

## **Minutes for Athens Area Pickleball Association December 13, 2021**

### **Those in Attendance**

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

Lilly called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

### **Financials**

Kevin McHugh presented the financial report. He sent out invoices for renewal of membership. So far, approximately one third of the members have paid 2022 dues. Kevin also reported that he has been working to clean up the databases in Mailchimp.

### **Equipment**

Tom McEnaney reported the balls that were ordered back in July came in, we now have 200 Duras, 90 Franklins and 150 Core. They will be distributed as needed outside. He has given some to Fred for the Wednesday challenges. Tom will check with Ed Hon about the status of the indoor balls from last year. The people that play indoors have asked for high visibility balls like the Penn balls. They have been purchasing those balls themselves. Six new nets and frames have been purchased and received. They will be put out at Satterfield Park. Steve Krisel came up with a way to fix the center pole coming out of some of the nets and said that he would be glad to repair any nets that need it. Tom also reiterated how difficult it is to get answers to our questions and information out of Leisure Services. Items such as squeegees, signage, windscreens and minor repairs are being overlooked. We discussed purchasing our own squeegees and getting a larger storage box. Tom is going to look into it.

### **Website/Facebook**

Polly and Jerry Brinegar have been discussing our current Facebook page. Posting to the existing page is cumbersome and not open to all. Diane Strong made a motion to delete the current page and start a new page that was more user friendly. Kevin seconded it and it was voted on unanimously. Jerry is going to remove the existing page and Polly is going to create a Facebook Group. It will be called Athens Georgia Pickleball. It will be a private group and people will have to be invited or they can ask to join. This page needs to be updated frequently by everyone and we will encourage members to post photos, happenings or important timely information about courts. We will start out without a moderator. If the posts get out of hand then we will have moderators that will have to approve posts before they are seen. The Facebook Group will also have links to the website for more information.

### **Better communication**

In response to some players asking about what their dues gets them, a discussion took place about how to get our information out. Should we do it by Mailchimp, GroupMe, website or Facebook? It was decided to use several forms of communication with most of it reverting back to the website. Lilly will now post the date and time of the monthly meetings along with an agenda and the proper form to address the board. This way everyone who sees the website can know when the meetings are and feel welcome to come. All board meetings are open. Polly will come up with a section for the website that is FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions). She will come up with the questions and Tom will answer those that concern the equipment and facilities. Anyone else can submit questions to Lilly and she will review all of them and send to us for input. Then she will have one of our members edit the answers for clarity and then post to the website. It was also mentioned that perhaps a year-end financial summary could be made available on the website.

## **Inventory**

Several board members went through the storage facility and made a list of equipment. We have approximately 100 medals with varying dates on them and asked if anyone wanted them. Kevin also brought up that we are currently paying \$10.00 a month for insurance on the storage unit. Larry King said that when he was renting the facility he was able to cover it under his insurance and we were not charged the fee. Kevin will look into that.

## **Tournament**

At last month's board meeting it was decided that the tournament would not be moving forward because no one was willing to step up to be the chair of the event. Jerry Brinegar said that he had talked to Marc Gallant at Jennings Mill Country Club and he said that if he could work under someone that it was possible he could take it on the following year but would need to have a mentor in the first year. Lilly and Joan were going to follow up with him. Bob Bostrom talked with Presbyterian Village about their sponsorship money. Since we have decided that we are not having the tournament (as of now) Presbyterian Village said we could keep the money and if the tournament was not going to be held that we could use the money for other Pickleball related events.

## **Clinics and Round Robins**

Jennings Mill held a clinic in November. The numbers were small but Marc is willing to do more possibly in March. He is holding a Round Robin out at Jennings Mill December 18. There are approximately 20 teams signed up to play.

## **Valerie Fagan - Community Outreach Program**

Valerie has contacted Clarke Central and still discussing the possibility of pickleball courts there and they being available to the general public. Question is whether or not they would want public on property while school is in session.

Lines have been put down at the gym at YWCO. Penny Adams will check with them to see when the court(s) could be used and if they have nets and balls. If anyone has a Silver Sneakers membership they can use the YWCO for free. Otherwise you must be a member. Jerry Brinegar brought up that his wife has been talking to the YMCA about bringing pickleball there. Jerry said that there is a precedent in other YMCAs that they can have programs there and people can come that are not YMCA members but that is something that would have to be addressed with our local YMCA. Jerry will follow up on this.

## **Boys and Girls Club**

Mike Hackett, the director of the Boys and Girls Club is retiring. Joan Baird is going to find out if there is going to be a reception or something to celebrate his time there. She is also going to be checking into the possibility of using the Boys and Girls club in the winter months. We were unable to use it this fall because of COVID. Under our previous agreement with the Boys and Girls Club, only AAPA members could play there. The Club is not open to the "public" but could be open to groups to use it.

## **Court Etiquette**

This subject has come up frequently but Lilly received an email about the play at SEC Park not being conducive to "outsiders". Etiquette concerns have also surfaced about indoor play and stacking paddles. It was suggested that laminated signs be posted stating proper etiquette while playing. Lilly will write something up and submit it to the Board for feedback before having signs made.

## **New Business for next meeting**

Jerry Brinegar reported that Ken Caulkin has retired as ambassador for our area. Jerry is our only ambassador and he will be retiring at the end of 2022. He asked that we be thinking about replacements for he and Ken and if anyone was interested they could go to the USA Pickleball Association website and get information. He also thought it would be important if the Athens Area Pickleball Association would become

members of USA Pickleball Association. If we sponsor an event, participants can pay a small fee to be covered with insurance through the USA Pickleball Association.

Kevin McHugh said that the people in Oconee County have asked about supplying balls for them since they are members. They currently play indoors at Herman C. Michael Park. The fee that non-residents have to pay to play in Oconee County goes directly to Oconee County and has nothing to do with pickleball or the equipment for pickleball. Joan then asked that if people that play at Jennings Mills should be given balls since they too are members of AAPA and they must buy their own balls. Board members were asked to think about it and we will have for new business for next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.