

Minutes from Board Meeting - March 14, 2017

Present: Bob Trout, president; Mike Madura, vice-president; David Boyd, treasurer; Ellen Westveer, secretary; Neil Johnson, PR/ communications; Keith Wolverton, National State Games; Sarah Rosenblum, Club communications; Larry Keefe, membership; Paul Richards, tournaments; Ross Kornoelje, instruction.

The meeting was called to order. *A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the Feb. 8, 2017 Board meeting. Minutes were approved.*

President's Report : Bob Trout

- Summer camp with Christie Borne is set for July 10-13, 7:30 am - noon. Camp will be for kids ages 7-12 yrs. and expect approximately 32 kids. Phyllis Wordhouse is helping to promote. Christie will hire high school students as assistants, and pay them \$10/hour. Christie will be using Onix Pure 2 balls, and will donate these to GR Pickleball Club as a donation for the time/ space at Belknap park.
- Bob met with Ross K , Larry Vander Roest and Dan O'Toole to discuss skill ratings and get input.
- Bob attended a meeting regarding Neighborhood Match funds; however, the Club does not meet their qualifying criteria.

Vice President's Report: Mike Madura

- Mike is compiling the summer calendar of events ; and will have it ready for next month's meeting.

Treasurer's Report: David Boyd

- Dave submitted a written treasurer report. As of 3/14/17 the Club has a balance of \$19,042.90; with \$10,558.97 in the Belknap Fund and \$8,483.93 in the General Fund. *A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.*
- The City Commission has approved our application to be considered for lottery/ gaming nights. The application is in to the State for approval. The proper signatures and fee must be offered; and it may take 4-6 weeks to be approved.
- Larry Keefe has organized a Beltline Bar fundraiser for March 27. *This was approved by the Board.*

Advanced Play: Jim Price report

- Friday ladder league has had some challenges with people dropping out, getting subs, covering costs this month. Jack and Angie have done a great job getting it organized through the month of March; and it will be done after March. Jack & Angie are requesting someone else to coordinate next year.
- Thursday Ladies' Ladder league has been very successful this year. This league will also end after April. Coordinator, Susan Farver, has requested a replacement to coordinate.
- Tuesday ladder continues to run well; and thankfully Jim Price has not requested a replacement coordinator !

- National State Games of America: Keith Wolverton

Keith has a schedule for the Dinner Social on Aug. 2 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. There are some volunteer needs for set up, decorations, speaker systems, etc. There will be a cash bar at 5:00 pm , with dinner at 6:00 pm. There will be a band playing and dance contest. The evening will end at 9:30 pm, with clean up completed by 10:00 pm.

- There are currently 539 registered for the games, and plans for 600 total registrants. John Schowalter is helping with the technology at both sites: MSA Cascade and MSA Woodland. Brackets are set and will not be changed. The plan is to end play all days by 6:00 pm.
- The biggest need is for volunteers, especially referees. Neil has put out more than 150 emails to various clubs to help. Eric Gustafson will assist Neil with the 2 sites.
- Club Tournaments/ Sponsors: Paul Richards
Paul discussed the low number of registrants for the GRPC Club Tournament, and questioned whether that may be due to the requirement to be a GRPC member. There was discussion as to requiring membership, pricing, brackets, etc.
- Paul has a full venue of sponsors for the National State games and the Club tournament. He is also working on clinics and paddle demos for both events. He noted that he has Dave Weinbach coming for a clinic and paddle demo on Thurs. eve of the National State Games.
- Friday Night Lights play - Sarah Rosenblum has offered to coordinate these Friday nights this summer. This has been a popular event .

Open Play/ Expansion: Frank Graves report

- Frank is working on the "Open Play" guidelines for Belknap park play this summer. He will present it to the Board when he returns next month.
- Instruction: Larry Keefe is offering lessons through Kentwood Rec Dept. This will be publicized through the Club communications. Linda Jirous is returning from FL April 1st, and will again be available for lessons.
- Venues: Jim Command report.

St Matthews Church has been very successful on Sat am and Sunday afternoons. This will continue through April, with some dates unavailable, but will end as the weather improves and outside play picks up. Thanks to Jim and Frank Graves for coordinating this venue.

PR/ Communications: Neil Johnson

- Activenetwork.com is up and running. All membership applications/renewals can now be done through this website. GRPC members will be informed soon as to membership renewals. Members will subsequently be sent yearly renewal notices through Activenetwork.

- Sarah Rosenblum is now active at sarah@grpickleball.com. Communications re: events, needs, etc. are being emailed to members.

Belknap Improvement Committee: written report

- Grand Rapids Parks Dept. values out care and improvements at Belknap park. They also now have some dedicated tax funding for park improvements; and Belknap is scheduled for 2019/20. The board gave them our “wish list” of improvements. Parks Dept agreed to move benches/bleachers to the area and the path to the bathroom is done. They don’t think they will run water to other portions of the court due to cost. They gave the Club approval to get an estimate to run electric to other court areas, and will discuss costs with the Club. They indicated a shelter house may be possible if it serves the general public, and the Club will proceed with the plans for that. Court resurfacing is not in the City’s improvement plans.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2017, place to be determined.

Minutes submitted, Ellen Westveer, secretary