

## **AAPA Meeting Minutes October 10, 2022**

**Members Present:** Lilly Garrett, Kevin McHugh, Kris Bakowski, Ian Bassett, Steve Bryant, Penny Adams, Tom McEnaney, Polly Crumbley, Diane Strong, Joan Baird (by phone)

**Absent:** Larry King, Mike Schmidt

**Others Present:** Owen Bullard, Jerry Tolbert, Janelle McCain, Valerie Fagan

Lilly called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. A motion to approve the September minutes was made by Kevin McHugh and Seconded by Penny Adams. Motion was approved.

### **Financial and Membership Report**

Kevin McHugh reported that refunds for the canceled Pickled Peach Tournament will be going out within the next week. (See more info on tournament later in this report). The only real expenditure we had was balls during the last month. Over the last fiscal year AAPA has spent approximately \$1,000.00 in nets and \$2,500.00 in balls. Nets are replaced when needed, and the balls are dispersed to all sites including indoors.

At the end of our fiscal year (September 30) we had 463 members. We know there are many more people out there playing pickleball that are not members of the association. In order to increase our membership it was determined that over half of the people that our on the Dinkers site on group me are not members of AAPA. The membership is important because it gives us leverage to work with local, city and county governments to increase pickleball courts and maintenance to our existing facilities. It was suggested that membership drives will start on Facebook as well as on the Group me sites to encourage players to join. We will also be looking at membership drives at certain venues at peak times to try to recruit players.

Invoicing for dues to current members will take place in November. Any new members signing up now will have the rest of this year and 2023 included in their dues. Dues will remain \$25.00 for a single and \$40.00 for a family.

### **Leisure Services/Equipment/Venues**

Tom McEnaney said that Satterfield Park will not be resurfaced until spring at the earliest. There was money in the ACC budget, but now we are being told they must find a grant to pay for the resurfacing. ACC has also instituted a policy that there will be no reserving of tennis or pickleball courts. Groups used to be able to reserve a court for a set amount of money but as of now that is being suspended.

Oconee County now has two dedicated outside courts at Herman C Michael Park. These are free to anyone for play.

Joan Baird is going to set up a meeting with Clarke Oconee Tennis Association (COTA) to try to get some assistance in how we can share courts with tennis through Leisure Services. COTA has an agreement with ACC for court usage and tournament play. It was determined that AAPA needs some type of written communication with ACC to let them know what our needs are and ways we can work together. COTA is part of United States Tennis Association (USTA) which helps local groups all across the nation negotiate with local governments for courts, equipment and other things. USA Pickleball (USAP) does not have that kind of reach nationwide so we are hoping to learn something from COTA.

Valerie Fagan and her Citizens Advocacy group have been working on a parallel path with meeting with the ACC City Manager, Blaine Williams. Valerie said that he expressed an interest of getting a “memo of understanding” of what our need are and what we are asking for. Other organizations like United Soccer, Basketball groups, COTA, etc. all have similar memos on file with the city. These memos go a long way in reaching the commissioners and other government employees. Valerie also stated that no money was going to be earmarked for “youth development” until after the new year. There is currently a 6.5 million dollar grant that ACC has and some of that money has not been earmarked.

### **Ambassador Report**

Janelle McCain said the recent regional ambassador meeting showed that a lot of the rural communities had really good relationships with their county governments and were able to have local tournaments and fundraisers. Those making a lot of money were those that were aimed at First Responders. Several communities have raised money for equipment for their courts as well.

Janelle also reported that she would like to push membership to USAP through Dinkers and possibly Facebook. They publish a magazine 6 times a year that gives valuable information to players. It is also a good source for those whole play tournaments.

The Georgia Recreation and Parks Association (GRPA) is possibly looking at some regional pickleball play between communities. This would be similar to what Kevin McHugh was doing with the over 60 group the last year.

Janelle had also looked into the possibility of doing a float in this year’s Christmas Parade but has put that off to next year.

### **Social Committee**

Joan Baird is hosting the Annual Meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be a short meeting to vote on a new slate of board members. The slate includes: Lilly Garrett, Kevin McHugh, Vickie Edwards, Ian Bassett, Tom McEnaney, Janelle McCain and Diane Strong. Tom McEnaney will discuss facilities and Kevin will give a short treasurer’s report.

### **Citizens Advisory Group**

In addition to what was stated above, Valerie has been working with UGA to see if they would convert the tennis courts on East Campus Road (near married housing) to pickleball courts or put lines on them for pickleball. We have a large number of UGA students playing now and it would help to have some additional courts on campus.

Valerie also said that the Boys and Girls Club have requested some of the grant money available to ACC. Joan Baird reported that she had been in contact with the new director at the Boys and Girls Club about getting back into the facility to play. However, it will be January 2023 before that discussion can take place.

### **Pickled Peach Tournament**

The Pickled Peach Tournament was canceled. Only 80 people had signed up and they were hoping for 200 people. They did not feel like there was enough people to have a competitive tournament. All competitors will receive a refund.

### **Nominating Committee**

Kris Bakowski reported that a slate of new board members will be put up for a vote at the annual meeting. Also, advisors to the board next year are Owen Bullard, Pam Benson, Steve Bryant, Kris Bakowski, Polly Crumbley, Joan Baird and Jerry Tolbert.

### **Magnets**

Some of the AAPA magnets given out to members have fallen apart due to various factors. The supplier is working with us to replace those magnets.

### **Academy Sports**

Academy Sports is offering a discount to AAPA members during the month of October. Lilly and various board members have discount cards to be used by members. This discount is only available in the store on pickleball merchandise like paddles, balls, etc. Clothing and shoes are not included.

### **Future meetings**

AAPA Board meetings will be held the second Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. The location will be the ACC Tennis Center adjacent to Southeast Clarke Park. There is an inside meeting room that can be used, or the covered area in back of the tennis center.

A motion was made by Diane Strong to adjourn the meeting. Kevin McHugh seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.