

Minutes from Board Meeting - Feb. 8, 2017

Present: Bob Trout, president; David Boyd, treasurer; Ellen Westveer, secretary; Neil Johnson, communications; Frank Graves, Open Play/Expansion; Jim Price, Adv. Play; Jim Command, venues; Larry Keefe, membership.

The meeting was called to order. *A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the Jan 18, 2017 Board meeting. Minutes were approved.*

President's Report: Bob Trout

- Christie Borne Summer Clinic: Bob has been in communication with Christie. Plans so far include holding camp for 4 days (Mon - Thurs) with rain date on Friday. Tentative dates are July 10 - 13 or July 24 - 27. Christie would include 32 children, use 3-4 courts from 7:30 am - noon. Christie would recruit "enthusiastic" adults and high school students and pay them to be assistants. Food would be provided. Christie agreed to a donation back to the Club for upkeep of the courts. The Board discussed possibly offering partial scholarships to campers who needed some support.
- Bob's new email: bob@grpickleball.com
- Bob brought the document "Belknap Park Pickleball Open Play Format" and is requesting Frank Graves to chair a committee to review and bring back recommendations to the Board. Committee may include, Jim Price, Mike Madura, Jim Command and ambassadors.
- Support for skill ratings are available from Larry VanderRoest, a Lakeshore member. Bob noted there are only 3 certified raters in Michigan, including Larry VR and Dan O'Toole.
- Summer Calendar update: Mike Madura has been gone so no new information. Bob would like some updates and approval from Board at March meeting.

Treasurer's Report: David Boyd

-Dave submitted a written treasurer report. As of 2/8/17 the Club has a balance of \$18,113.53; with \$10,558.97 in the Belknap Fund and \$7,554.56 in the General Fund. *A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.*

- Dave completed an application for a Michigan Raffle permit. This allows the Club the ability to raffle items at our tournaments.

- Membership: Larry Keefe

There are currently 476 members, up from 380 last year. Much of this is due to gaining new members through classes offered and participation in ladder leagues. There was discussion, and eventual agreement, that we still need to offer members the opportunity to sign up via paper applications. It will be a transition "process" to

members using Activenetwork.com . Dave will tweek the Application Membership form, and make it available for 2017.

Advanced Play: Jim Price

- Ladder leagues continue to go strong.
- National State Games of America: report from Keith Wolverton

Registrations have topped 500 players ! Some divisions are now closed. There will be 4 days of play at both MSA and MSA Woodland. WE NEED REFEREES !! All Club members are asked to consider helping.

The Social dinner will be held at St Matthew's Lutheran Church on Cascade Rd. It will be catered by Branns.

- Club Tournaments/ Sponsors: written report form Paul Richards
 - There are sponsors in all 3 levels: Gold Sponsors - Paddletek; Silver Sponsors - Selkirk Sport, Onix, Brann's Steakhouse. There are ongoing negotiations with ProLite and Engage Pickleball. Bronze Sponsors - Gamma Sports Pickleball Central. Paul thanked Larry Keefe and Linda Jirous for their help. Paul noted that we could still use some local sponsors.
 - The flyer for the GRPC Club Tournament is out and registration open on Pickleballtournaments.com . There will be a Media Day, paddle demonstrations, clinics. The Belknap enhancement Committee has discussed park needs for the event.
 - Paul is working on clinics with various teachers (Dave Weinbach, Simone Jardim, Kyle Yates).
 - Paul is working on Raffle agreements.

There was discussion about allowing Paul to sign with various sponsors on behalf of the Board. This would streamline the process of signing on sponsors. *A motion was made and seconded to authorize Paul to sign on behalf of the club with sponsors, contingent on Board approval. Motion was approved.*

Open Play/ Expansion: Frank Graves

- Intermediate lessons are currently being held at MSA with Larry Keefe and Bob Trout. It was suggested to hold a new session for beginners in March. It was suggested to have a lesson "schedule" for Spring/summer. Larry K is also looking at offering beginners' lessons through Kentwood Rec Dept. Linda Jirous will start a beginners class in Caledonia again this spring when she returns from FL. She is willing to teach a beginner class at Belknap also this summer.
- Venues: Jim Command
 - St Matthew's Church is going very well. Jim Command maintains the funds and pays the church. There is currently extra money in the pot, which Jim will use to pay St Matthews if needed and will turn over to the Club treasurer when play ends at St Matthews. St. Matthews was wondering about residue left from the taping of the floors. Jim/Frank will check that out, but don't anticipate any problems.

- Court Maintenance: There is not a designated person for court maintenance, and there was some discussion as to whether we should have someone. The work has been done by all volunteers, with the lead taken by Dave Boyd, John Schowalter, Keith Wolverton and others. There is a need to power wash the courts to extend the life of the paint. It is difficult to do with volunteers and lack of power and water drainage. The suggestion was made to hire a company to do this job.

Communications: Neil Johnson

- Activenetwork.com is up and running. Memberships can now be done on that site. There is a link on GRPickleball website. There is still an option for paper forms if people are not comfortable with the technology. The info would be entered into Activenetwork, and members get an annual reminder to renew; so hopefully over time most of the membership will be done on Active.

Neil announced that he will be stepping down as Communications/ web coordinator in June 2018. He feels that by then he will have the technology built and running well. It is a lot of work , and we thank him for this.

New Business:

- Belknap Improvement Committee submitted a written report from their meeting on Feb.7, 2017. Among the long term plans , there is a need for some improvements to Belknap to hold the July GR Club tournament. This included removal of some fencing to improve movement between courts and construction of a covered message board (with City approval). Approximate cost would be \$800-\$1200. *A motion was made and seconded to proceed with these projects. Motion was approved.* Other long term improvements were listed in the report.
- There was some discussion about the need for a Fund Raiser position for the Club. Larry Keefe noted that there are many opportunities to raise money, but that it involves some work and ongoing involvement from someone. Larry offered to coordinate a fund raiser at Beltline Bar (a portion of proceeds from dinner would go to the Club).

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 14, 6:00 pm at Bob Trout's home, 1833 Cross Bend St NE, Grand Rapids, MI.

Minutes submitted, Ellen Westveer, secretary

