**MINUTES OF THE CAPE FEAR PICKLEBALL CLUB**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 7, 2018**

The General Meeting of the Cape Fear Pickleball Club was held on November 7th, 2018 at 7 pm at the Inland Greens Clubhouse. Having 40 people present, including all Board Members, attendance was sufficient to hold the election for four open Board Positions.

The positions and the officers who were elected unanimously to serve effective January 1, 2019 were:

* Vice President – Carolyn Ryan
* Secretary – Jeanne Login
* Director of Communications – Emily Martinelli
* Director of Competition – Mike Walz

**PRESIDENTS REPORT –** President Bill Bradford gave the following report:

**CFPC Website -** Emily Martinelli, the club Director of Communications, ably took over this position and task from Harry Marriner. We want this website to remain informative and for various club endeavors, such as social events, places to play pickleball, Board of Director meeting minutes, etc. Please let Emily know of items that should be so posted.

**Club Dues -** The Board of Directors voted to keep dues for 2019 at the same level as 2018, namely $25.00 per year for individual membership, $45.00 for a couple, and $65.00 for a family. Half year dues will also remain the same. You will be asked to ratify the dues later in the meeting’s agenda.

**Club Budget -** The Treasurer’s Report will be given by Jane Klippel. The Board of Directors approved the 2019 budget. We will ask membership to ratify the budget later in the agenda.

**Pickleball Courts -** In addition to the courts at Robert Strange Park and Greenfield Lake, new courts were opened by New Hanover County at the Northern Regional Park, and the club held a successful combined social/play event there. A women’s group now regularly plays there. The Board want to extend our thanks to Steve Morrissey, former Ambassador for the City and New Hanover County, for pushing this item with the County’s Planning Commission and the County Board.

The House of Pickleball (HOP) opened near Brunswick Forest. They have successfully staged a number of events. They would like to stage an evening play/social event for club members at some time in the future. Contact Richard Holloman for information.

As you undoubtedly know, the Wilmington Basketball Center was sold and is no longer a venue we can use. We are in the process of trying to obtain more information, especially about retrieving our equipment.

Currently, both the Baptist Center and the Lutheran Church are still undergoing repairs due to damage resulting from Hurricane Florence. When they become available again for pickleball, we will let you know.

**Hurricane Florence Donations -** The Club received an unexpected donation of $1,000.00 from the Transylvania Pickleball Club to send to local relief organizations helping those in need due to damage from the recent hurricane. We have sent them a letter graciously thanking them for their generosity. We selected four local organizations to receive $250.00 each. Additionally, the Board of Directors reviewed our Club’s budget and decided to donate $500.00 each to the Lutheran Church and the Baptist Center. We did so in the spirit of civic duty, mindfulness of our fiscal responsibility to club members, and to assist both locales where club members play pickleball.

**Goals**

* Continue to provide training sessions
* Continue to conduct social events
* Stage competitions, such as ladders leagues and other competitions
* Increase membership
* Continue lobbying for public courts and equipment
* Outreach – Schools, new communities such as Del Webb, etc.

**Ambassador Vacancy -** Since Steve Morrissey resigned to actively participate in the New Hanover County planning process, the USAPA Ambassador volunteer position is vacant. Please consider volunteering. Steve could provide any information necessary to make an informed decision.

**VICE PRESIDENT** Carolyn Ryan had no report. Juan Rueda asked how many medals were won in the senior games by local players. Carolyn Ryan won gold and Jane Klippel and Patty Hochwalt won Silver, Patty Hochwalt won gold and 2 bronze. Eileen won, Gabby won.

**TREASURER** Jane Klippel explained that the way our budget works, we charge dues of $25 plus some other minor revenue. Generally, we bring in about $10,000 and we spend $10,000.

**DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP** Grace Gilligan introduced herself and stated that she is not up for reelection. She informed the Club members that she was at the Basketball Center today, there was all sorts of activity. We went to get our nets and found out that the new owners will probably like to have Pickleball there as well. They are an indoor soccer club called Edge Soccer from Raleigh.

The year started with a membership of 334, we deleted 158 members for non-renewal, down to 176. New members only 145 year to date. Total membership 340 currently. On or about 12/1 Grace will send out an email soliciting renewals for 2019. Question from audience: how did we get 145 new members? Grace theorized that training brought in some folks. Facebook also attracts some people. Jack Little took the time to create a schedule for the new courts at Castle Hayne, Northwestern Regional Park. Would like to see that park get more use.

**DIRECTOR OF TRAINING** Joe Reina reported that at Greenfield Lake we had over 59 members that we trained. We continue to do that. In addition to training, we have a lot of folks to play socially. Frequently asked, how do I get other people to play with? Routinely have all 4 courts going for 2 hours on Saturday mornings. We bring the PB machine and set it up. We will also rent the ball machine if there is any interest. We did training at Dell Webb. Some of the Club members came from that community. With the help of S. Morrissey, one of our goals was to do training at 3.5 level. Did that at Robert Strange Park but we were limited to 12. The class filled up right away. We will run that program again in the spring. Very well received. Club training staff now has 2 ITPTA certified level 2 instructors and 2 certified level 1 instructors. In addition to training, we are always willing to help, answer questions, etc. Dr. John: I just met one of my new neighbors who had some major injuries at one of the clinics down at GL. Is the club aware of this person? Joe responded that we were unaware of any major injuries, but everyone signs a release of liability before they take a training session. We spend a lot of time on safety in training.

**DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL EVENTS** Feri Nejad reported that, by agreement of the Board, we have 4 social events every year. Sometimes we host mini events. We just try to get people together and to know each other better. The social events provide a nice environment. We provide a lot of good food and drink as well as music and dancing. We use 2 venues for social events, the choice depends on the amount of people. Usually we have between 80 and 95 folks. Last event, Halloween, we only had 44 people, we don’t know why such a low showing. I would like to say a big thank you to my social committee and to all the volunteers who help make the events as great and pleasant as they are. Our next event will we the Ugly Christmas Sweater Bash to be held on December 9th, Sunday night at Inland Greens. Invitations have been sent and info on website.

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS** Emily Martinelli introduced herself and told the members that she runs the face book page and the website. She is working on organizing an Instagram page so members can see photos of folks playing in different events. Emily reported that she has been sending a few emails lately. About 56% of folks are opening. If you have not seen any emails, please check your spam. If you find it there, move it to your inbox and add me as a contact. If you use Yahoo or Hotmail, they interpret mass emails as Junk mail because it is sent as as bulk through Mail Chimp. Facebook contains the same info as the website or as those contained in emails. Primary means of communications is email. If you have issues, please provide your name and email address so I can try to address your issues.

**DIRECTOR OF COMPETITION** Mike Walz introduced himself. He spoke about the Mixed pairs Ladder league and the fact that we are in the second season. He mentioned that we tried a singles league and had over 20 men and women playing singles. Singles are great for exercise and for challenging endurance. Mixed league happening at Robert Strange Park now, we have about 50 folks registered. We have had a total of about 70 people playing. We partnered with Jane and the Y for the Pickleball for Parkinson’s.

Mike also reported that he was selected to handle purchasing of equipment. We are in good stead with equipment. Other communities are putting in permanent nets. We have 20 portable nets. Steve Morrissey has helped us with a fix for center pole weakness. We put a lot of wear and tear on the nets, but, in general, we are getting good use of the nets. We bought 5 more paddles, we use for training and new players. We bought 2 new nets. We worked out a swap with the Lutheran Church, gave them the new nets, we kept the old. With all these different places to play, everyone is getting spread out. If you cannot find a place to play, let the board know, we will find something.

A member asked if there was any thought to placing a box to hold balls at Northeastern Regional Park? That is something we will consider based on usage. Another member asked if the Parks Departments are supportive. Mike responded that yes, we got boxes installed, benches, cooperation in repairing lights, etc.

Dr. John asked why we pay $600 annually for Storage. Feri explained that we have a need to store items used for social events. We also have a need to store extra nets, balls and related supplies. He also stated that it seems like expense for social event is a high percentage of budget and those that don’t party may drop their membership. Bill responded that we think that part of the reason people join is for the social impact of belonging.

Dr. John made a motion to approve the Budget, it was seconded and unanimously approved by the attending members.

**Dues** will remain the same amount as last year $25/per person, $45 for couple, $65 for family. If you join in the beginning of July, the dues are reduced $15 per person, $25 for a couple and $40 for a family. This dues structure was unanimously approved.

**2019 Budget** – Bill Bradford made a motion to approve the 2019 Budget. Kevin Chandler seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the members present

**Board Positions** – The nominees were elected, each to serve another 2-year term.

Eileen wants to say that she is the main pro at River Lights now. She will be teaching there on Monday mornings and Monday evenings. Would love to promote the club. Also, I was recently certified in PPR – spin off from Tennis training. Took course with Sara Ansbury. Heard through the grapevine that the head pro at Cape Fear Tennis Club who came to the TPR certification went back and told everyone they were doing it all wrong.

With that, the meeting ended, a Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm