

CAPE FEAR PICKLEBALL CLUB

General Annual Meeting

November 07, 2020

Board Members Present: Kevin Chandler, Ray Frieberg, Jeanne Login, Carolyn Ryan, Brent Young, Jackie Niedermayer, Suann More, Joe Reina, Patty Hochwalt.

Guests: Rudy Thurman, S. Carlson, B. Traina, A. Coffee, K. Dovel, C. Dovel, J. Hambel, B. Reina, k. Huff, C. Pirrello, A. Van Dyke, J. Booker, T. DeGears, B. Moeller, F. Moeller, W. Miles, T. Hayden, J. Klippel, L. Cunningham, M. Cunningham, H. More, L. Manning, A. Rusinak, I. Graham, W. Bledsal, L. Ronke, W. Bigg, J. Carlo, T. Giddens, K. Otis and M. Easton

Attendance was sufficient for a quorum. The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm.

Kevin Chandler opened the meeting stating that we are basically here to elect Board members. Those up for election follow:

- Vice President – Jeanne Login
- Secretary – Lisa Cunningham
- Director of Competition – no nominee for this position, but Marcia Easton said she might be willing to run if there was someone willing to share position. There were no immediate volunteers.
- Director of Communications – Ray Frieberg

In discussing the Director of Competition position, Kevin said the duties are all posted on the website, but basically, you run competitions for the club. Typically, we have a mixed doubles league, we also have a competition between communities (Waterford, Brunswick Forest, etc), and we just wrapped up a competition in Skinny Singles Pickleball. This league was set up to accommodate Covid concerns. If we should hold any tournaments, the nominee would be involved in that. Mike Walz had just helped with the annual Pickleball for Parkinsons Tournament held by the YMCA. He has also been involved in procuring equipment, usually just balls and nets that need replacing at the four sites at which we provide this equipment. Additionally, the nominee attends monthly Board Meetings. Any more questions? Any nominations? None were offered. This left three people for 3 positions. Kevin then made a motion to elect the three- person slate. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously by those in attendance.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

President – Kevin Chandler said, “I have just one word: COVID”. As you all know, Covid has affected every aspect of our lives with a major impact to our sport. That is why most PB was stopped this spring. Indoor play was stopped at indoor locations. The Club only had one social event until today’s meeting. It is also why the club spent much less money than anticipated this year which leaves us more money at Year End. However, the cost of insurance for the club did rise from \$400 to \$1000, unfortunately. But we also added New Hanover County as an additional insured which means we can reserve and rent courts at Northern Regional Park. We continue to maintain our website and Facebook page. If you haven’t checked it out, we encourage you to do so. Ray Frieberg took over Emily’s position. We continue to provide equipment at Northern Regional Park, Robert Strange Park, Greenfield Lake and Ashley High School. Also, any club member can get access to equipment by purchasing a key to the storage boxes from Kevin.

Although they both moved away this year, Kevin said he would like to thank Mike Walz and Emily Martinelli for their work on behalf of the club and, since she is here, would also like to thank Carolyn Ryan for all her contributions.

Although we stopped training at Greenfield Lake due to Covid, we recently started again, thanks to Patty Hochwalt. The YMCA also started playing again. Membership has remained quite robust despite Covid. Jackie Niedermayer will speak about that later.

We are now posting agendas for Board Meetings in advance on our website, so you can check that to see if there is anything that interests you and attend the Board meeting. Minutes prepared by Jeanne Login are posted on the website after they are approved by the Board.

Despite Covid, we have begun a concerted effort to work with the County and the City to develop more permanent, dedicated Pickleball courts in the area. Henry More is heading up that effort. They are doing a great job and we definitely have the attention on of New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington.

Treasurer – Brent Young – stated that he had provided a copy of the proposed 2021 budget along with 2020 budget / actual expenses and income broken down by category. In 2020 we took in \$8,531. When you add the carry over from 2019 of \$3230.20, total income in 2020 was \$11,761.20. We had expenses of \$5,109.36, so we will roll over the excess of \$6,651.84 into 2021. Kevin said, because we have excess funds, we are recommending lower dues for 2021 for existing members.

Secretary – Jeanne Login had no report.

Director of Membership – Jackie Niedermayer said we currently have 346 members. Our membership numbers this time last year was 275, so there is a 26% increase in membership for this year. This Includes 122 new members this year. Jackie has put flyers out in neighbors to attract new members and offered kudos to the Board and members for spreading word on membership. If anyone has any questions on membership, the easiest way is to go to Capefearpickleballclub.org.

Director of Communications – Ray Freiberg said that his job here is to try to keep the webpage up to date, but it is a learn as you go effort. Additionally, he is an administrator on our Facebook page. He reported that he does get to see the amount of folks who like our pages. Those are increasing, the word is getting out on social media.

Director of Competition – Mike Walz was not in present. He sent an email. His email read:
Hello from Memphis. Move going well so far. Sorry to miss meeting, but here is brief competition summary:
March - started mixed doubles and inter-community leagues. Both shut down after 1 week due to Covid.
June - tried social distancing team league, but not enough interest.
Sep/Oct. - skinny singles league at NRP with 18 participants.
Equipment - replaced 2 nets (RSP & Greenfield) with newer nets.
Helped run Parkinsons tourney at Y.

Co-Directors of Training – Joe Reina and Patty Hochwalt. Joe reported, as Kevin mentioned earlier, we shut down for introductory training at GFL in March. We suspended until September. Today we had two courts training from 8 to 9, attendance excellent. Prior to skinny singles league play, Patty did conduct drills for 50 minutes. The drills were foot work drills and ball machine drills. Patty mentioned that the ball machine is for use by all members. Although she stores the machine in her garage, any member can contact her and she will make arrangement for access to the machine.

Director of Social Events – Suann More stated that we did get one event done in January, we rented the entire HOP for the evening, but after that COVID ended any further events. So, this meeting is the first social event. Suann said she is so encouraged to see 50 people here. We may consider hosting events here and getting a food truck in, but we usually need a commitment of 40 to 50 people. She ended by saying, “I am really excited you are here and I really love the club”.

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of dues – Kevin said when you consider how much money we took in this year and the small amount of expenses, we will carry over \$5,000+ to the good of 2021. Consequently, the board is recommending that the 2021 dues be lowered to \$15 per person, \$25 Per couple and \$35 for a family which would cover all of 2021. This would be for existing members as of 10/31/20. The justification is that members did not get all they paid for in 2020 due to Covid. Jimmy Carlo mentioned that he thinks we should keep low rate for new members also to encourage membership. He also pointed out that he believes a lot of new players are using the facilities who are not actually members. Tim Giddons made a motion to accept board recommendation, it was seconded. Motion passed by all but 1.

Jimmy Carlo mentioned that he brought to Kevin’s attention and to a couple of other members that he thinks one thing the Club should do is to go out to food stores, set up courts in their parking lots in an effort to increase membership. Members could play and introduce others to the sport. It was pointed out that this effort could create a problem with insurance coverage. We would have to talk to market folks. Jimmy feels that we would show unity and increase numbers.

Bill Traina says we need new nets at GFL, existing nets are substandard. Nets need to be replaced more frequently. Kevin said we certainly have the money. Brent said money in repairs have been moved to purchase. Bill said we could get a better deal buying in bulk. There should be some consistency in the equipment, this is important as the members improve in their game. Bill has offered to evaluate equipment, take

an inventory and report back to board in December. In theory, most agreed with Bill's proposition
Carolyn Ryan announced that that a pro, Laura would be in attendance this afternoon. She was coming to get
familiar with Northern Regional Park, the Club and to play and offer pointers.
The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 pm.