if the Parks Department/City had approved the signage.

It was decided that we could remove the signs, and ask Jim Cooney to do so, if he is physically able, due to recent surgery.

Outdoor Court Usage - Social vs. Competitive Play Feedback

In general, it seems to be OK. Getting rid of the "Beginner" label is well-received. There have been a few non-serious comments, but no strong negative responses were noted.

Fall Tournament Wrap-up

a. How much - \$2,041 net of expenses

- includes fees from 14 non-members, 39 members, and 3 \$100 online vendors/sponsors.

All hats/visors were sold. We lost \$18 on the venture due to the cost of creating our logo at Alpine Impressions. Phil has info on that cost and ongoing availability of the logo. We already had a logo but made a new down-sized one to fit the visor. We now have two logos to choose from at Alpine Impressions.

b. Feedback on change in format?

Player counts per bracket:

Bracket A - 20
Bracket B - 20
Bracket C - 16

Comments from a few players pointed out that the Round Robin format did not match them against all players in their group.

c. Thoughts on changes for next year?

The Board members present noted that there had been a couple of different formats over the years. It was decided that a discussion of next year's tournament should involve a greater number of Board members to be present, and that we have ample time for thoughts and discussions in the next few months.

d. Trophy discussion and reimbursement

Jane indicated that Clint Haxton submitted a charge of \$27.19; this is only his cost for the metal plates that were attached to each trophy. He said he would stand the cost of the trophies.

The Board members had previously indicated that Clint deserves to be more appropriately reimbursed, especially given some 11-hour changes that we asked for.

It was decided that we issue Clint a check for \$27.19 and also give him a \$100 Amazon gift card "honorarium", as he is refusing a cash payment. Jane will take care of this.

Follow-up from previous meeting item on Chinook Youth Hockey Program and a new rink with pickleball implications:

The information below was provided by Rich Loose:

From the City Council minutes: "Memorandum of Understanding - Dennis Servaty and Brandy Percell Hartman, board members of the Chinook Youth Hockey Program, presented the concept idea from the NH Chinooks to use the Hillsvew Field to construct a semi-permanent ice rink. Clark moved to move forward with a semi-permanent ice rink but not in that location, as it would take away existing field space. Hourigan seconded the motion, Parks and Recreation Director Ehnes commented the location search has been exhausted and due to the available utilities at the Hillsvew Field the concept idea was approved by the Park Board. Vote was taken with Clark voting aye, all others voting nay, motion failed to pass. Hafner moved to approve the concept idea of a semi-permanent ice rink at the Hillsvew field, Rath seconded, and all voted to approve the concept idea from NH Chinooks."

It was not clear to Board members present exactly how this effort will involve pickleball play, but it was also noted that this project is in the concept stage, so more information will be provided by the NH Chinook Youth Hockey Program.

New member signup - move to 2025

Craig will adjust SUG on November 1st to indicate that 2025 memberships can now be purchased and will include the remainder of 2024 when purchased as a new membership.

Court and Gate Sponsorships:

- a. Need to send out invoices (Edward Jones has already received after an early request).

Jane will work with Rich on this effort.

- b. Need to thank sponsors on FB before invoices go out

Craig indicated that several sponsors, Clint Haxton, and our volunteers have already been thanked on our web page and on our Facebook page. However, it would be a good idea to have a single, additional "thank you message" that would be identical on both Facebook and our web page.

Craig requested a complete list of who the sponsors/vendors are, so he can post our thanks, after some review by the Board, of course.

Items from the Board:

Janice Vaplon brought up the idea of having fence barriers between the outdoor courts. This would drastically reduce the number of balls rolling between courts while play is in progress. As an example, she showed a picture of the courts recently constructed in Lead, SD.



The fencing is permanent and of a height that does not pose a tripping hazard. There is pass-thru spacing at each end of the fencing. Unknowns on this topic include the cost of the project, whether the City would approve, and how it would be funded. It was noted that this fencing may not work for us given the need for basketball on courts 2 and 3 outside. No action was taken.

Janice has further noted that a few players have indicated that a leaf/debris blower would be a good thing to have in the shed on court 4.

Phil Bellis brought up the idea of selling "Christmas" gifts with our newly acquired logo on the gifts. He felt that thermal cups and stocking caps would be a good seller, and he provided the photo below, from Alpine Impressions, as an example of what they offer. A selling cost of \$25 per item would net us a small gain.



Phil noted that we need to do something in the next 2-3 weeks in order to have product ready for Christmas gifting. Phil further indicated that he would take product to the courts, indoor and/or outdoor, during Saturday or other high attendance times; he would collect and account for the money received.

The Board has approved buying 20 thermal cups and 20 stocking caps, then resell them at our (rough) cost. Phil Bellis has approval to proceed.

Meeting Adjourned by unanimous vote.