The TVPBC Board Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m., August 23,2023, by Gordon Young, President. In attendance was Gordon Young, Bruce LaCour, Kelly Bryan, Karen Birch, Bill Cumbow, Kathy Parr, and Dee Foster.

Additional attendees: 7

Minutes for June 13, 2023 Board meeting were approved.

Director reports were as follows:

***PRESIDENT – Gordon Young***

We have had initial discussions with 2 charities regarding partnering with TVPBC, the TV Library and Special Olympics.  Both provide a unique opportunity and need within the great East Tennessee area and would make solid partners.  More to follow.

As all know, the Kahite and Wellness Center Courts were approved by the POA to be resurfaced.  Timing on this is very near term, and we expect to have it completed in September.  This is going to create a issue with the September Challenge, and it has been canceled.  Court resurfacing is in the works and should happen soon. Gordon will send out alternative sites for play.

As an alternative, Molly Midgely has volunteered to look at some form of team event for early October.  This would be over a couple of days, mostly in the evening.  Molly will present shortly her thoughts.

Software: We have had several discussions on Pickleball Den and discussions with them.  While we need to complete due diligence, the information so far has been positive.  We are waiting on a quote outline so we can begin thinking of cost structure if this is the avenue selected.  The Skills and Orientation Scheduling appear to be very much what we need.  In reality, this may fit the POA better than Acuity, as well, given it provides an automated wait list contact function.

2024 Board position:  We have had two candidates provide significant interest, Gary Sawicki for President and Don McLeod for Treasurer.  We have continued discussion with these individuals.  We are continuing to pursue individuals for Skills and Drills.  This process actually speeds up the process noted in the By Laws by several months.

Member Rolls and Wellness Center Membership:  This topic continues to be a thorn in everyone's side.  The Rec Dept audited our membership list and found 60 members of TVPBC who are not enrolled at the wellness center.  I reviewed this list and found about 15 that were out for health, moving or injury.  The balance contained a number of individuals who were surprising.  We are meeting with Rec this week to go over how we can address this issue for the long term.  These issues come to the following:

1.  Rec Membership

2.  Guest Passes will be monitored. Guests can play during open times, only.

3.  TVPBC membership

4.  TV Visitor package guests

5.  Court sign up using Acuity. I discovered that I could reserve a court using a fictitious name and an alternate email and was able to reserve a court.

The Recreation Department will be addressing the abuses. Reports of abuse should go to Larissa at the Rec Department or Simon. Reports should go to Gordon first who will go to Rec.

Funding for the Future:  I believe the club will face money needs in the coming years.  Although I am not certain which will come first, I truly believe it is important to raise funds for the club’s long term growth and sustainability.  Some longer term concerns:

* potential for a pro
* pre-fund needs of hosting a larger tournament, including pro level
* need for bathrooms
* covered stands near Plex courts.

With the potential closure of the courts for a good part of September, the September 30 date for UT to visit is at risk.  We will play it by ear!

***VICE PRESIDENT – Bruce La Cour***

1.  Fall Club Challenge was cancelled due to resurfacing of the Wellness Center courts.
2.  All Club Challenge registrants were fully refunded..
3.  UT Tennis group currently scheduled for Sept 30th is subject to change due to resurfacing of Wellness Center courts.
4.  Initial meeting for 2024 Spring Open Tournament will begin in late October or early November. Dates for the tournament are April 26, 27, 28 with after party 29th.
5.  I will coordinate with Molly Midgely in the short term concerning a club event, possibly in October….more to come.

6. Four ways to access Board minutes: the News/Blog, a banner on the bottom of web pages, the drop down menu under Club Information, and the search feature.

***Secretary – Kathy Parr***

Gordon is negotiating with Heather Mjaka on her proposed handout for new and prospective members. Meanwhile, I have given her recommendations for edits, including replacing information for evaluations with the procedure for orientation and levelling.

***SOCIAL – Kelly Bryan***

Social Director’s Report

We had 2 socials in August:

1.  “In Pickleball, Everything is Possible - OLE” was a Mexican themed social featuring pickleball skills contests, games and frozen Mexican Paletas.  Even though the parking lot was being resurfaced at the Wellness Center, we still estimate that we had around 100 people participate.  Many thanks to Gary Sawicki who created a subcommittee to run this event and encouraged people outside of our social committee to get involved and help.

2.  We also had our annual raft event, which was hosted by Captains Stan Sech and Dave Webb.  Even though the weather had been dicey, the sun broke out for the event, and we had 16 boats and between 60-70 people attend.  Thank you to Bruce LaCour for posting the pictures from these 2 fun events.

3.  We are planning two more events for the fall.  The first is planned for October 13th and is called “Friday Night Lights”.  The details are still in planning stages; however, the construction of the courts may cause us to cancel this event.  The initial thoughts are to have club provided hot dogs (or a food truck), and a pot luck.  BYOD.

4.  The second event for the fall will be on November 29th.  It will have a holiday theme, and we will be doing a toy drive.  We are planning an ugly pickleball sweater contest and having a DJ play holiday music.  We will provide a holiday themed goodie bag with candy canes, etc.

***EVALUATIONS – Dee Foster***

June and July Evaluations

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| REGULAR EVALUATIONS | CANDIDATES | PASS | FAIL | RETEST |
| JUNE |  |  |  |  |
| 2.5 to 3.0 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| 3.0 to 3.5 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 3 |
| 3.5 to 4.0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |  |
| Withdraws | 4 |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 15 |  |  |  |
| JULY |  |  |  |  |
| 2.5 to 3.0 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| 3.0 to 3.5 | 1 | 1 |  |  |
| 3.5 to 4.0 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| Withdraws | 1 |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 15 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

23 passed the evaluations.

E-TEAM members: 56 members. We have had 3 training sessions for volunteers.

**EVALUATION REVIEW (6 MONTHS)**

1. Overall, the evaluation process has had resounding acceptance by the club.
2. The morale of members seems to be higher than previously observed.
	1. It is my belief that this is because members have a clear understanding of the requirements to move up, if they so desire.
	2. They know if they fail the first time they can come back and retest. The onus is on them and not on someone else. (no one to blame but themselves.)
3. Some other observations:
	1. We have defined “roles” for each type of evaluator and determined any rules they need to follow. Currently, there are four evaluator types.
		1. Referee
		2. Umpire
		3. Level Play Reviewer
		4. Feeder
		5. Challenger
	2. There is very little participation from the 4.0s 3.5s, which is very disappointing. We have a few, however, we could use more, especially as feeders and ghost doubles challengers.
	3. It will be the responsibility of the Evaluator Director position to continue to monitor the trends in pickleball, to ensure that we maintain a viable evaluation process.

***FINANCE– Karen Birch***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| Beginning Balance |   |   | $33,170.78 |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | Check # | Checking | Total |
| **Receipts** |  |  |  |
|  |  |   |  |
| **Total Receipts** |   |  | $0.00 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Disbursements** |  |   |  |
|  |  |   |  |
| Mail Chimp | debit | $37.06 |  |
| 100 Franklin pickleballs (Amazon) | debit | $152.58 |  |
| Tournament donation (Our Place) | 1404 | $865.00 |  |
| Fall Challenge Yard Signs (Bruce LaCour) | 1407 | $67.12 |  |
| Bank Service Charge for Stop Check to Our Place, lost | fee | $35.00 |  |
| 100 CORE pickleballs (Amazon) | debit | $261.59 |  |
|  |   |   |  |
| **Total Disbursements** |   |  | $1,418.35 |
|  |  |   |  |
| Ending Balance |   |  | $31,752.43 |
|  |  |  |  |
| July Membership 937 |  |  |  |

***TRAINING-Bill Cumbow***

The Skills & Drills program continues to be well received.

The Skills & Drills Level coordinators are as follows:

Level 2.0 Mar Isakson [svserenity@hotmail.com](svserenity%40hotmail.com)

Level 2.5 TBD (Temporary) Debby Cumbow [dbcumbow@att.net](dbcumbow%40att.net))

Level 3.0 Dave Jeanguenat [davidjeanguenat@yahoo.com](davidjeanguenat%40yahoo.com)

Level 3.5 Rick Hulsey [rick\_hulsey@yahoo.com](rick_hulsey%40yahoo.com)

Level 4.0 Mark Williams netman003@gmail.com (With Dave Brigham assisting)

The Skills & Drills participation for the month of June and July are as follows:

Level 2.0 131 participants (327 Total 2023)

Level 2.5 288 participants (598 Total 2023)

Level 3.0 123 participants (256Total 2023)

Level 3.5 101 participants (226 Total 2023)

Level 4.0 118 participants (305 Total 2023)

Total for June/July = 761 Total for 2023 = 1712 (As of July 31)

We have introduced a specific lesson at the 2.5 level to focus on the “Evaluation Skills”. There are two dedicated courts out of the six courts available and the session is made available once per month on the first or second week to prepare for monthly evaluations that take place the third week of the month.

There is still a coordinator position available for Level 2.5. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

There may be some reduction in the S&D sessions for the planned resurfacing in September.

The new ball machine is currently in the Court 9-12 storage container.

Gordon has 8 but we need 24 more Durafast 40 balls for the new ball machine as they are more consistent in shape that what we have.

David Brigham reported that 4.0s have about 20 attendees with 16 spots available. Players are appreciated.

The goal is to have consistent orientation events for Kahite.

***ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION***

Software

We need software that will do what Acuity can’t do. PickleBall Den offers software that will do what Acuity is unable to do:

* Collect money
* Accept charge cards & PayPal
* Communicate directly with members
* System to allow waiting list to automatically populate
* $5-6,000/year
* Manually update member list
* Gordon and others will visit other clubs using the software.
* Integrates with tournament software.

Bill Cumbow added that he and Kelly have been researching other software options. PickleBall Den has “risen to the top.” Bruce mentioned that support from that company has been excellent for tournaments.

***Additional Discussion***

Potential Charity Partners for the Spring tournament

Tellico Village Library and Special Olympics have approached us. Molly Midgely has come forwarded to help with a special event, perhaps a fundraiser.

Evaluation process proposed change

Dee suggests reducing the time commitment to two days each month to include a Saturday for those who work. Having various days requested stretches the staff. Dee proposes 4 hours for each of two day. This would allow less commitment time for volunteers. She recommends Tuesday and Saturday for Assessments allowing for people that work. If every level had 8 people for evaluations, it would equal 32 candidates., 2 candidates per court in 2 hours = 8 in 2 hours, so 16 in 4 hours. 2 days = 32 candidates. We would also like to have 1 hour previous and after assessments to set up and breakdown the courts so they will be on time.

Also she proposes eliminating level play. Level Play review is subjective. We require 2 reviewers for each candidate, which takes a lot of coordination. Many candidates don’t play in regular level play and don’t know the protocol. We cannot control attendance of other players for level play. There have only been a few players where the level play assisted their promotion. It disrupts normal level play. Even though the players not being evaluated are told to play “as usual,” it still seems to disrupt the play.

Bylaws

The Board is considering adding two more board positions to distribute responsibilities effectively. We are discussing a position to deal with fund raising and one for expanding competitive play within TVPBC. Under the By Laws, we are still required to name a Nominating Committee.  As it is appointed by the President, Gordon will appoint members in September and discuss this process with them.

Dates for next board meetings: 9/12, 10/10, 11/14, 12/12

School Pickleball program

Bill Busch spoke regarding Steekee Elementary School. The school contact requested four days a week to include more grades is not feasible. The program will be reduced to two grades, beginning in October. The program will need 6 volunteers. The Steekee representative will contact other schools in the area to seek participation. If the program expands, more equipment will be needed.

The meeting adjourned 4:53 p.m.

***Board Action:*** August 28, 2023

Gordon asked for an electronic vote on his proposal for Pickleball Den in order to quicken the process:

1.  Support Gordon finalizing negotiations to sign a contract with Pickleball Den for terms equal or better than those provided in the PD Proposal previously distributed.

2.  We would look to launch this in 2024 with an exact date to be determined based upon formal implementation plan.

3.  We agree to increase dues to $20 per calendar year.

4.  We agree that the Club will provide 2 or 3 days of Professional Clinics in 2024 with participants selected in a lottery by level.  Individuals will be limited to 2 hours of clinic per player.

The motion passed.