

**MINUTES OF THE CAPE FEAR PICKLEBALL CLUB  
GENERAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6, 2019**

The General Meeting of the Cape Fear Pickleball Club was held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7 pm at the Inland Greens Clubhouse. Having 37 people present, including all Board Members, attendance was sufficient to hold the election for five open Board Positions.

The positions and the officers who were elected unanimously to serve effective January 1, 2020 were:

- President - Kevin Chandler
- Treasurer - Brent Young
- Director of Membership - Jackie Niedemeyer
- Co-Director of Training - Patty Hochwalt
- Co-Director of Training - Joe Reina
- Director of Social Events - Suann More

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

**CFPC Website** - The Club's website remains an informative and useful means to convey the various club endeavors such as social events, places to play, Board of Director meeting minutes, etc. Please let Emily Martinelli, Director of Communications know of any items you feel should be posted and any ideas for changes and improvement.

**Club Dues** - The Board of Directors voted to keep dues for 2020 at the same level as 2019, 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 2020 budget and will ask membership to ratify the budget later in the agenda.

**Pickleball Courts** - Outdoor courts are available for pickleball play at Robert Strange Park, Greenfield Lake, Northern Regional Park and Ashley High School. The Club has held several successful social & play events at Northern Regional Park. We have successfully staged several play and social events at The House of Pickleball (HOP) in Leland. The HOP has also set up leagues predicated upon a participant's level of play. Contact Richard Holloman for information or visit their website.

As you undoubtedly know, we lost the Baptist Church as a place to play. However, the Wilmington Basketball Center was sold and is now operated by a company called Edge Soccer. Edge has agreed to have open play at their facility almost every weekday and we include them in our Places to Play information. They do not always notify us of closures, so it is wise to call them on holidays and the like.

## 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.

These topics are fundamental to continuing and evolving our club. The Board will appreciate any thoughts from membership and participation on how to implement planning efforts to achieve these goals.

**Wilmington Holiday Parade** - The Club has an opportunity to participate in the City's Holiday Parade on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We need at least 12 volunteers in order to plan and participate. Please see the email sent by Emily Martinelli on October 15<sup>th</sup> to RSVP through Sign Up Genius.

**VICE PRESIDENT** Carolyn Ryan had no report.

**TREASURERS REPORT** - 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. Charlie Saia asked why the Bank balance declined recently. We explained that the Board approved a donation to the Midtown YMCA in support of the Parkinson's Tournament we co-hosted with them.

**DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP** - Grace Gilligan reported that we have 275 current members versus 340 at the same time last year. 231 (84%) of the 275 members were full year dues members. The balance joined or renewed post July 1 and paid reduced membership. Grace spoke briefly about our desire to increase membership and the many splinter groups that had negatively impacted our membership.

**DIRECTOR OF TRAINING** - Joe Reina reported that at Greenfield Lake we had over 50 members that we trained which is down slightly from last year. Many of those we train become members. We intend to expand the beginners training into skills clinics for folks with ratings of 3.0 - 3.5. We have set up a sign-up genius for these clinics. They are filling up.

John Sherm asked if Joe was seeing folks from Brunswick County sign up for the Saturday morning clinics. Joe responded, yes there were some, but the majority seem to be from New Hanover County.

We have also set up an informal club rating clinic, the first session to be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Midtown Y. All slots have been filled. We will have 12 people for each 2 hours session.

**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 be the Christmas party to be held on December 7<sup>th</sup>, from 5 pm to 8 pm at Inland Greens.

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS** Emily Martinelli said she had nothing to communicate (in jest). She asked was that if any member had knowledge or any event to please let her know so that she could post information.

**DIRECTOR OF COMPETITION** - Mike confirmed that the Wilmington Basketball Center had been sold to Edge Soccer and that they now offer indoor pickleball. He wanted membership to know that we helped them get started by donating 3 nets for their use. He stated that they are on our schedule, they charge \$3 for drop in which is held 5 days per week.

Mike also reported that the Club installed a storage box at Northern Regional Park. While members are welcome to bring their own balls, there are balls in the storage box as well as a First Aid kit.

The Spring Ladder League was held from March to May this year. It was considered by all to be a success. We had 36 people or 18 pairs.

Mike reported that the Club had purchased a Swiftnet. It costs about twice what a regular, center pole net costs. It is a tension net and does not have a center pole. So far, most reviews have been good, but we do have some concerns about its longevity. We are not sure if it is worth the investment given the wear and tear of drop in play.

Mike wanted to remind members that Pickleball Central has a rewards program. Member who purchase merchandise through them get a 5% discount by using the Code: CRCapeFear. In addition, the club gets a credit of 5% for every purchase made using this code. Pickleball Central set up an evaluation program. Under this program, they send us a paddle, we use it and provide a written review of the paddle. We get to keep the paddle. We have no control over the timing of the program or the product sent.

The Club has also gotten involved in an Intercommunity League. There are 8 teams (divided into North and South Divisions) and a 6-game schedule. It started at a 3.0 level. CFPC has a team in the North Division. We will look to continue our involvement in this program in 2020.

The Pickleball for Parkinson's Tournament co-hosted with the Midtown Y was very successful. Many more folks played this year than last and the Y made a good amount of money.

Lake Fest was an event sponsored by Cape Fear Riverwatch. It is an annual event held at Greenfield Lake to raise awareness of environmental issues and their impact on local waters. We set up a Pickleball exposition during Lake Fest so people could see what Pickleball looked like. We may have educated a few folks.

The Fall Ladder League is on-going. Total of 30 players. It is an individual format which adds flexibility. All levels of players are participating.

Equipment repairs are always required. Mike offered thanks to John Sherm, Kevin Hoban, Steve Morrissey and anyone else who has taken the time to repair or maintain Club equipment.

Mike mentioned the incident on Monday night when Jay Grainger had a heart attack on the courts. Thanks to Rudy, Tammy and Jackie for their emergency assistance and knowledge. Jay is now recovering in the hospital. The Board will discuss what, if anything, the club can do to maximize preparedness for future health related incidents.

John made a motion to approve the Budget, it was seconded and unanimously approved by the attending members. A second motion was made to ratify the dues structure approved by the Board. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the attending members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.