

Grand Rapids Pickleball Club

Minutes from Board Meeting - Jan 18, 2017

Present: Bob Trout, president; Mike Madura, vice-president; David Boyd, treasurer; Ellen Westveer, secretary; Neil Johnson, communications; Jim Price, advanced play; Keith Wolverton, National State Games; Paul Richards, tournaments; Jim Command, venues; Larry Keefe, membership.

The meeting was called to order. *A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the Nov 16, 2016 meeting. Minutes were approved.*

1. President's Report: Bob Trout

- USAPA is in negotiations with a company to run the new rating system. Bob has offered GRPC as a testing site.
- Summer camp with Christie Borne: Bob and Christie are in communication regarding the planning. 4 courts will be utilized at Belknap; no dates set, possibly July; Club will help/ support as needed and appropriate.
- Club has purchased 3 new nets and 10 Onix Pure 2 outdoor balls. Keith has the opportunity for the Club to purchase additional nets at cost after the State Games of America are finished.
- Bob and Paul Richards have been working on a summer calendar of all projected/ planned events at Belknap. Mike Madura will coordinate with Paul, Jim, Frank and Linda to compile dates, and will present at our February meeting.
- It has been suggested to hold some Board meetings in the evening so that working people are able to attend. This will be especially important as we transition board members next June and want to include some younger, working Board members.

2. Vice-President's Report: Mike Madura

- Mike initiated the work with Activenetwork.com, and much of the labor has now been done by Neil Johnson getting all the technical details worked out.
- *A motion was made and seconded to approve the contract with Activenetwork.com. Motion passed.* Neil will continue with the work involved.
- All new memberships will now be done on Activenetwork.com

3. Treasurer's Report: David Boyd

- Dave submitted a written treasurer report. The Club had a balance as of 12-31-16 of \$17,960.25. That amount is divided between the Belknap Improvement Fund - \$10,858.97; and the General Fund - \$7101.28 *A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.*

- Larry Keefe has begun the job of Membership coordinator. Larry will be able to verify that all Ladder League participants are GRPC members. Please get list of names to Larry as needed.

4. Director of Advanced Play : Jim Price

- All ladder leagues are running well and have full participation.

- National State Games of America : Keith Wolverton.

The final contract is being worked out between MSA and WMSC (West Michigan Sports Commission) . There will be 2 venues: MSA Cascade and MSA Woodland, which has 12 courts available and will be used on Thurs and Friday. Sponsors will be able to have tables at both sites.

We will need double support, ie. registration, software, referees, volunteers, to cover both sites. This is a sanctioned tournament, so PLEASE consider volunteering !

There are 470 registrants.

The Social night kick-off will likely be held at St Matthews Lutheran Church, with Branns' catering the event.

*we are still looking for a replacement for Keith for State Games coordinator for next year.

Sponsors : Paul Richards

Paul has agreements with a number of companies to donate money and product at the National Games, including Paddletek and Onix. It may be possible to raffle off products to raise additional funds for the costs of the Games.

There is limited area at MSA for sponsor banners and signs.

- Tournaments: Paul Richards

The Spring Lake tournament has been passed back to their planners, and is "on hold" as of now.

Paul would like to hold a GRPC Club tournament in July, possibly July 6-9. The goal would be to offer a tournament and a good time to members of GRPC. Others could participate, but would have to join the Club. There would be categories for all skill levels, including novices. Hopefully this would attract some newer tournament players. It would also off the opportunity for practicing "refereeing" for people volunteering to ref at the National Games.

Paul will also offer vendors/companies the opportunity to display and demonstrate their products.

Jeff Howlett is co-chair of this tournament. Paul has a list of volunteer needs which will be passed to members with the request to help.

5. Director of Open Play/Expansion : report from Frank Graves

- The new schedule at MSA is now 9 am - 1 pm. The Ladies' Ladder League will still be at 1 - 3 pm on Thursday.
- Sunday evening times are available at MSA at the full price cost of court rental (\$60/hour per basketball court). There would need to be a person to coordinate this, collect money, etc.
- Instruction: 2 orientations were held with 8 attendees. We would like to get a beginner class started in February if possible. MSA is now available during the day.
- Frank has developed a form for "Pickleball Instructors/Helpers" stating they have read the USAPA Guidelines for Teaching Pickleball and will comply with those standards.
- Venues: Jim Command

St Matthews Church has been well attended on Sat/ Sun (Sat - 9:30-12am, Sun - 3- 5:30 pm). Jim C is managing the waivers needed, and the money/payment.

Other possible venues: Croc Center, does Frank Graves have a contact there ?; Northeast School has outdoor tennis courts for possible summer play ; Riverside Athletic Club - Tony Tran, manager, requested the Club to bring a proposal to them.

6. Public Relations/ Communications: Neil Johnson

- Neil has spent considerable time with Activenetwork.com working out all the technical details involved with using them for our membership, tournament, fees, other needs.
- Membership will now be done using Activenetwork.com.
- 5 people can receive the (individual) emails when a person signs up for membership. Neil wonders who is interested in getting these large number of email notifications from Activenetwork.
- Sarah Rosenblum is now current in the role of Communications. She can be reached at sarah@grpickleball.com

7. New discussions:

- There was discussion about doing some type of memorial event/ bench, etc. for Peggy Reed. It was noted that there are other deceased pickleball “heros” to memorialize. No decisions reached.
- A Thank You letter has been received from Lake Odessa for the Club’s donation to their courts.

Next Meeting: **Wed. Feb 8, 2017 4:00 PM** at Ellen Westveer’s home: 5279 Fawn Creek Dr SW, Wyoming, MI 49418

Minutes submitted, Ellen Westveer, secretary