

ANNUAL MEETING, Grand Rapids Pickleball Club: Sat. May 20, 2017

A good size group of members attended the Annual Meeting held at John & Jeanne Schowalter's home. There were 12 proxy votes sent with member Paul Richards.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members present.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2016 Annual Meeting. Minutes were approved.

President's Update - Bob Trout

- There are currently 495 members in the GR Pickleball Club. That is a significant increase over the last two years, resulting in the need for many more volunteers to keep the Club vibrant.
- There are still some open positions needing volunteers; including, Community Liaison, Donations & Grants, Ladder league coordinators for both Friday night and Ladies' Thurs afternoon leagues, Education & Outreach coordinator.
- There is a new message board at Belknap which contains all the Club information. The materials and labor were donated by members Jim and Becky Tibbe. A big thank you to them for their labor of love !
- There is fund raising and plans for 8 new courts in Lowell. Club member Sharon Morris is involved and has information on this. The GR Pickleball Board will consider a donation for these new courts.
- Christie Borne is running a summer camp for kids ages 7 -12 yrs. for a week in July. Christie is handling all the planning and work, and the Club is supporting her efforts. There will use 4 courts in the mornings.
- There is a calendar of Club events on the webpage (grpickleball.com). Currently priority is given to new players on Monday evening; womens' play on Tues. and Thurs. mornings; 3.5 players on Tuesday evening; 4.0 + players on Thurs. evening.

-Report on Board Goals for 2016-17:

- a) Goal #1 - Increase membership from approximately 166 member "groups" to 210 groups. Result: Membership has grown to 495 people - individuals and family members. In 2016, this number was 266.
- b) Goal #2 - Revise and enact new bylaws; transition to new club structure; fill all positions; and assess the new structure at the end of the first year. Result: New bylaws are in place and club structure is generally working well. A few positions still need volunteers. A larger board has helped spread the efforts and also allows for more ideas to be generated and points of view given.
- c) Goal #3 - Co-ordinate successful Meijer Games and 3 Club tournaments. Result: Meijer Games went well last year, and we held the Fund Day Tournament and Fall Friendly tournament. With the addition of the Club Championship tournament this

summer, we will have held 3 tournaments this year. We are looking for a new Director for Meijer State Games in 2018.

d) Goal #4 - Locate and utilize at least two additional weeknight indoor venues and one additional weekend venue. Result: Opened one new weekend venue, St. Matthews Church. We are still looking for weeknight venues.

e) Additional accomplishments: Approximately \$30,000 was fundraised for the Belknap improvements: two dedicated courts, 4 temporary courts, new and painted fencing, windscreens, fence opening, and signboard.

Treasurer's Report - David Boyd

- Dave submitted a written report of income and expenditures for calendar year 2016, as well as for the current year Jan 1- May 20, 2017. The Club has a current balance of \$19,420.41; with the Belknap Improvement Fund having \$8660.83 and the General Fund having \$10,759.58 .
- *A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget. Budget was approved.*

Committee Reports:

1. Open Play and Expansion - Frank Graves

- Frank submitted a written report outlining their committee's accomplishments for 2017. These include: a) solidified guidelines for instructors to use for teaching pickleball through the Club. Eight members participated in instructors/ helpers training. b) solidified guidelines for Open Play format at Belknap, and other venues as needed. c) approved the Children's pickleball camp with Christie Borne. d) secured a new indoor venue at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids. e) Larry Keefe and Linda Jirous have taught numerous classes for new players, and have plans for more. f) court maintenance is under the guidance of Dave Boyd, who is doing a wonderful job of keeping Belknap looking good.
- New challenges include offering an ongoing continuum of classes for newer players (after beginner level class).
- The Board has approved covering some of the cost of a Clinic for our instructors.

2. National /State Games of America - Keith Wolverton

- There are currently 600 registered players, with over half coming from outside of Michigan.

- There will be a social event, “Taste of Pickleball” on Wed. evening. It will be held at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church and catered by Branns. There will be an hour program as well. There is help needed for set-up, clean-up, etc.
- There will be 2 venues: MSA Fieldhouse and MSA Woodland. Rental of these facilities is by far the largest cost of the 3 day event. There is a recommendation that future State Games in Grand Rapids considering using Belknap.
- There is a plea for referees ! Neil Johnson and Eric Gustafson will each manage one of the sites. They estimate there will be 1096 matches that must be refereed !

Jeanne Schowalter stressed the need to practice refereeing using the paper sheets.

- There is a need for a coordinator for the 2018 State Games of America, as John Schowalter and Keith Wolverton will be stepping down. Many thanks to them both for their work over the years.
- Sponsors: Paul Richards reporting. Paul has secured a number of sponsors in the differing sponsorship “levels”. He has over 100 items collected to be raffled and/or gifted. This will occur at the National Games, as well as our Club Tournament July 7-9, and the Fall Friendly. Paul has asked that members show their support to the sponsors coming in.

3. Tournaments/ Advanced Play - Paul Richards

- Paul has a committee working on the GRPC “Champions” Tournament July 7-9 at Belknap. There are currently 88 registered he and expects approximately 150 players.
- Paul will have some of the sponsors/items at this tournament as well.
- Paul has worked with Laura Fenton and Dave Weinbach , and both will offer clinics at Belknap this summer.
- Paul noted that there is new software available to manage ladder leagues. This may be helpful with our leagues, as we need some new coordinators.
- Friday Night Lights - this was successful last summer, and plans are to have this be a monthly event this summer. Coordinators are Sarah Rosenblum and Matt Lauria.

4. Belknap Improvement Plan - Mike Bart

- Mike thanked John and Jeanne Schowalter for hosting the Annual meeting once again, and for their generosity toward the GRPC.

- Mike acknowledged his committee of John Schowalter, Bob Trout, Paul Richards and Jeff Howlett for all their work.
- The goal is to make Belknap park the Grand Rapids destination / epicenter for pickleball in West Michigan.
- \$30,000 was raised this past year for improvements to Belknap courts, which included: fencing taken down to improve flow of players on/off courts; fencing painted; two new courts finished; 4 temporary courts; wind screens; permanent message board installed.
- Future Goals/ Needs:
 - a) A permanent shelter , which would be a social “hub” for gathering.
 - b) A larger permanent, secured storage area. The Club owns expensive equipment, including a leaf blower, an on-site AED, and other items that require secured storage.
 - c) A shaded area in the alley-way between courts 7 & 10 for players to rest, watch play, etc.

The committee is planning to build the infra-structure needed for future expansion of courts at Belknap Park.

The Grand Rapids Park Department has given approval for these improvements by the Club.

The Grand Rapids Park Department has Belknap Park on their master plan for Parks Improvement in 2019-20.

A motion was made and seconded to proceed with these plans / Future needs and updates for Belknap Park and the needed fundraising. The motion passed.

New Business - Bob Trout

- Bylaw changes: *Activenetwork.com* is currently the primary venue for joining GRPC, renewing memberships, etc. Because of this, Bob proposed changes to Article 6 of the Bylaws dealing with membership.
 - a) Article 6, #2 - “Dues and Terms” will now be changed as such: deleted : “The membership year is currently May 1 - April 30 of the following year”. It will now read : “ Membership will be for 12 months from the time they join and pay membership dues.”
 - b) Article 6, #3 - this section entitled “ Partial Year Membership” will be deleted.

A motion was made and seconded to approve these changes to the Bylaws. Motion passed.

- Election of New Officers:

A Ballot was handed out which included the following nominations for Board positions:

President - Bob Trout; Vice-President - Mike Madura; Treasurer - David Boyd; Secretary - Sarah Rosenblum; Public Relations/ Communications - Neil Johnson; Director of Advanced Play - Paul Richards; Director of Open Play/ Expansion - Frank Graves.

Ballots were counted and the nominees were unanimously voted into these positions.

- Bob discussed the need for liability insurance for Board members and volunteers; and Mike Madura is looking into this.
- It was stressed that the first players coming to Belknap Park open the shed, and the last players at the end of the day lock it up. ** The shed must be open as there is an AED in the shed which needs be accessed quickly in an emergency.

A motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Minutes submitted, Ellen Westveer, secretary