

**CAPE FEAR PICKLEBALL CLUB**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**August 19, 2020**

Board Members in attendance: Kevin Chandler, President, Brent Young, Treasurer, Jeanne Login, Secretary, Mike Walz, Director of Competition, Joe Reina, Co-Director of Training, Patty Hochwalt, Co-Director of Training, Jackie Niedermayer, Director of Membership, Ray Frieberg, Director of Communications, Suann Moore, Director of Social Events, Carolyn Ryan, Vice President

Non-Board Members in attendance: Jane Klippel, YMCA, Henry More, Committee for PB Court Expansion.

Attendance was sufficient for a quorum.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the July 8<sup>th</sup> minutes and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**President** Kevin Chandler reported that we resumed play at Ashley HS on Tuesday evenings. It was so popular, we added Thursday evenings. Kevin moved more nets to Ashley, we now have 5 nets there. At Ashley social distancing is being maintained. At Robert Strange, most of the time, distancing requirements are met. It seems to be hit or miss. Brent noticed at Robert Strange, they were gathering close when not playing. Mike W. mentioned that the HOP is doing a good job of enforcing the social distancing. They control entry and exit times and discourage gatherings. Suann M. added that the HOP is changing the air filters more frequently and keeping the air conditioning at 65 degrees.

**Vice President** Carolyn Ryan does not have a report.

**Treasurer** Brent Young reported that the Club had- \$7,585.11 in the Bank at end of July. During July we took in \$420 in dues + \$176.77 in apparel. After income and expenses, he estimates that we have recorded \$7,142.52 in dues. To date have \$2,175.97 in expenses.

**Secretary** Jeanne Login had no report.

**Director of Membership** Jackie Niedermayer worked with John Hambel. Together, they got the order form updated and Jackie had it placed on the CFPC Facebook page and website. We currently have 304 members, an increase of 42 in the past month.

**Director of Communications** – Ray Frieberg reported that he met with Emily for an hour or so and got an oversight of Website editing. Ray will work on cleaning the website up. He now has admin access to the Facebook group. He has Emily's password for Mail Chimp, but he has no idea what to do with it. Kevin will send his detailed instructions on use of Mail Chimp. Jackie mentioned there were two Facebook pages, a group page and a business card page. Jackie will make Ray an admin on the group page. Ray will investigate whether we should continue with two Facebook pages or consolidate them.

**Director of Competition** Mike Walz mentioned he bought a couple nets. Steve Morrissey gave us a great deal on a Swiftnet and he bought a new one for Greenfield Lake. There are 3 extra nets at Northern Regional Park in the Storage Box. Mike is thinking about doing a skinny singles league. He has gotten positive feedback from membership, people may feel more comfortable not playing doubles. If group sizes get too large, Mike may recommend doing separate slots. He will put together information and forward to Ray to send out on Mail Chimp. Henry suggested that we provide instructions on setting up the SwiftNet, Mike stated that there were instructions in the bags. We spoke about the need for new balls at Robert Strange, Mike will provide.

**Co-Directors of Training** – Joe Reina and Patty Hochwalt. Joe stated that Club sponsored training continues to be suspended due to Covid. Joe reported that he has had an inquiry for training from a new member who is interested. He responded saying that the Club was not currently providing training. Joe is concerned about the Club sponsored training, and related liability due to Covid. Kevin says that there has been activity at Greenfield Lake and he has been providing training on an informal basis. Patty has a proposal: what if we had a footwork clinic on Saturday mornings. The training would consist of 45 minutes of basic foot work drills and instruction. Patty feels that footwork training is often ignored and would avoid sharing balls. Kevin stated that we use all four courts and there would not be room. Patty would be willing to provide instruction if the Club supported it. Patty noted that New Hanover Hospital has started providing Pickleball training for employees. Joe says if we move forward, we need better contact information for those involved in the event we need to contact them. We spoke about including Covid in our general waiver. The Board agrees that we should upgrade contact information on waiver forms and include Covid exposure. Joe suggests a sign-up for footwork clinic. We will wait until after Labor Day for footwork training. Patty said perhaps we could use Robert Strange on Saturday mornings. Henry asked Joe if we made any progress in working with schools and providing training to students. Joe said no. Kevin asked if we want to formally re-start training at Greenfield Lake, Joe suggests we should fix time frame better so that people don't just wander in at various times. Patty confirmed that she could be at Greenfield Lake to provide open training from 8 to 9 on Saturday mornings. Joe feels we should wait until after Labor Day. Kevin says start this Saturday.

**Director of Social Events** Suann Moore had no report. All events are canceled due to COVID.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Committee for PB court expansion** - Henry More attended the meeting to update the Board on his Committee's efforts to obtain permanent, dedicated courts in New Hanover County and Wilmington. He stated that they have done a lot of behind the scenes work, reaching out to people. Kevin had developed a form for the committee to use to collect information on people who play Pickleball. By using the information from those forms, Henry now has a list of 300 pickleball players beyond our 304 members. They have documentation to present to the powers that be that we have 600+ people interested. The committee has two primary folks they are dealing with: Tara Duckworth, New Hanover County and Amy Beatty, City courts. They have been looking at Arrowhead because the County had budgeted funds to convert some tennis courts to PB courts there. Henry has asked Tara if we could transfer budget to Ashley because it is already a known location. The committee is still working on approaching Parks and Gardens for Ashley as our primary location of interest to create permanent PB courts. Henry believes we can provide 8 pickleball courts there by utilizing 3 of the tennis courts. This would leave 6 tennis courts. So, Option #1 is to work with County for Ashley. However, monies are frozen due to Covid in both City and County budgets. Henry asked: Is there any money within CFPC, say \$2,500, to put up toward the effort. There is a Conservancy Board that coordinates fund

raising. They need a plan to support fundraising. The Conservancy Board is a 501(3)c organization. Rather than waiting till budget freeze eases, should we consider fundraising. That's on the County side. On the City side, we have been trying to determine which courts to go after first. Based on the volume of players, Robert Strange would seem to make sense. Amy Beatty is the director of the City group, we have dealt with her and Andrea Bailey, her second in command. They seem to believe that courts are frequently used by tennis players. Henry has invited them to come out any day, any time and they will not see tennis, but will see Pickleball being played. A member of Henry's committee, Holly, has helped to draft a proposal for the Conservancy Board. The draft proposal was shared with Kevin Chandler who thought it was great. They will need a letter from CFPC indicating support of fund raising. We have spoken to a lot of Ambassadors and Regional Directors of USAPA. The Committee is making the case that New Hanover County, having a population of 250,000 have only 6 permanent Pickleball courts. Brunswick County, having a population of 142,000 has over 20 permanent courts.

Kevin feels that the club would be willing to donate some money and to be involved with the fund raising for dedicated courts, but he would like to know what the location would be.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Pickleball for Parkinson's Tournament** - Jane Klippel spoke about an upcoming Pickleball for Parkinson's tournament. The Y has not been fully operational since March, they are hoping to open 9/14 for Phase 3 but that is not sure until the State moves on to Phase 3. The Y now has 3 locations that can provide play. No spectators, 10 people at a time. The Y would prefer not to skip a year holding the tournament and lose momentum. We are thinking about the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October. Many limitations, wear mask, no spectators, temperatures taken, similar to restrictions imposed at the HOP.

The Board seems to think that people are ready to play. We may consider moving date to mid-October or November. A Motion was made to support the Parkinson's tournament and seconded. The Board voted unanimously to continue partnership with the YMCA on the Pickleball for Parkinson's Tournament.

Jeanne spoke about the fact that the YMCA is currently operating at about ½ of their budget due to membership withdrawals and they are currently looking to raise money through fundraising. She mentioned that the YMCA is one of the largest supporters of Pickleball in Wilmington, currently hosting play at all three of their indoor locations, in addition to providing many other community services. Jeanne suggested that the CFPC consider donating \$1,000 to support their efforts. Mike said he would only feel comfortable if we made the donation in conjunction with the Parkinson's tournament. There not being overwhelming support for either position, it was decided that we would donate the \$1,000 to the YMCA if, and when, the tournament took place.

**Club Paddles** - Kevin brought up club paddles, he is finding some broken where the handle meets the paddle head. Mike suggested we take the ones from Northern Regional Park to Greenfield Lake.

**Membership dues 2021** – There was a discussion about whether to waive or reduce member dues for 2021. The justification is that members have not received the benefit normally received due to Covid. Play time has been reduced, no Social events, etc. The Board agreed to cut dues in half for anyone who is a member at the end of the year. Jackie confirmed that tracking should not be an issue. Henry suggested that we make the cut

off October 31<sup>st</sup>. So new 2021 rates will be \$15 /\$25 / \$35 for any existing members as of October 31,2020. A motion was made and seconded. The Board voted unanimously to offer reduced rates to existing members for the year 2021.

The Meeting was adjourned 4:45 pm. The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2020 at 2 pm at Northern Regional Park.