Pagosa Pickleball Club 6/24/18 Annual Meeting Minutes

The first annual meeting of the Pagosa Pickleball Club was held at 6:00 PM at the PLPOA Club House. It was exciting to see how well attended the meeting was. It was a fun time and we had great participation in the discussions.

Our Bylaws state that for the meeting to be official it must be attended by a minimum of 10% of the members. With over 50 people in attendance, that requirement was easily met.

Steve, as Club President, opened the meeting with thanks and acknowledgments.

- Thanks to Annie Jacobi, her helpers and everyone who brought food. Everything was great and the cake truly artistic.
- Thanks to Buzz for supplying the beer.
- Thanks to Steve for supplying the wine.
- Thanks to Mark for donating the Selkirk paddle for the silent auction.
- Thanks to all who bid and Buzz and Nancy Burke for the winning bid.
- Thanks to all who help set up.

Recent History

The first topic on the agenda covered the history of the club as related to its more recent formalization over the past 10 months. The club was officially formed as a Colorado non-profit in August of 2017. On March 8, 2018 the club was granted 501(c)(3) status as a federally tax-exempt corporation. This paved the way for us to more effectively raise funds by allowing donors to deduct contributions made to the club under IRC 170.

Board of Directors, Officers and Bylaws

To be able to move forward and apply for our 501(c)(3) designation we needed to form a Board of Directors and develop the club bylaws. In September 2017 the club membership was contacted using the Google Group list asking for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors. The Club' Bylaws state that the Board of Directors may consist of up to 7 but no less than 5 members. Only seven people responded as being willing and these individuals became the first BOD for the club.

Within the bylaws club directors serve for a term of 3 years and are eligible for reelection. To avoid having all of the initial director’s terms expire at the same time, the board staggered the initial terms as two 1-year, two 2-year and three 3-year terms. The board and their respective terms are:

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<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Buzz Burke</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JoAnn Laird</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Chaney</td>
<td>2 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Snider</td>
<td>2 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Costa</td>
<td>3 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Eggleston</td>
<td>3 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Al Pfister</td>
<td>3 year</td>
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The first action of the BOD was the development of the Bylaws for the club. The process included looking at bylaws from similar clubs in the area and the pickleball club in Colorado Springs. The goal was to meet necessary requirements to be granted 501(c)(3) status and take advantage of the work that had already been successfully completed by other clubs. The Bylaws are available for review on our website www.pagosapickleball.org.

The next action of the BOD was the election of officers. As per the Bylaws, the officers serve on the BOD and are elected by the BOD. There are four officers, the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Their duties and responsibilities are defined in the Bylaws. The officers serve a 2-year term and are eligible for reelection. The officers are:

Steve Chaney  President
Al Pfister  Vice President
Bob Eggleston  Treasurer
John Costa  Secretary

**Membership**

Our Bylaws state that membership is open to the general public and any persons wishing to join the Pagosa Pickleball Club are welcome as long as they remain in good standing. Members who have paid the annual dues as set by the BOD are entitled to vote on any future issues of the club that require membership approval. This would include voting for board elections next summer when two board terms expire.

Further, members who have paid the annual dues will continue to be included in the Pagosa Pickleball Group email list. Anyone currently on the list who does not pay the annual dues by September 30, 2018 will be removed from the list. As we continue to develop as a club additional benefits will be available for voting members including things like round-robins, tournaments and more. One potential benefit for voting members was their inclusion on a contact list that would only be viewable via a password protected login page on our website. There was discussion as to the security of the list and concern that it would be used as a prospect list for business purposes. The majority of the members present voted in favor of the list as long as it is secure and it can not be used for business.

The initial annual dues have been set at $10 per person. Forty-four people signed up and paid their dues during the meeting with more pledging to do so in the future.

The annual dues are collected to cover a portion of the club expenses for things like tape, balls, nets and other recurring expenses. They do not cover all the expenses we incur during the year and the club will still solicit voluntary donations deposited in the donation jars. Money collected as dues are not part of our fund-raising efforts toward our capital project to build permanent, dedicated pickleball courts.

**Treasurers Report**

Bob Eggleston, our Treasurer has opened a business account at Bank of Colorado for the Pagosa Pickleball Club. Within the account we have established a checking account and a savings account. The checking account will be used to cover expenses and the savings
account is used exclusively for funds dedicated to the capital project for constructing permanent courts.

As of the date of the meeting we have the following balances:

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<tr>
<td>Checking</td>
<td>$1,419.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings</td>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,919.85</strong></td>
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We collected $440 in dues at the meeting. This will be deposited in the checking account. The $105 we received in the silent auction will be deposited in the savings account. Thanks again to Mark for the paddle and Buzz and Nancy Burke for the winning bid.

**Update on Effort to Construct Permanent Dedicated Outdoor Courts**

The mission of the Pagosa Pickleball Club is to enhance the health and welfare of the general public by encouraging, organizing and promoting the development and growth of pickleball in the Pagosa Springs area, the State of Colorado and the surrounding region.

A key goal within our mission is the building of 8 permanent, dedicated outdoor courts.

Our initial effort was to have Archuleta County construct the courts at Cloman Park. It was our understanding that the County had sufficient funds to do so however we quickly learned this was not the case.

We then attempted to work with the PLPOA Recreation Committee and PLPOA Board to locate courts on PLPOA property funded by a partnership of the State (GOCO), the County, the Town, PLPOA and the Club. This effort failed due to the restriction that only PLPOA members would be allowed to use the facility.

The Town has recently acquired 25+ acres in an area next to Yamaguchi Park know as the Lagoons. Approximately 5 acres of this property may be used for a new maintenance facility however there is land remaining to incorporate additional uses. To better understand the desired recreational needs of the Town, the Parks and Recreation Department created a survey asking participants in both the Town and the County questions about their opinions as to what new recreational amenities or facilities are needed. The results of this survey will be published sometime between now and August and will be critical input in determining what recreational additions the Town will support.

Our hope is to secure support for and permission to construct pickleball courts on the Lagoon property. Members of the BOD have attended numerous Town Council and County Board meetings to lobby for pickleball and positively influence the decision makers. Members of the BOD have also met with individual County Commissioners and Town Council members to discuss building courts in an effort to understand their concerns and best create a workable plan for going forward.
We have worked closely with Darren Lewis, the Director of Parks and Recreation to turn around what was once an adversarial relationship and gain his support. We are pleased to say this has been successful and we have Darren’s support.

**Project Cost and Funding**

Going forward, we are working to build a partnership to make the courts a reality. Steve has received an updated estimate for construction that puts the cost at around $300,000 for 8 courts. A potential funding partnership could look like:

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<tr>
<td>GOCO</td>
<td>$195,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>$ 35,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town</td>
<td>$ 35,000</td>
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<td>Club</td>
<td>$ 35,000</td>
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Whatever the final funding plan, it is clear the club will need to raise a significant amount to contribute to the total cost.

To that effort, there was a general feeling that we should begin our fund raising immediately. The enthusiasm around this was encouraging. Showing we are committed and have raised some initial money could accelerate approval for the project. We are working with the Community Resource Center and will be participating in the Southwest Rural Philanthropy Days; a three-day event held this September in Cortez. While there we will gain insight into raising funds for non-profits, review grant writing and actually meeting with several key grant providers in the region.

We were asked if donations were made now and the project was never approved would the money be refunded. The BOD supports that and will draft a letter providing both an acknowledgement of the donation and agreement to refund if the project does not go forward.

**Paddle Queue System**

It’s no surprise that this topic generated much animated conversation. As most everyone knows, we often (especially in the winter months) have crowded conditions on the pickleball courts resulting in longer than desirable wait times between games. The goal of an effective paddle queue system is to deal with crowded courts by minimizing wait time and meeting the objectives of both the social and competitive players with varying degrees of skill levels. Years ago, scientists were faced with mapping the human genome or developing a paddle queue system making everyone happy. They chose the human genome as an easier project.

We have been trying a number of different ways to manage play in order to give players a choice of skill levels to play at and to mix up players so that you’re not playing with the same 4 people every game. Our efforts have worked to some degree but have not worked well in all areas.

After consulting with a number of folks who have worked with various queue systems in a number of communities, the BOD is recommending a new process that we will implement within the next few weeks on a trial basis. We will start with outside play and then apply the system to inside play. Our goal is to try to make the game more enjoyable for everyone.
There will most likely be a bit of confusion and some tweaking needed as we make these changes, and we welcome everyone’s input concerning how it’s working and how it might be improved as we go along.

Here’s how it will initially work:

1. There will be a paddle queue for each court
2. Any player may at any time, place their paddle at the back of the queue on any court
3. Any player may at any time move their paddle backward in the queue or move their paddle from one queue to the back of the queue at another court
4. It will be each player’s responsibility to decide which court to play on, based on the observed (and desired) level of competition and the number of paddles in the queue
5. Any time there are 4 or more paddles waiting in a queue, play will be 4 on 4 off for that particular court. If there are 3 people waiting all 3 will come on and 1 of the winners will stay. If there are only 2 people waiting then both winners will stay.
6. If there are only 2 new players to come on, players who won the previous game may stay together if they desire.
7. There is no designated challenge court.

This will be a trial. It will at the very least, undoubtedly need to be adjusted as we figure out what works and what doesn’t. We encourage patience and constructive criticism.

**Town/County Pickleball Play Session**

A pickleball play session involving Town and County managers and staff has been proposed as a way to acquaint those folks with the sport and to demonstrate the level of interest in and support for pickleball in their community.

It would likely be on a weekday evening sometime this summer or fall. If there seems to be enough interest, we will move forward with planning, will want to have a good turnout to demonstrate the level of interest in the sport, and will need some assistance from Club members to organize and manage the event.

**Additional Topics Discussed**

**Is the club address on the website? Do we have a PO Box?** At this time, we do not have a separate PO Box. The address of record for the club is:

Pagosa Pickleball Club,
954 Monument Ave.
Pagosa Springs CO 81147.

**Website:** We have created a website [www.pagosapickleball.org](http://www.pagosapickleball.org). We want to thank Jarrett Chaney for his efforts in helping create our website! We also want to thank his wife, Denise, for the really nice logo she designed for the club. Our site is still a work in progress and will be enhanced going forward. Currently you can review meeting minutes, the bylaws, and who’s on
the BOD. We have posted the USAPA Rules and started posting links to the training videos we've sent out in the past. Some of the information related to court times or clinic schedules is out of date and will be updated as we continue to develop the site. There is a link to Pickleball Central and the club discount code for those looking to purchase clothing or equipment. Soon to be completed is our Contact Us page and a link to make donations to the club.

**Use of the Community Center:** The Pagosa Town (Ross Argon) Community Center provides the club, free of charge, with 18 hours per week of court time in the winter and 7½ hours in the summer. It is worth noting that out of the 50+ people in the meeting only 2 live in the Town. This is approximately 34% of all the time (in the winter) that the center is open to the public. Again, we are not charged a cent.

A comment was raised about the condition of the gym floor as a result of sun screen and other debris left on the floor after the summer camp kids head outside. The board will discuss this safety issue with Darren. The board has also agreed to confirm details regarding the availability and gym rental cost for additional time.

**Indoor Courts**

There was a brief discussion about building indoor courts as opposed to the outdoor courts we have been pursuing. Indoor courts would cost millions and the likelihood of getting this approved as anything less than a city and/or countywide bond or sales tax ballot issue would be zero. At some point if the Town and County combine efforts to build a rec center we could work to have courts marked for pickleball use.

**Treating People with Respect:** A comment was made regarding how some of our beginner players have been treated by some of the more experienced players. Without exception the position of the BOD is that rude behavior of this type is not to be accepted. Every single member of the club was a beginner at one time. The BOD expects everyone to treat fellow members as they themselves would want to treated and hope that our more experienced players will make the effort to help newer and less experienced players to improve their skills. We will continue to work to develop systems to allow everyone to enjoy playing, whether competitively or socially. We ask that every member respect this.