

## Pagosa Pickleball Club Board of Directors Meeting – October 18, 2021 Minutes

Meeting started at 10:01 AM and adjourned at 1:40 PM

Attendees: Steve Chaney, Al Pfister, John Costa, Tina Heffner, Laura Metallo, Mark McNown, Steve Taub

Non-board attendees: Ed Baxter, Jane Wang, Laurie Taub, Jeff Barkoff, Mont McAllister, Greg Schulte

- Treasurer's Report

Bank Balances	Court Construction Fund
Checking:       \$ 7,145.16	Savings:   \$96,626.27
PayPal:         \$ 385.74	Pledges:   \$10,850.00 **
Savings:        \$96,626.27	
<b>Total Cash     \$104,157.27</b>	<b>Total:        \$107,476.27</b>

\*\* Per Steve Chaney's email we are asking for all pledges to be fulfilled by January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Income statement 2021-2022 YTD 7/1/2021 through 9/30/2021

INCOME	EXPENSES
Membership Dues                   \$1,465	Supplies
Operating Expense Donations       \$379	Indoor balls                   \$61.05
Building Fund	Outdoor balls                 \$260.11
General Donations               \$1,899	Other Equipment               \$212.86
Mont 1200                         \$0	Court Repair/Expense           \$0.00
Fly High                          \$0	Office Supplies                 \$33.30
Lukes Match                       \$9,000	Miscellaneous <u>\$0.00</u>
19th Hole Grant                  \$2,075	TOTAL Supplies                 \$567.32
TOTAL Building Fund             \$12,974	Shirt Expense                    \$2,065.05
Other Fund Raising	Administration                 \$52.35
Tournament                       \$0	Miscellaneous                  \$107.78
Shirts Sales                       \$2,730	Tournament                      \$0.00
Amazon Smiles                    \$36	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES                \$2,792.50</b>
Total Other Fund Raising        \$2,766	
Interest on Savings                \$11	
<b>TOTAL INCOME                    \$17,595</b>	
<b>NET INCOME                      \$14,803</b>	

- Status of Potential Grants

Al updated the board on the status of potential grants. We submitted a request for \$5,000 for the Community Foundations Capacity Building grant. The application referenced our need to hire someone to help build our website and other social media tools in an effort to grow our club membership and capacity. The amount requested was the maximum allowed and if we are approved it is more likely the grant would be around \$2,500.

Al stated he plans to submit an application for a grant from Next 50 in January.

- Membership Update

John provided an update on our membership. We have 289 members of record. Covid-19 had a negative impact on play and other club activities in 2020 and 2021. As a result, a number of people that were current with their dues in 2019/2020 did not pay dues for the 2020/2021 year. The board made the decision to continue membership for these individuals keeping them on our Google Group email list.

We have 157 members that have renewed their dues for the 2021/2022 year. There are many that are active but have not renewed along with some that may have stopped playing for various reasons. With indoor and outdoor play resuming to some degree of normalcy, the board has decided that people who have not yet renewed for the current year will be given until December 31<sup>st</sup> to renew before being dropped from our Google Group. John will send an email notice to all members of record who are not current with dues informing them of this.

John reported that we have collected a total of \$3,025 in dues for the 2021/2022 year. This includes payments made in June prior to the official July 1<sup>st</sup> start of our “fiscal” year.

- Clinics

Tina, responding to input from our indoor players, requested that we look at changing the time and day of our beginner clinics. Greg Schulte and Lorrin Lee have been conducting a beginner clinic on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. The clinic uses one of the three courts available in the Community Center that have been reserved for pickleball Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Tina cited the example of a recent Wednesday when we had 31 people playing on two courts with the clinic court occupied by six people for two hours. The previous week the beginner clinic had 11 people. The number of people playing on MWF is generally greater than the number playing on Tuesday or Thursday. With a large number of people waiting, some members feel the time taken by the clinic should be allocated for open play to reduce wait times. John stated that this has been a complaint on busy days since he and Gary started teaching back in 2017. John also emphasized it’s really up to Greg and Lorrin as they’re the ones volunteering their time.

It was suggested that we move the clinic to the Thursday afternoon time slot of 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM. Greg Schulte indicated that other than Wednesday mornings this was the best day and time for both he and Lorrin. There were two concerns about this move. The first was would the move from the morning clinic to an afternoon negatively impact attendance. The second had to do with the fact that we only have one court available for pickleball on Thursday and the clinic would effectively eliminate play on that day for anyone other than those taking the clinic. Steve Chaney agreed to contact Darren to see if we could use two courts. Whether we have one or two courts available, the decision was made to move the clinic to Thursday afternoon effective November 4<sup>th</sup>. Greg will follow up with an announcement.

There was further discussion as to what options we might have in the event that we could not use two courts. One suggestion was to investigate renting the Community Center gym for two hours. The rental rate for the gym is \$60 per hour. This would be \$120 per week. There are 26 weeks from November thru April. If we rented the gym for all 26 weeks the total expense would be \$3,120. There was concern that this would be too great an expense to take on without either raising dues or initiating a separate fund-raising event.

It was agreed the board would like to offer more benefits to our members and more indoor winter court time would be a great benefit. The question was asked as to whether we could negotiate a lower rental fee. Also raised for future discussion was how would we police attendance if it was restricted to members and how much could we afford to pay without raising dues or additional funds.

Once Steve Chaney confirms the number of courts available on Thursdays, the board will continue to explore our options and look for a solution.

There was some discussion regarding the option of charging for the clinics. The consensus was that we want to continue to offer clinics at no charge. It has been an important factor in attracting members and encouraging people to try pickleball.

- T-shirt Update

John provided an update on our T-shirt sales. We ordered 129 of the Carolina Blue shirts. 98 were pre-sold and money received before we placed the order. We ordered an additional 31 extras for sales to anyone who missed out or wanted additional shirts. After covering the total cost of the shirts, we have netted a profit of \$623. Once all the shirts are sold our profit will be just under \$1,400.

10 shirts were damaged/soiled and replacements have been sent from the supplier. We washed the shirts and 8 are good enough to sell and will be added to our stock.

We still have a few of the green and white shirts from last year. John will send an email to all members with a list of all the shirts we have available.

- Equipment Stored in the Ice Rink Shed

Steve Chaney spoke to the ice rink people. They may begin setting up the ice rink for the winter season November 1<sup>st</sup>. Until they actually start, we can continue to use the courts. Steve will move the balls and nets over to the storage room in the restroom building. He will update the combination and send an email to our members via Google Group.

- Spring Tournament

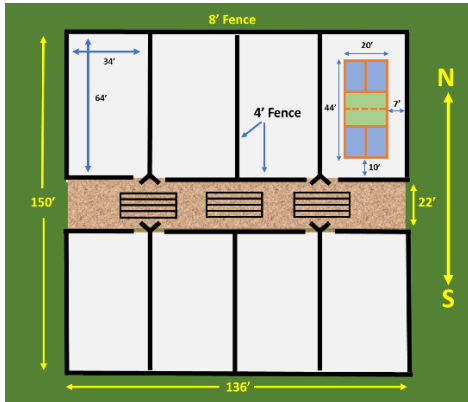
It was agreed that we would not hold a tournament this Spring due to uncertainties related to Covid-19 restrictions. We expect our next tournament will be held outdoors on the new courts. It would be great if it could be next Fall but this will depend on the progress in getting the new courts built.

- Status of the New Court Construction

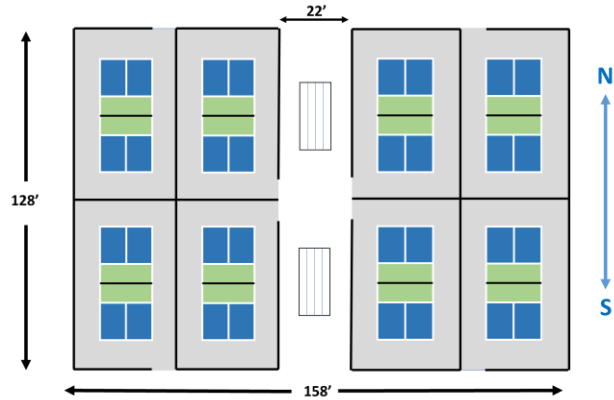
Steve Chaney provided an update on the status and likely schedule for the construction of the new courts in Yamaguchi Park. The Town and County have each approved a contribution of \$100,000. The Tourism Board has approved \$150,000. These amounts will be included in the 2022 proposed budgets submitted in mid-October. The final budgets will be submitted for approval December 15th. The Club is contributing \$100,000 and has the funds in our bank accounts. The \$450,000 raised will cover the concrete for the eight courts, 8' fencing around the outside perimeter, 4' fencing around the individual courts, gates, net posts and nets, three-color court surfacing and lines, bleachers, wind screens and shade structures.

Once the final 2022 budgets have been approved Darren will issue a formal RFP (request for proposal) in January. He will make a decision on the contractor and award a contract with the goal of starting construction in the Spring. It is possible that the courts could be completed by late Summer or Fall.

The rest of the meeting involved a spirited discussion about the potential layout for the courts. The original layout included in the presentations to the Town, County and Tourism Board showed the courts side by side with the end of the courts along the seating area. Ed Baxter made a presentation to the board suggesting the courts should be oriented with the sides of the courts along the seating area as opposed to the ends. He felt this offered the best viewing perspective and was the generally accepted orientation.



**End View Orientation**



**Side View Orientation**

The original layout submitted to Renner Construction by the Director of Parks and Recreation included individual courts that were 40' by 64'. Using these dimensions, the quote for the eight courts (less windscreens, bleachers and shade structures) was approximately \$400,000. Our original intent was to suggest the USAPA recommended court size which is actually 34' by 64'. The 40' dimension was an accidental error. The USAPA recommended size is 3,072 square feet less the size quoted. This reduction in size will lower the cost from that quoted on the current estimate. The savings could be used to replace the proposed wood chips in the viewing area with concrete.

Before beginning the discussion on Ed's proposal, Steve Chaney reiterated that the project is managed and controlled by the Town Parks and Recreation Department. While the Club is contributing a \$100,000 this is only 22% of the cost not including the cost of the land that the Town is donating. The Club is in the position to make suggestions based on our experience, however, the Parks and Recreation Department will make final decisions. Darren will manage the bid process and construction. He will make decisions based on our recommendations and any architectural or visual standards he has established for Yamaguchi Park.

Ed proposed we orient courts so that they are sideways to the seating area to improve spectator viewing and to reduce the number of bleachers and shade structures.

A summary of the discussion of the pros and cons for the side view follows:

**Pros**

This orientation allows viewers to see the entire length of half the courts from the shaded seating area.

The other half of the courts could also be observed using folding chairs outside the shaded seating area alongside the outside

**Cons**

It eliminates all direct observation of four of the courts putting them at least 40 feet away from the shaded seating area with a court in between.

courts which would be nice during tournament play.

However, the entire length of four courts could also be observed with the currently proposed layout using folding chairs outside the shaded seating area.

Side view orientation would slightly reduce the overall footprint of the courts providing some savings in cost.

It complicates any kind of court specific signage and the queue system for 4 of the courts not adjacent to the shaded seating area.

It moves the gate access to four of the courts 40 to 80 feet further from and outside the shaded seating area which would require additional "sidewalk" access and possibly delay court transitions.

Reducing the total footprint of the facility would create minimal cost savings and as proposed, would reduce the seating capacity and size of the shaded seating area.

It was felt the side view orientation supported tournament play while the end view would be better for everyday play. The statement was made that the majority of courts are oriented with the side view. This was countered by several board members saying that they have played on many courts around the country with the end view orientation.

Steve Taub raised a concern that with the end view orientation the end of the court is separated from the bleachers by only a 4' fence. His concern was this presented a safety and convenience issue due to errant balls and the fence would need to be taller which would impede viewing. Several board members countered saying they have been around many courts with spectators viewing at the end and there were no issues. The courts at Palm Creek were used as an example where there is end viewing and there was no safety issue or problem chasing balls. Steve also pointed out that in his research the side view orientation was the most common.

Steve Taub suggested we should take more time to survey other facilities and get feedback on their experience. Steve Chaney replied that the project schedule set by Darren did not allow for additional time. It was also pointed out that the current end view orientation had been presented and approved by the various community partners and any change increasing cost would not be approved.

Ed suggested the individual court fencing be reduced to 3' saying this was adequate to keep balls in the court and would improve viewing. Mark stated that he had fallen over a 3' fence and the taller fence is safer. Steve Chaney said USAPA recommended height is between 42" and 48".

Ed recommended including gates in the internal fences in between courts with the side view orientation. It was pointed out that this would encourage foot traffic across courts potentially

interfering with ongoing play. The end view design provides individual entry/exit gates for each court from outside the courts.

After an emotional and lengthy discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation for the end view orientation with the 4' fencing separating the courts. The motion passed with a six to one vote in favor. Steve Chaney, Al, Mark, Laura, Tina and John voted in favor; Steve Taub opposed.

Additional suggestions in Ed's presentation dealt with lighting for the Yamaguchi courts and actions that could be taken to improve the 8<sup>th</sup> Street courts. Ed did not have the benefit of knowledge that the park closes at 9:00 PM and there is no lighting in the park or that once the courts are built the ice rink would eventually take over the area at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and no more expense would be undertaken for pickleball at this location.

Steve Chaney presented color options for the court surfacing. All agreed we would like a three-color scheme. We took into consideration the fact that dark colors tend to fade more quickly and might increase maintenance cost. After looking at a number of combinations the board approved tan or sand for the outer area, green for the kitchen and blue for the remainder of the playing surface. This will be our recommendation.

- Once the Courts Are Built

Steve Chaney pointed out that once the courts are completed and open for play there will need to be a learning period for both the Club and Parks and Recreation. From recent conversations it is clear Darren's view of how things will operate will be different from what we currently experience. As an example, his is resistant to the Club having some type of storage locker for balls and other small equipment. Darren said he let us run the pickleball operations and activities at 8<sup>th</sup> Street but said things will be different at Yamaguchi Park. While not certain as to what that means, initially it is to be expected that we can't take for granted how things will work for the new courts.