

AAPA Board Meeting Minutes April 11, 2022

Present: Lilly Garrett, Kevin McHugh, Kris Bakowski, Tom McEnaney, Ian Bassett, Polly Crumbley, Penny Adams, Steve Bryant, Jerry Brinegar, Mike Schmidt, Valerie Fagan
Absent: Larry King, Diane Strong, Joan Baird

Lilly called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Kevin McHugh made a motion to approve the minutes from last month. Tom McEnaney seconded and it was approved by the board.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin stated that financially we are pretty much in the same spot as we were last year. A few expenditures came up last month and we had a monetary contribution from a member. We are adding about 10-15 new members each month. Everyone that has not renewed has been taken off of the membership list and will no longer receive "member only" emails.

Facilities

Tom McEnaney reported that Leisure Services has started working on repaving tennis courts and the pickleball courts at SEC are supposed to be resurfaced as well. As of April 11 - four tennis courts at the Athens Tennis Center have been repaved. Tom and Ian Bassett measured the SEC Pickleball facility and found that 8 courts would fit if the benches are taken out. He has not been informed as to when the SEC courts are to be done, but wants to communicate to Leisure Services to consider making eight courts when re-paving. At this point we do not know if Satterfield is scheduled for resurfacing this fiscal year or not. Tom stated that if we could make this into a dedicated pickleball area we could get 10 pickleball courts in there. Ian Bassett has been talking to the head of Leisure Services Kent Kilpatrick, and City Manager Blaine Williams on the need to increase the number of Pickleball courts in Athens. A motion was made by Tom McEnaney that we draft a letter to Kent, Blaine and all the people they have been working with at Leisure Services to stress our desire for more courts since repaving is coming up quickly. Penny Adams seconded it and it was approved unanimously by the board. Ian and Tom were also going to question our government officials on the status of the SPLOST money that was approved several years ago that included 12 new pickleball courts.

As far as we know, Bishop Park is still going to resurface the upper courts and add pickleball lines to the tennis courts that are there now. This will give us six new outdoor pickleball courts. AAPA will have a lockbox there for members to use the code to get nets and balls. The lock box code will be changing this month and will be emailed to all AAPA members.

Kevin McHugh shared that Oconee County may be taking bids for four dedicated outdoor pickleball courts at Herman C. Michael Park.

Citizens Group

Valerie Fagan reported that she has spoken to Suzanne Yoculan Leeburn - former UGA Gymnastics coach to see if she can help us make some inroads to get UGA to line some of the tennis courts at the Intramural fields with pickleball lines. The courts at SEC Park are getting busy with students. It would help to ease the usage at SEC Park.

May 14th is Healthy Athens Day at Clarke Central High School.

This will be a day of activities for the Athens Community including soccer, pickleball, 3 on 3 basketball, health information for teens, vaccines and booster shots, CPR Training and more. It is free and open to the public. It runs from 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Volunteers from AAPA are encouraged to get involved and help with the courts that day. AAPA will line the courts prior to the event and we will be using the existing tennis nets. Jon Ward, the athletic director is interested in keeping the pickleball taped lines with the idea of opening up the courts for the public to use when school is not in session. That is something that will have to be worked out. We are hoping that pickleball will be popular on May 14th and draw some additional attention to pickleball in Athens.

Clinics and Round Robins

There was a round robin tournament at Jennings Mill with a small group playing. There was also a clinic held at Jennings Mill with 8 beginners and 4 more advanced players.

Facebook

Polly Crumbley reported that we have 202 members of our Facebook Group, Athens Area Pickleball. Lots of posts have been made about players, tournaments and events.

Ambassadors

Jerry Brinegar discussed the process of how one becomes an ambassador with USA Pickleball. Janelle McCain has been going through the process to succeed Jerry as the Athens Ambassador. Jerry respectfully asked that Janelle become a voting member of the board for AAPA as that seemed to be the standard operating procedure in pickleball communities. The board discussed having its nominating committee consider nominating the Ambassador for board membership during the next election cycle.

Pickle Peach Tournament

Ian has been unable to get with Mark and Michelle about tournament specifics so this item is on hold at this time.

Over 60 League

Kevin reported that we have had two Over 60 League matches in the past month. The next one is May 5th in Morgan County. He is sending out an email to those that have expressed an interest in playing.

Signs

There have been some new signs put up at SEC Park about Pickleball etiquette. The signs encourage people to rotate off the court when people are waiting for courts. There has been a big increase in playing outside with UGA students. Many do not know the etiquette rules for playing pickleball. There are also signs out at SEC park about trash and no dogs allowed on the courts. Each board member and AAPA members are encouraged to help police these policies while on the court. We want new players to feel welcome but we all want to play.

“Challenge Courts” were brought up. Several people claim that they are playing on Challenge courts so they don’t have to rotate out. There are NO Challenge courts designated at this point on any of our courts in Athens. When there is a larger inventory of courts having Challenge Courts is something we want to encourage but we do not have sufficient court inventory at this time.

YMCA

The YMCA asked if there was anyone from our AAPA membership that would like to coordinate play on Tuesday and Thursday night for their membership. Claude Baxley volunteered to do this. YMCA members can play for free. If a non-member wants to play it is \$15.00 per session.

New Business

Drying machine - a member of AAPA presented information on having a machine that is capable of drying the pickleball courts extremely fast after a rain. The board was given information about the machine and its price. It was decided at this time it is not something the board wants to pursue.

AAPA Social

There will be an AAPA Social at Robert and Joan Baird's House on May 1st at 5:00 p.m. The meat, drinks, and paper products are going to be provided by AAPA. People attending are asked to bring a dish to share as well as a chair. It will be "tailgate style". An invitation to the event is to be sent out to all members asking them to RSVP. Due to space restrictions there will be a cap of 120 people. The event will be held outside in Robert and Joan's pole barn.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.