

Grand Rapids Pickleball Club

Minutes from Board Meeting - Nov 16, 2016

Present: Bob Trout, president; David Boyd, treasurer; Ellen Westveer, secretary; Jim Price, Director, Adv Play; Jim Command, venues; Keith Wolverton, ambassador, State Games

The meeting was called to order. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the Oct. 19, 2016 meeting. Minutes were approved.

1. President's Report - Bob Trout

- The Belknap planning committee has met and requested suggestions from membership as they proceed with future planning. It was suggested they contact GR Parks Dept to see if it is possible to put up buildings, etc. It was also noted that Club members, Tibbe family

(builders) were willing to help.
- Bob submitted our club to Pickleball ratings.com to see if we could be selected to test club ratings through club events.
- We discussed membership dues for 2017, which had been previously discussed at the Oct 19 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to increase dues to \$20/ individual and \$30/ family for 2017. Motion passed.

2. Vice - President's Report - from Mike Madura

- Mike is still in contact with Active.com, and working on arranging a conference call with them.

3. Treasurer's Report - David Boyd

- Dave submitted a Treasurer's Report. There was a motion to approve, seconded, and Report was approved. Ending balance as of 11/16/2016 is \$ 18,254.37. Of that sum, the Belnap Fund contains \$10,858.97; and the General Fund contains \$7,395.40.
- Dave has submitted the paperwork for the charity fund raising event (Casino night).
- Janet Weston has requested to be relieved of membership responsibilities. We will need to re-assign this time consuming duty.
- John Schowalter sent a brief report titled, "where does the money go" documenting how the AZ Pball Club uses their funds. Some areas are: scholarships for needy students, food bank/ charity donations, hosting games, court maintenance, funding for new building of courts, providing food for events.

4. Public Relations/ Communications - Neil Johnson

- Neil has been working on establishing an advertising policy for the Club website.
- Sarah Rosenblum is now the Club communications coordinator. Her email address is: sarah@grpickleball.com
- It has been recommended to shut down the older Facebook page “Grand Rapids Pickleball club” , and only use the current “community” page . The recommendation was made to remove “community” from the name once we have only one FB page up.

5. Open Play/ Expansion - Frank Graves report

- The “Belknap Park Pickleball Open Play Format” report was discussed. These recommendations for open play *when the park is crowded* were well received by the Board. It was noted that refinements could be made as needed. No formal approval was made.
- It was also discussed that there may be a need to regulate open play at MSA during busy times. Frank, Jim Command and Dave Boyd will work on some recommendations.
- Instructions/ Skills (Linda Jirous): Pickleball instruction is currently going on at Caledonia Community Ed (Linda J) and MSA (Larry Keefe) . The Club has approved following the USAPA guidelines for teaching pickleball. Frank and Linda have put together a “Summary of Guidelines for Teaching Pickleball” which will be reviewed by the Board. There is agreement that there should be consistency in what we teach.
- Christie Borne has contacted the GRPC about running a summer pickleball clinic at Belknap for kids. Frank’s committee made some recommendations, as did Bob Trout. There were concerns expressed about the impact on open play time for members, including the number of courts required , clinic during the morning hours, number of days impacted. After discussion it was recommended to limit the number of courts and days, while still holding the clinic in the morning. The Club supports and encourages teaching kids the game of pickleball. Bob Trout will work out details with Christie Borne.
- Court maintenance (John Schowalter): Nets, windscreens, etc. have been taken down; and volunteers are thanked for all their hard work to keep our courts in good shape.

John Schowalter asked that members do not cover the light sensors at Belknap, per GR Parks dept. request.

6. Advanced Play - Jim Price

- The three Ladder Leagues continue to go well. Tues. AM ladder and Friday PM each have 10 courts going. The new Thurs aft. Ladies ladder has 28 active members and has been very well received.

- Club Tournaments (Paul Richards):

Paul is working with Kevin Curley to host the West Michigan Champions Tournament at Belknap park next June 2017 (proposed date 6/16-18). Some of the proceeds would go to the Belknap Improvement fund.

Energies are being focused on the State Games of America in an effort to make that a successful event.

We would like to continue the Friday Night Lights tournaments, and are looking for volunteers to hold as many as 5 nights.

The Fall Friendly will be held, but no date set.

It would be nice to have some events on holiday weekends (Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day) such as the Fun Tournament. These may fall under the Social committee rather than the Tournaments committee.

Paul is looking at hosting some instructional clinics next summer.

- Venues (Jim Command) :

Jim has explored a number of locations for possible pb play. He talked with GR Public Schools facility person and athletic scheduler about possible GRPS gyms available (NE Middle School, City High, Creston High). Jim got the rental contract and rates. Jim was told it is unlikely to get any consistent days/times as most facilities are in full use during the winter months.

There are gyms at Garfield Park, Roosevelt Park and Franklin Park which are controlled by the GR Parks dept.

Jim and Neil Johnson both called St Judes Catholic School about possible gym space; but have not heard back. Jim's experience with parochial schools' space is that it is heavily used, and that any requests would likely have to come from a parishioner/ church , school member.

MVP Crahen has time available on Sunday, Tues, Wed and Friday evening. However, drop-in rate is high (\$20) . Jim suggested looking at becoming an MVP member through the SilverFit program (Medicare advantage) which is only \$22/month.

Premier Basketball Academy building - realtor contacted said the plumbing has been taken out; so not available.

- State Games of America (Keith Wolverton):

A contract for venue has not yet been signed, but it is expected that the Games will be held at MSA. Keith is waiting for the contract from West Mich Sports Commission.

The venue for the Social night kickoff will be determined once the games venue contract is formalized.

Registration continues to go well. Keith keeps members informed at ladder leagues, other events. There will soon be wait lists for many teams. Keith has broken down registrations by States, with over 20 states represented. 48% of registrants are from MI.

Kevin Curley leads the Sponsors committee of 5 members. The goal is to raise \$10,000.

Neil Johnson is chair of the referees, and has been active in recruiting/ promoting that group. Score keepers for each court are needed

Phyllis Wordhouse is chair of the Social committee, working on venue, meals, décor, sound, etc.

Other needs include: screen projection, allocating space for vendors, raffle items, sound equipment, live streaming, opening ceremony, waitlist/closing registration.

There is still a need for a volunteer to chair the Meijer State Games in 2018.

Next meeting - Wed. January 18, 2017 4:00 pm @ Bob Trout's home: 1833 Cross Bend St NE, Grand Rapids, MI

Minutes submitted, Ellen Westveer, secretary