

PEM Pickleball
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 7, 2017

WELCOME

Doug Gibbs and Judy Graves, Co-Chairs, welcomed everyone and introduced the Committee Chairs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications (Doug Gibbs, Co-Chair)

- There are currently 215 paid members in the park right now.

Finance (Anne Reynolds, Chair)

- There is currently a little over \$12,000 in the account right now.
- Expenditures so far this season include: approximately \$700 for new signs for the courts; \$500 for paddle saddles; \$350 for pop-up with sides for tournament event desk; \$350 for three shade pop-ups for courts; \$1,043 for balls so far this season; and \$319 in office supplies and training equipment.
- Mike Martin suggested soliciting donations to put in our coffers. Judy Graves said she and Doug Gibbs will be having a meeting with ownership before we consider collecting more funds from the membership. We need to know where they stand and how they feel about future improvements. There was a meeting scheduled that morning but was canceled by Niels Roberts due to sickness. We want to know how Roberts Resorts feels about improvements and future tournaments.
- Lynn Retzak asked what it would cost to put in more courts. Anne reported that Bend, Oregon paid \$250,000 for eight (8) courts without lights and no post-tensioning (built on bedrock).
- Ron Craig said that at the last meeting someone recommended we increase the dues. He reported that he talked to 10-12 members who felt there should be an increase in a flat fee, or a graduated increase. He suggested the board reach out to the membership and ask about a dues increase. Doug Gibbs stated that it would be premature to ask for a dues increase before we know what the Roberts intentions are, and maybe we could look at this again in the future once we know what we will do with the money we already have. Becky Gibbs suggested that we could include this topic in a future club survey.

Grand Canyon Games (Anne Reynolds, Tournament Director)

- Grand Canyon games are on February 21-25, 2018. This is a five-day tournament with over 950 players registered or trying to get in.
- Some of the wait lists for specific events are larger than the number of players entered into those events. Some of the brackets are small, so she will be closing those out and opening up more space in other events that are full.
- Volunteers – will start working on in January.
- The PEM Pickleball Club makes about \$10 per head, which is about \$7,000. We do not pay any expenses for this tournament.

SSIPA TOURNAMENT (Anne Reynolds)

- SSIPA (Super Senior International Pickleball Association) will be on March 20-22, 2018.
- This year PEM will be hosting and Anne Reynolds will be tournament director. Becky Gibbs will be running registration and desk operations.
- The minimum age to participate has changed from 65 to 60.

- Registration opens January 8 at 7:00 AM.
- We will also need volunteers for this tournament, but it will not be as labor intensive as Grand Canyon Games.
- Our club keeps all the profits from this tournament; however we will have expenses such as medals. We should make about \$5,000-\$6,000.
- There was several audience comments unrelated to tournaments. See section below under “Audience Comments/Questions/Suggestions” for details.

Operations (Rich Baumann and Mike Golden, Co-chairs)

- Rich reported that the gravel pile has been smoothed out, more gravel is being brought up to the area around the courts, three pop-ups for shade have been put up, hinges on the old courts have been replaced with ones that will allow the doors to swing ninety degrees each way, the drinking fountain at the old courts will be fixed on Friday or Monday (electrical problem), the cracks in courts 15-16 and 12 will be repaired next month, the new court signs are up, and they are purchasing a gas blower for the old courts.
- Mike Golden is working with an ad hoc committee on special capital improvement projects.
- Mike said they were looking into the cost of lighting courts 1-4. We received two bids last February and he called the contractors to see what it would be in today’s dollars. One guy indicated he made a huge mistake and his original bid was about half of what it would really cost. They are seeking out estimates from other contractors, but it looks like the approximate cost will be about \$25,000-35,000 which includes tax, permitting, engineers review, etc. This would include eight lights. Everything would also have to be approved by Roberts Resorts.
- Mike said they are also looking into the cost of shading in the center access of the courts and between the trees. Arizona Sports Commission provided an estimate of \$800 for material to provide shading down the north/south coordinator. Mike would like to look at the material and also other proposals from fencing contractors. There are different types of shades, some not as shady and others more full coverage like at Palm Creek.
- Ron Craig reported that they are also looking at pricing on benches that range from \$150 to \$1,000 each. It’s a matter of how much we want to spend. He suggested we try out one or two samples and ask for feedback from everyone. To get ones that look just like what we have it would cost \$478 plus tax and shipping. During the next 30 days he will get hard prices and once again we will have to see what Roberts wants to do before proceeding forward.

Tournaments (Rich Baumann, Co-Chair)

- Our next in-house tournament will be Wednesday, January 24. Format will be men’s doubles and women’s doubles in skill levels 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 and 3.5+. There are no restrictions on the 3.5+ group. Registration will be on www.pickleballtournaments.com and will open January 1. Information will be posted at the bulletin board. Players need to register on line and then pay their registration fee using the envelopes provided at the bulletin board. Send through the intra-park mail; DO NOT LEAVE THE ENVELOPE OR MONEY IN THE PLASTIC CONTAINER OR AT THE BULLETIN BOARD.
- The Karl Kunz Memorial Tournament will be on Wednesday, March 7. Format will be mixed doubles. The Committee is working on how to handle the 3.5+ group.

Rating Committee (Becky Gibbs on behalf of John and Peggy Friesner, Co-Chairs)

- Rating Committee did three ratings this last month (for move up to 3.5 or higher). Charleen Hutton also moved up several players to 3.0 through 2.5 skills training.
- Players who want to be rated should use the on-line contact form located on the “Rating Review & Committee” page under “Training” on our website.
- Judy Graves is updating the rating lists weekly and will be posted on the bulletin board every Friday.

Organized Play (Peter McClean, Chair)

- Peter is the new Chair or the Organized Play Committee.
- There are currently 134 players registered in TrackitHub.
- This is a task that can only be accomplished through the efforts of many others who have volunteered to be Captains for the 2017/2018 pickleball season. Those individuals are:
 - 1.0-2.0 mentored round robin – Doug Gibbs and Lynn Retzak
 - 2.5 Mixed Social – Jodi Holecek and Jane Bode
 - 2.5 Women scored round robin – Karen Gleiss and Bert Sealing
 - 2.5 – 3.5 Friday scored mixed round robin – Peter McClean
 - 3.0 Mixed social and 3.0 men’s scored round robin – Rich Baumann and Ron Craig
 - 3.5+ mixed social and 3.5+ men’s scored round robin – Don Williams and Lee Meyer
 - 4.0+ mixed social round robin – Peggy Bradley and Lee meyer
 - Saturday couples (for now) – Peter McClean
- This year the club decided to use TrackitHub to schedule and track organized play. The board would like to thank everyone for their participation and patience while we get things running efficiently.
- All organized play commences at 10:30 AM to allow open play to take place between 7:30-10:30 AM. The Board is committed in allowing this to run this season in order to better understand activity levels, court utilization and weather influences, and then next year make adjustments if required.
- Peter believes that communication is the key to success and he would really appreciate it if everyone would share their likes, concerns, complaints or even pet peeves by submitting those in writing. If we don’t hear about a problem or concern, it can’t be addressed. If an individual has a concern it needs to be discussed and if there is a wide spread concern it needs to be addressed. Please submit any concerns you have to a board member in writing. If the writer elects to identify themselves then they can be contacted. If the concern is submitted anonymously, it can only be considered but providing individual feedback is impossible.
- Jody Holecek suggested there be a sign on the bulletin board on how people can make comments, suggestions and complaints. Doug Gibbs suggested players can use the on-line contact form and we will make sure it gets to the proper person or the board. Discussion ensued on how players can remain anonymous. It was suggested that if a player really feels the need to not attach their name to a complaint or a concern that they can send something in writing to the appropriate board member via intra-park mail. Becky Gibbs suggested that it is sometimes difficult to know how valid complaints are and how best to deal with them when they are anonymous. She cited an example where the Activities Office received complaints from a small number of people and we changed our programs because of that (which may or may not be in the best interest of the group as a whole).
- Mike Martin suggested we put “hot button” items on the agenda and publicize. The Board would encourage members to routinely attend the monthly general membership meeting and/or read the minutes. An email reminder is sent out to members before the meeting and members are also notified when the minutes are available on the website. Becky Gibbs stated that when significant issues that come up the board will reach out to the general membership to get feedback before making any major decisions. (Side note: There is limited time between the Committee Chair meeting and General Membership meeting to prepare the agenda, so it may not always be available until the meeting.)

Training (Shannon McClean, Co-Chair)

- Lynn Retzak is the lead for beginner lessons. Shannon reported that there is an amazing turnout for beginner lessons, especially for this time of year. They have taught 49 new players already.
- The mentored round robin for new players is swamped, with sometimes five courts going. Players are moving up quickly. Doug Gibbs and Lynn Retzak are the leads.
- Mike Golden is the lead for 1.5-2.0 skills. The average number of players attending each week is 14.
- Charleen Hutton is the lead for 2.5 skills. The average number of players attending each week is 16.
- Bruce Kimmell is the lead for 3.0 skills. The average number of players attending each week is 16.
- Jody Holecek said there was good information on the bulletin board and liked the photos on the mentor list.

- Shannon said they will ask mentors for feedback to see how many players are participating.
- The rating process through training has changed from last year. Trainers can now move players up from 2.5 to 3.0. Between the scores on TrackitHub and training, the trainers are able to do a good job in assessing.
- Shannon and Charleen are working on a system for players to check out and use the ball machines.

OTHER

Miscellaneous

- **Name Badges** – There are a lot of people at the courts without ID. We suspect people are coming from outside the resort. REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR ID BADGE AT THE COURT. It's a park rule that also applies to the pickleball courts.
- **AED Locations** – Doug Gibbs said that AEDs are located four places around the park: Restaurant/Golf Shop, , exercise room, near the library and on the security cart. The closest AED to the pickleball courts is at the Restaurant/Golf Shop. It's located just to the right of bar on the wall. Remember to first call 9-1-1 and then have someone get the AED.
- **Umbrellas** – Please remember to close the umbrellas before you leave.
- **Surveys** – We are working on two general membership surveys. The first is oriented towards Roberts Resorts and the impact Pickleball has on people staying or buying at PEM. This survey will be coming out shortly. The second survey will be specific to our players and pickleball program. That will come out in a couple months.
- **Annual Banquet** – The annual banquet is March 14. We are looking for volunteers. Suz Golden and Susan Craig said they would help out. It was suggested that Louise Shindlecker, Wendy Fiske and Kitty Hadawi might also be interested. Polly Beam suggested that instead of acknowledging people and having them come to the front of the room that we just have them stand up in order to save time. Ron Craig suggested that John Owens MC.

Audience Comments/Questions/Suggestions

- Ron Craig suggested that we post the minutes on the bulletin board along with a list of bullet points of major items. The Board clarified that the minutes are posted on our website for members who are interested in learning what happened at the monthly meeting and that we send out an email when they are available. We could list some of the major issues covered, but members still need to go to the minutes to get the full details or attend the meetings if they can.
- Polly Beam is working with resort management on a pet identification program. In a situation non-related to pickleball, the issues of dogs not on leashes came up. Dogs account for the largest number of complaints. It was suggested that dog owners be sure to follow resort rules at the pickleball courts so we don't lose our ability to bring our pets to the courts.
- Mike Martin had a question about court utilization and said not everything was being identified on the calendar. He said he witnessed a bunch of people playing at the courts on Wednesday at 2:00 PM. Becky clarified that women's intercommunity was playing on eight of the courts, two others were being used by PEM residents and their guests, all who had guest passes, and the rest were empty. Judy Graves explained that women's intercommunity occurs on Wednesdays at 2:00 PM. Players who are not part of a reciprocal club each pay a \$10 guest fee to our club. The men are also trying to set up intercommunity play, but have yet to get it organized. Intercommunity play is purposely scheduled in the afternoon when our courts are empty.
- Susan Craig asked when the meeting would be with Roberts. Doug Gibbs said the meeting was scheduled for this morning, but was postponed due to Niels Roberts being sick. He is waiting to hear back from the Roberts to reschedule.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Thursday, January 4, 4:00 PM, Recreation Hall