

Minutes of the Cape Fear Pickleball Club Board Meeting

Date: April 11, 2018

The meeting was held at the Midtown Y and convened at 4:30 pm, President Bill Bradford presiding. **Board Members** present: Jane Klippel, Treasurer, Grace Gilligan, Director of Membership, Joe Reina, Director of Training, Carolyn Ryan, Vice President, Mike Walz, Director of Competition and Harry Marriner, Director of Communications. **Visitors:** Steve Morrissey, Ambassador, Kevin Chandler, and Emily Martinelli, Facebook Coordinator.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Bill Bradford reported that he reached out to the insurance company. They quoted the same price. Found out that Directors and Board Members are not covered. The existing policy expires mid-June. Quotes are valid for 30 days. Policy includes \$2MM general liability plus some medical expenses. The annual expense is \$405. The Board unanimously voted to renew the existing policy.

Bill got a quote for Director and Officers of \$305 per year. He will check contacts to see if quote is reasonable. Kevin said that the Board had previously spoken about it. Coverage is only for things like absconding with funds, not liability. So, we had chosen not to take Directors and Officers coverage due to low risk. Mike Walz pointed out that the specific language for the Directors and Officers coverage says that it covers things that arise from wrongful acts (running of a league). Who is covered? Directors & Officers, volunteers, etc. Pretty comprehensive list. Most people would be covered but feel there is low risk for intentionally wrong deeds. Kevin says insurance would not cover someone who is upset, for example, with a policy we instituted. Coverage would only kick in if suit says we are doing something contrary to the interests of the club. Once more info received, we will decide on additional D & O insurance.

Vice President Carolyn Ryan had no report.

Treasurer Jane Klippel said that the current bank balance is \$4,407.20.

Secretary Jeanne Login had no report.

Director of Membership Grace Gilligan reported that we have 238 paid members as of today (239 with 1 unentered registration). We have purged 156 members from the list. The people that later renew will be taken off the removed list and put under active. Bill thinks we may still see some renew. Harry pointed out that if we get to June some may sign up as ½ year membership. Kevin thinks that if you remove them from active, and they subsequently sign up it should be considered a new member. League rules state that you have to be a member to play in the league. Mike has reminded some league players that they are not current members, then they have signed up. Grace will send an email to removed members stating that they have been removed from the membership roster. Steve asked if there was any feed back as to why folks are opting out. Grace said some people are out of town and some people just forget. Bill opined that a survey may show why folks don't feel that they are getting value for their money. Carolyn mentioned that seniors forget and some pay twice. A refund check had been issued to Patty Hochwalt, but she declined the refund. Patty will donate her refund.

Director of Competition Mike Walz reported that leagues are continuing with no issues. Regarding the mend a net hardware weakness. Steve came up with a solution using alternate hardware to reinforce the center of nets. Kevin asked if we going to mend all the nets? Mike acknowledged that we probably should. We have done RSP nets, they get the most use. The plan will be to go around and address all outside nets as time permits.

Mike proposed a new idea for competition - club championship - only eligible to club members. He suggests 4 divisions: Open, 50 - 59, 60 - 69, and 70+. Each division would have Doubles, Singles and Mixed doubles. Would be held at RSP. No frills, just come and play. No raising money for a charity, no food, just competition. The four division winners could then play each other. Mike will announce fairly soon to give time for folks to think. Actual days and times TBA. Probably late September or early October. Kevin noticed that there were no skill levels? He theorized that might keep numbers down. Harry brought up the

self-ranking information that Emily had posted on Facebook. Mike said that in his experience folks with lower rankings probably won't sign up anyhow. We could do self-rating, but don't want to get into debate about rankings and you can't argue about age. Mike will work on a "hold the date" announcement. Bill suggested we look to do it during the 1st week in October. Mike will check conflicts since that is a very busy tournament time.

Director of Training Joe Reina had no report.

Director of Social Events Feri Nejad is absent. Carolyn confirmed we are still planning the next Social for May 12th. We are booked at Inland Greens.

OLD BUSINESS

2018 Budget - made changes that were suggested at the last meeting. Used \$650 for insurance. Members at 239. Why a difference in current budget vs. last year social expense. We overbought last year, Carolyn has a lot of wine. Joe moved to approve, Harry seconded. 2018 Budget was approved unanimously.

Rental of storage space - Still in the process of looking. Carolyn feels pricing is high. Need to wait for Feri to return, she feels strongly we should rent.

Status of compiling email list - still in the process. Grace says sorted list represents who is a member. Need to delete non-members from the email list. The email list posted on the CF website is supposed to be the people that say it is OK to release that information but that is not always the case. Need to blind copy on emails to general population.

Training - We will be publishing the email, call for trainers. Trainer requirements are in place. Emily has it on facebook, she has 1 person who has responded, Jackie Neidemeyer.

Action item list - most of the items are closed. Bill saw an email from Kevin about Brian setting up a system for RSVP's. Checked link, it looks good. We will use for May 12th social. Kevin feels that we need to define refund policy. That will have to be manual, Brian's link does not have the ability to deal with refunds. Carolyn says 1 week prior to event refunds can be issued. Grace asked if people can sign up up to the day of the event. Cut registrations off 1 week in advance and keep waiting list if anyone cancels. Grace asked who transfers money from Paypal to bank account. Grace does it for membership, she can do it for socials as well. Kevin reminded everyone that Paypal gets a cut, we do not get all \$10. Bill would like an understanding of profit and loss for each party. Carol will work on that with Feri.

Planning for club future - Sunday mornings with Steve. Steve got some feedback that Sunday mornings might be bad due to religious observances. We need to re-think the day. He has gotten positive feedback that it would be a good thing to do. Aside from that, people are thirsty for some focused skills training. Barb H. would like to see a program for her Wednesday league. It was reported that Jan Abbott said one of the things they do at Brunswick Forest is skills training, work for 15 minutes, then break into games and practice skill. Seems to work well.

Del Webb section of River Lights has a training request. They will be installing 4 permanent courts. Barbara Morton is looking for outreach to her community which will eventually grow to 500 homes, currently about 70 homes. Barbara would like to introduce PB, believes it to be a sales attraction. Joe suggested that we train there every other month. Would be an opportunity to solicit new members. Steve says its really Train the Trainer so that those that live there can have a community nest. Joe will remain in touch, perhaps mid to late May to do the first one.

Survey - Bill circulated to Board. Steve thinks that you have to think through what you want to survey. Figure out what you want to learn, then structure survey to meet those objectives. Mike thinks a tailored survey would be a good thing, toward training, could be used to find out why people are not renewing, etc. Bill: keep it smaller, focus on training. Board seems to agree that survey is good, Bill, Joe and Mike will work on a more focused survey.

NEW BUSINESS

Congenial court usage - Bill brought up the email from Sherm. Bill not sure what the group wants. Sherm came to the meeting awhile ago and articulated his concerns that there is a disconnect between advanced players and general membership. What are they looking for? Grace feels there may be confrontations. Steve: logistically, you have the WBC, you have a day of open play (Monday), they have 3 courts, advanced players take 2 courts in the front and general membership feels that all courts should be open play. Bill suggested that if the advanced players are willing to help others, we give a greater amount of advanced level time. General discussion ensued of problem. Carolyn, challenge court important as is her idea of getting a pal. Steve suggested that members just to RSP and play up. Steve Devalt setting up private games and that eliminates some of the advanced players who had been involved. We should institute challenge courts at RSP, need to better define Challenge courts. Carolyn read John's definition of Challenge Courts. Bill will talk to John.

Drop in Membership - Steve is concerned about the reduction in membership. Should Board members reach out? If you get a common trend, it might be meaningful. Grace will print out a sheet with removed members and give to Carolyn. Carolyn and Steve will work on it. Kevin, says that PB is a unique sport and many people sign up then find out they don't have time or inclination

Tournaments - We will continue to work with Jane on Pickleball for Parkinson's tournament. She would like to plan one for the fall, perhaps August, but depends on completion of re-construction. Board agrees that we would like to continue to collaborate. With Mikes suggestion of club championship that would make 2 tournaments for the year.

Social Events - tried to find other venues, Compass Pointe TBD, LCAC is a little restrictive, but price is \$250. Joe's wife went to Senior Center where they have a bigger room with a kitchen. Will give Carolyn contact name and number. Mike Walz suggested that we have gotten in the habit of serving alcohol and food, but what about a picnic at GFL potluck, courts will be set up. Have an exhibition of great players. Would be a social gathering a little different that what we have been having. Weather an issue. Kevin: if you are trying to provide PB, you need to work with Parks Dept to reserve the courts. Probably not doable. We should consider HOP and what they can offer.

Westport - Bill mentioned that at Westport, Mike Moran trying to get PB play going at Westport.

Board Member Contact Info - Joe Reina suggested that a list be put together containing Board Member contact information. Jeanne offered to prepare it.

VISITORS COMMENTS

Ambassador - New Hanover county courts still on target for Castle Hayne courts. They are waiting for final commissioner votes in May. Castle Hayne will be a total rebuild - new drainage, good coatings, will be nice facility. Additionally, Rich Holloman made news for new indoor facility. Would be good to get to him now and see if we can work a deal for Club members. Bill has spoken to him, he went to presentation, basically 3 categories from July 1 till end of the year. One, you are not a member, pay a fixed fee (\$7) or reserve a court for \$20/hour. Preopening membership \$50 per person or \$85 per couple, pay \$5, or reserve a court for \$20. Third category pays a membership fee of \$210, don't pay to come in and court rental comes down to \$10 per hour. Given this, could we slot club members. Plus, reduced reservation times for higher membership levels. Rich became a CFPC member recently. Steve asked if we do any paid advertising on our website. If Rich wanted to advertise on website, quid pro quo for reduced membership fees. Bill will talk to him. They are planning to cap their membership, don't want a big back log of people waiting for courts.

Emily - no report -

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 4:30 pm on May 8, 2018.