

Chippewa Valley Pickleball Club
Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2021
Eau Claire YMCA Sports Center

Present: Steve Abele, Penny Graham, Sandi Harberts, Bev Hilton, Sandy Johnson, Mike Mai, Judy Mirr, Linda Nicastro, and Mike Peterson.

Agenda:

1. President Judy Mirr called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Judy asked if members present had read the email from Amy Peterson-Foss from the Sports Center, and everyone had. The email had to do with housekeeping issues at the Center (taking down nets, putting away chairs, Covid protocol).
2. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2020, meeting. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer's report. Mike M. presented the treasurer's report. The Club has funds totaling of \$21,998.25. He also reported that since our November 9 meeting, the Club has had income of \$2,560.45. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding the DNR matching funds grant and how the Club's money will be used/earmarked for enhancements/improvements at McDonough Park. A concern was expressed that money which has been donated by Club members has been added to the grant's general fund and not designated for pickleball as was their intention. To date, \$84,000 has been donated by individuals and businesses to the matching funds grant. Judy offered to write a letter requesting a copy of the grant and to indicate that individuals who have made donations had the assumption their donation would go directly to pickleball. The DNR grant specifies how the money is to be used.

4. Lessons, skills clinics, and social events. Linda reported that individuals have inquired as to how to learn to play pickleball. Linda and Scott Nicastro have met with individuals to teach them the basics of the game.

Zane Natrivil, a pickleball pro from Wisconsin, is interested in coming to the Chippewa Valley to hold a skills clinic. Zane's clinic would be strategy based. Judy

had discussed this with Amy, and she was on board with it. The skills clinic could also be an opportunity for a fund-raiser for the Club. Judy offered to contact Zane to see when he is available and to get further details, such as cost.

Social events are postponed until they can be safely held outside.

5. Survey and priorities. Judy read through the priorities regarding improvements/enhancements at McDonough Park that came from the survey Club members had the opportunity to complete. The priorities are: restrooms, ongoing court maintenance, running water, a three-in-structure (storage, restrooms, and a pavilion), and a covered structure. After receiving a copy of the grant, the Club can determine if any of these priorities are included in it.
6. Scholarship money. Having a Club-sponsored scholarship to pay for court fees for individuals who have a financial need was discussed. Options discussed including the Club offering assistance (purchasing a punch card) or reaching out to Club members to see if they are willing to offer assistance. This will be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Going through the YMCA is another option an individual with financial need could pursue.
7. Membership. To date, 69 memberships have been paid since January 1. Linda suggested offering incentives to people to encourage them to pay their dues. If paid by March 31, people would have their name entered into a drawing for merchandise (hats, balls, backpacks, etc). Giving members a bagtag was also discussed. A bagtag would have the Club's logo on one side and the Club member's name and emergency contact information on the other side. This would be useful to have in case someone had a medical emergency while playing pickleball. Sandy J. offered to check into the cost of bagtags.

A motion was made and seconded for the Club to spend up to \$200 for incentives. Motion carried.

It was noted that Scheels will give a 5 percent discount on pickleball merchandise. Pickleball Central also gives a discount to Club members and a kickback the Club.

8. Other.
 - a. Judy reviewed an email Linda had received from an individual regarding the individual's perception that pickleball has not been inclusive. Linda reached out to the individual and explained that sometimes a

foursome/eightsome would like to play exclusively within their group. She also offered alternative times when the individual could play when players generally change partners/opponents after each game.

- b. Sandi H. asked if the Club could pay for a storage unit for the courts in Chippewa Falls.
- c. The deadline for the next newsletter is February 1.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Hilton, Secretary