

## **Minutes for Athens Area Pickleball Association January 10, 2022**

### **Those in Attendance**

Lilly Garrett, Polly Crumbley, Penny Adams, Kris Bakowski, Ian Bassett, Tom McEnaney, Kevin McHugh, Mike Schmidt, Larry King

**Absent:** Steve Bryant, Joan Baird, Diane Strong

**Also in attendance** - Dr. Jerry Brinegar, Ambassador

Lilly called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kevin reported that two thirds of the dues have been collected from the membership for 2022. He is working with Tim Rogan on updating Mailchimp and will send out second notices to those still not paid by the end of January. Kevin stated that renewal of the insurance to cover and indemnify the voting members of the board went up about 5%. He made a motion to pay for that insurance. Tom McEnaney seconded it and it was approved unanimously.

Kevin also suggest that we send out a Mailchimp message to the members that if they would like to see the financial statement all they have to do is request it and Kevin will send it to them.

The insurance on the storage unit was investigated (part of what we've been paying) and found to be required by the storage company. We have the lowest level of insurance available.

Kevin also reported that since the storage facility has changed hands it is going to convert the conference room that we have been using for our meetings into storage so it will not be available for us to use in the future. Board members were asked to seek out another place where we could possibly meet.

### **Equipment Report**

Tom McEnaney stated the new nets are out there being used. Steve Krisel also put reinforcement in some of the older nets where the center post is. We have given the YWCO two of our older nets and a dozen balls to help facilitate the clinic that will be there on Wednesday January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Tom reported that he had checked into purchasing some squeegees and rollers for the outside courts. The price is around \$65-70 each. Kris Bakowski made a motion that we buy 3 squeegee units and 2 additional rollers for the outside courts. Kevin McHugh seconded the motion and the board approved the expenditure. Tom will check to see if they come apart and are able to fit into the storage boxes we now have. The squeegee for Aaron Heard Community Center (AHCC, formerly East Athens Community Center) will be stored inside the building with information about its location on the court.

Tom also reported about the bad condition of the windscreens at Satterfield and AHCC . He has talked to Leisure Services many times and is getting no feedback on how and when they can help. He also reported that the three back courts at SE Clarke Park are unplayable much of the time because they don't dry after a rain and they are getting slick. Tom has suggested that we push the county to cut the trees behind the courts so more sun can get in and help keep those courts dry.

### **Community Engagement**

Valerie Fagan was not present but she submitted a report. Her citizens group delivered a petition with 203 signatures to the Mayor of Athens asking for more pickleball courts. She has asked for a meeting with the Mayor to discuss it. Lilly asked for volunteers to meet with Valerie and herself at that meeting. Larry King agreed to sit in on the meeting. Some board members suggesting

bringing up some of our communication problems with Leisure Services and our needs moving forward with the Mayor.

### **Round Robin**

Jennings Mills hosted a round robin on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Several that were at the round robin said it seem to go well and everyone had a good time.

### **Clinics**

Joan sent a report that there may be a clinic at Jennings Mill in February.

### **Tournament**

Michelle Milliman and Marc Gallant met and said they would be willing to be the directors of the Pickled Peach Tournament with a tentative date set for October 1-2 at Jennings Mill Country Club. However, neither one could come up with a dollar figure to charge us for doing this work. We have some committee members in place for sponsorship and volunteers. Questions came up as to who would handle the registration, the electrical equipment needed for the event as well as rental fees for Jennings Mill on top of what Michelle and Marc would charge. AAPA does have \$4,000 sponsorship from Presbyterian Village that was for the 2019 tournament and never used. Lilly and Larry King will get with Marc and Michelle and try to come up with more details on exactly what their role will be as well as fees involved. Jerry Brinegar said that October was an extremely busy month for pickleball tournaments and if we were going to do it we would need to move as quickly as possible to get it posted publicly.

### **Communications**

Polly reported that as of January 10<sup>th</sup> we had 118 members to our Facebook group. There were 29 different posts and approximately 60 people per day were looking at the site. Everyone was encouraged to post photos as well as information regarding play. Polly suggested that Lilly post something about "beginner instruction" on Mondays and to post the YWCO flyer once again for beginners.

Lilly reported that she received positive feedback from posting the minutes of our board meeting through Mailchimp. She also reported that the court etiquette signs are posted at the courts and on the website.

### **YWCO, Research Road, Athens, GA**

There will be a clinic there on January 12<sup>th</sup> hosted by AAPA for introducing the sport to anyone who is interested. The YWCO is setting up Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 - 3:30 pm for open play. Players must be a member of the YWCO or of Silver Sneakers to play for free. Otherwise you must pay \$7.00 per visit. If you are a Silver Sneakers member you must first go to the office and get registered. There will be someone in the gymnasium from the YWCO for check in. They will also be responsible for setting up and taking down the nets for each session. Lilly reported that they resurfaced the floors and updated the lighting in the gym. She did say that there are a lot of lines on the courts, which might be confusing for some people. Like the community centers we play in, the YWCO will not be available when school is out as their facilities are used for students during breaks.

### **YMCA, Hawthorne Ave, Athens, GA**

Lilly and Gary Garrett met with Jacqueline Shirley to discuss the possibility of having pickleball at the YMCA. They had tried it before but were using a racquetball court which is smaller than that of a pickleball court. There was not interest from their membership at the time.

Jacqueline said they could reserve a gym for pickleball from 6-9 pm during the week. Since the YMCA does not accept Silver Sneakers, the only way you could play at the YMCA would be to be a member. Otherwise, they would charge you \$15.00 per visit. Lilly expressed to her that most

likely AAPA members wouldn't participate with that steep of a fee. She suggested that if they set up an appropriate size court that perhaps their membership would support the program. It was agreed by the board that if there was some interest from her members that AAPA could set up a pickleball demonstration. Lilly suggested they buy some paddles and balls to help their membership get started. Jacqueline will discuss all of this with their building operations director and get back with Lilly.

### **Supplying balls to indoor locations**

At December's board meeting it was agreed that we would supply some inside balls to Herman C. Michael Park in Oconee County since we have a good number of our members that play there. There was more discussion about supplying balls to other facilities like the Methodist Church, however, a final determination was not made about that.

### **Oconee County**

Kevin McHugh opened up a discussion about providing financial assistance for non-residents of Oconee County to play at its indoor courts. They have three courts available Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The \$10.00 fee that is now being charged to non-residents does not go back into the pickleball program, it just goes to Oconee County. Kevin suggested that a certain amount of money be set aside for AAPA members to get reimbursed if they played there. Since Oconee County does not accept cash, AAPA members would have to charge it on a credit card and give the credit card receipt to Kevin for reimbursement. The conversation then turned to other venues that charge for non-members like Jennings Mill and the YWCO. Should AAPA members be reimbursed for play there? Several people that live in Oconee County said that the fee for non-residents would probably never go away. Kevin thought that if we could bring some more people into their facility they may be open to adding more facilities for pickleball. Kris Bakowski said that it appeared that if we just paid the fee for AAPA members to play there that we would just be playing into their hand and they would get more revenue and that is what they wanted in the first place. No action was taken by the board at this time.

In the past, donations have been made by AAPA to the non-profits that have welcomed us into their facilities with no fees. These donations have been of varying amounts and usually done once a year. There was a question as to whether we wanted to give Herman C. Michael Park a donation. There was no decision made on that and Lilly will be getting with Kevin before the next board meeting to try to determine if and how much we will be donating to Lay and AHCC this year.

### **InPickleball Magazine**

There is a new publication out called InPickleball Magazine and Ken Calkin has arranged for AAPA to receive about 300 copies to distribute to our membership. Ken is strongly encouraging people to also submit articles for the magazine.

### **Jittery Joe's Coffee**

David Block and Les Schindelman met with Stephen Fraher at Jittery Joe's Roaster. He is the contact for setting up a program to create Jittery Joe's coffee for organizations. They would private label their own brand of coffee with an AAPA design and sell it to us for \$9.00 a can. We could order as many as we wanted and use as advertising or as a fundraiser. Since we don't have a storefront or venue to promote and sell the coffee the board did not seem to think this was a project they wanted to undertake at this time.

### **Mailchimp**

Lilly is going to be sending out some emails regarding new ambassadors for USA Pickleball as well as present some other information to our members about USA Pickleball.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 pm.