

Burke Centre Pickleball Association (BCPA)

Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting Minutes for Oct 2, 2023

Meeting is being hosted by Mary Abney at her home. Seating was comfortable, Brownies were a wonderful touch and Face-to-face was MUCH more effective. Thanks Mary and Kevin!

BCPA Meeting

Attending: Jon Weber, President BCPA and Rules/Webmaster BCPA
Mary Abney, Treasurer BCPA
John Simpson, Courts-At Large 1 BCPA
Fred Rothe, Strategy-At Large 2 BCPA
Genevieve Methvin, Membership, BCPA
Ed Verchot, Secretary, BCPA

Welcome/Admin if any (Jon/Mary)

Board approved the reports and actions without further comment/discussion.

Jon welcomed all and thanked Mary for the hospitality.

Discussion Items and New Business:

1. BCPA Strategy for Court Conversion Discussions with BCPA. (Jon) (10 min)

- Latest update from the Conservancy

Discussion:

- BOT has not included BCPA in descoping discussions to date. Should we and how can we engage more strongly to help this process?
- Are there any severable, discrete items that BCPA could offer to fund in order to help, in a small way, alleviate the shortfalls and to show support.
- Jon has continued to engage with BC, Patrick Gloyd, E.D. to attempt to get additional funding information. It was decided that Jon would attempt to engage Trustees Steve Shapiro and Dan Gulakson to help interface with Patrick. After the meeting Patrick sent the requested funding information

***Decision:* Jon will attempt to engage Trustees Steve Shapiro and Denis Gulakowski to help interface with Patrick to get better information on available funding and what can be funded with available funding. BCPA desire is to complete at least the perimeter lighting for all 4 courts. Action Oct 23-1 (Jon). Note: after the meeting Patrick sent the budget numbers so Jon is continuing to work with those to scope what can possibly be done within those constraints.**

2. Should BCPA Continue as a Burke Centre Chartered Organization and what are the alternatives if any? (Jon) (10 min)

Discussion:

- Jon proposed that we consider dropping the Burke Centre Charter if the BOT cannot fund the court conversion?
- Could/Should BCPA continue to operate without a BC charter to give us on-court equipment storage and protected court reservations?
- After discussion Board concluded remaining chartered pros far outweigh cons and to continue working with BC to achieve maximum possible court improvements.

Decision: Jon withdrew his suggestion to consider becoming non chartered if the court conversion doesn't get implemented. No further Action.

3. BCPA Annual Report and Attendance at the Oct 20 Meeting (Jon) (5 min)

- **Note:** A separate email was sent with supporting data for this item. Please be familiar with the precepts at https://burkecentreweb.com/document_view.asp?id=1069. For complete details review Mary's email sent 22 September 2023, BCPA - Request from BC HOA.
- *The meetings are to hear charter groups' feedback about their experiences and activities in the community and to ensure the groups understand the provisions in the new Policy Precepts.*
- What support does Jon need for this meeting?
- Who is writing the report and what data or support is needed to complete this important milestone on time. Depending on decision in 2 we don't want to miss the boat for renewing our charter since it sounds as if BC is increasing the rigor with which they enforce Chartered Group requirements. Mary and Jon will work together on submitting the requirements which are due 1/15/24, however Jon will request an extension since we are in the midst of our membership renewals during that time frame.
- Mary and Jon have all the information needed for support of the annual report submission and attending the face-to-face meeting on 20 Oct at 3pm. Fred suggested that a second accompany Jon so they could compare notes on what was heard/discussed at the meeting. Both Ed and Fred volunteered to attend if needed.

Decision: Action Oct 23-2 Jon will attend meeting on Oct 20 and inform Fred or Ed of any details so one of them can accompany him.

4. Which Balls Should we purchase? (5 min)

- (Ed/Mary) I will exhaust our current supply of Franklins when I put the last 50 out probably by mid October. I would like to have additional balls on hand NLT 2nd week of Oct so I can mark them and get them ready to put out as they will be needed by late Oct. Mary provided the following price analysis to help us decide:

100 Count	Pickleball Central** Club gets 10% off here 5% + 5% rebate)	Amazon *Amazon Prime Chase cardholders get 5% off)	Joola	OSO
Franklin X-40 Performance outdoor pickleballs - we use these except in cold weather	\$200	\$200		
ONIX Fuse G2 outdoor pickleballs - we use these in cold weather	\$230	\$230		
CORE outdoor pickleballs	\$240			
Joola outdoor ball	Not available	\$200	\$200	
OSO outdoor ball	Not available	Not available		\$240
PCKL Pickleballs (Ed Added)	Not available	\$210		

- I propose we need to select an option today so we will have balls on hand when we exhaust our current supply in Late Octoberish:
 1. Order 300 Franklins immediately and 100 Winter balls to have ready when Temperatures drop) or
 2. Order an alternate ball immediately so and convert to it in late October when the Franklins are exhausted. I would vote for PCKL because I think it is the closest to the Franklin performance. We could switch as soon as we exhaust the Franklins and see how it does as the weather cools. Most players I asked declined to state a preference (except Kim who wants OSO). My assessment is that OSO play faster than Franklins, and Joola and Pro Penn are softer more like the Oynx). Franklin X40 is the USA Pickleball preferred ball and PCKL Elite 40 is the APA's choice so both have pretty solid endorsements.

Decision: BCPA will convert to PCKL Elite 40 after the October Tournament and will evaluate when or if to return to Franklin X-40s in March depending on

performance of the PCKL balls. We believe the switch to PCKL obviates the need for a dedicated Winter Ball. Action Oct 23-3: Mary will immediately order 300 balls. When received Ed will mark and divide up for use at the Landings ASAP after the October Tournament. Franklins will remain at the Woods until current supply is exhausted.

5. Recommend we purchase one additional net set and 3 additional nets (Ed) (5 min)

- (Ed) I propose we replace the old green multi button net at the Landings with a new green one like the others and order at least 3 replacement nets as standby so we can cycle them in as we cycle the broken ones out for Jon's Shoe Goo/Tape repair cycle which takes 48 hours or better to accomplish and cure. Mary provided links and comparisons of net systems. My analysis of what Mary provided is that we should consider buying the Rally Portable Pickleball Net System since it appears to be identical except for the color to our Green net systems (it is \$199.99). If we want something like the Blue net systems, the Rally Deluxe Portable Pickleball Net Systems appears identical including using oval tubing and flat center net support and being orange to them and is on sale for \$185.99.

Decision: Oct 23-4 Mary is ordering 1 replacement Picklenet for the Landings and 3 replacements nets. Two will be used to replace current nets on Black frames at the Woods, the third will be a reserve for use as nets at the Landing need repair.

6. Should we continue posting Tennis DNA's clinics on our News page? (Jon) (5 min) Discussion. Tennis DNA is BC preferred vendor. We have been recommending them to new BCPA players for instruction.

Decision: Action Oct 23-5 Jon will continue to post Tennis DNA flyers on our website, Genevieve will incorporate a recommendation in our membership emails for beginning players, and we will continue to add links to newsletters and etc as appropriate so BCPA players are aware of this avenue for improving their games.

7. Should we revise the Paddle stacking system? (Jon) (5-10 min)

- The current system favors continuous play for the best players, who then tend to only want to play with good player partners. Weaker players get less playing time.
- Suggestion to modify the stacking to four on/four off when there are four or more players in the stack.
- Discussion of alternate stacking systems resulted in decision to retain current system. Improved signage and information is needed. Fred is distributing some additional helpful information and Board will develop improved signage.

Decision: Retain existing system but develop improved signage.

8. Reopen Online Tee-Shirt Store? (Mary) (5 min)

- A few players want different size BCPA t-shirts. Suit Up is willing to open a new online store with a minimum of 12 orders.
- Should we pursue it? If yes, perhaps we can offer short and long-sleeved shirts?
- There was no objection to reopening the store but it requires additional manpower to manage. Board expressed a desire to repeat the tee-shirt promotion in 2024 to help encourage Festival volunteers. Decision was made to not devote effort to reopening the online store.

Decision: Do not reopen Tee-shirt store. Look at design for 2024 next summer when Festival Prep starts. Closed.

9. Do we want to plan for a Social and how/who will do that? (All) (5-10min)

Mary proposed we look at holding a midweek (Tuesday night) informal get together at Bandito's in Burke. She will investigate and establish a date.

Decision: Mary is looking into Bandito's or an alternate location to invite BCPA players and plus-1s to gather informally and socialize. More to come?

10. Do we need and what is desired to be in the next Newsletter? (Mary suggested the following:)

- Court Conversion Update
- Thanks again to Festival volunteers and their flexibility despite some challenges on Saturday and weather issues on Sunday
- Spotlight on Con Milas
- Spotlight on Andy Forsyth
- Announcement/Pics of league winners (Do we want this in newsletter or a link to the website report Andy promised)
- October tournament
- League Play beginning in November
- Social Announcement
- Web Redesign

Board reviewed Ed's Rough (very) draft and made suggestions. Newsletter will include OCT tournament info, Jon's corner with court update and other notes, spotlights on Con and Andy, Tennis DNA link to our website and a few other notes on security.

Decision: Action Oct 23-6 Ed complete the newsletter ASAP. Release goal is mid week in order to help promote Oct tournament. Jon will complete his input ASAP and draft will be out ASAP. Result will be circulated from Burke Pickleball master account and posted on website. Note: Newsletter completed

by Ed with massive help from Jon and Mary and circulated to membership 3 Oct.

AREA REPORTS/STATUS:

1. **President's Report:** Jon

Accomplishments/ Items of Interest

- a. Attended several BOT meetings to represent BCPA's interests in the Court Conversion.
- b. Met with Stephanie in her office to discuss the court conversion in early July.
- c. Met with Stephanie and Jonathan Mullens from Bishops at the Landings on 4 Aug to discuss the various aspects of work needed for the court conversion. Despite the face-to-face, Bishop's still came in with prices on work not desired and didn't price some of the things we want. Sigh.

2. **Treasurer's Report:** Mary

Accomplishments/Items of Interest

1. 6/29: Updated the email template responses to prospective members with the PayPal link to the prorated \$15 membership fee after June 30 and notified Genevieve.
2. 6/30: Sent permanent membership offers to 7 seasonal players.
3. July/August: Reserved Tennis Courts for Thursday drop-in play and opened the courts 3 times.
4. July/Aug/Sept: Festival Support
 - Visited three t-shirt vendors to produce BCPA t-shirts. With Board approval, selected Suit Up. Coordinated with the vendor to create two online stores (1 for volunteers and 1 for individual purchase). Prepared emails to volunteers and non-volunteers with instructions on ordering t-shirts. Created spreadsheet to track orders. Picked up products from the vendor. Notified members when shirts were available for pickup
 - Coordinated with Con Milas on designing a Festival banner and business cards and ordering them from Staples.
 - Identified and ordered 2 beginner paddles for giveaway prizes
 - Prepared email content with instructions for Festival Booth volunteers. Helped coordinate with BC Conservancy on last minute adjustments to the volunteer schedule.
 - Set up the BCPA Festival booth Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.
1. Provided feedback to John Vaught (Tennis DNA) at his request, on his flyers and BCPA web content advertising upcoming Tennis DNA clinics and lessons.
2. Suggested clinics/lessons language to Genevieve to use in the email templates to new beginner players.

3. Sept: Prepared a report with names/emails for Andy to use to prepare for the October tournament.
4. 6/30 and 9/29: Sent emails to collect quarterly seasonal fees to **36** seasonal players in Q3 and to **40** for Q4.
5. Financial Report is Attached

3. Membership Update: Genevieve

Accomplishments/ Items of Interest

- a. BCPA Membership is 167 players divided as follows:
 - 78 BC residents,
 - 40 non BC player and
 - 49 seasonal/drop-in players.
- a. For the month of September, we had 24 player forms submitted.
 - 10 were BC residents and 14 non resident.
 - 14 were beginner players and 10 were intermediate/advanced.

4. Courts/Equipment Update: John S

Accomplishments/ Items of Interest

- a. John confirmed that his items had been fully incorporated in the various areas.

5. Strategy Update - Fred

Accomplishments/ Items of Interest

Had a phone conversation with Brackett Vaughn of Tennis Courts Inc.

- He was familiar with Burke Center and knew of the various courts. I told him that the BCPA had a vendor (Bishops Tennis Inc) and that we were only interested in advice but that the BCPA was indicating that we may need to take a phased approach for budget reasons. The main point of the conversation was how to structure a phased approach to the upgrade of the courts.
- Brackett asked if the BCPA had a phased approach. He said he would be happy to look at the plan when it is ready. He said in general a good approach is to replace one tennis court at a time with two pickleball courts. He indicated that this may be more expensive in the long run because it would involve the labor, machines, etc. coming out several times to the facility.
- Regarding the lighting, he suggested that we ask the vendor to compare the current lighting with better LED lighting. Apparently, vendors can simulate or model lighting requirements prior to construction. He also said that the optimal

configuration of the LED lights is one standard between two courts and one standard at both ends of a court.

- This was a “free” consulting hour and I sensed he did not want to engage too much until he has something to look, at but I feel we can call on him again if we ever get a plan from the BCPA.

6. Secretary Update - Ed

Accomplishments/Items of Interest:

a. Playtime Scheduler

- Playtime Scheduler is inviting 128 players (120 are registered and 8 are email invitations as of Sep 14). I am not sure how many we are reaching since some families only use one email for multiple players but most of our regular players seem to be seeing the invitations.
- Signups are 10 signups per session or less but players are reading the information I send out so it appears to be useful.
- I renewed Power status for another year until next September for \$35. This is extremely useful since it allows more tools for scheduling and rapid troubleshooting support on the rare occasions it has been needed.

b. Balls

- Franklins are currently lasting 2-3 weeks/50 at the Landings. We are down to 50 new Franklin balls remaining. We have about 50 Onyx stored for Winter use. My Ball replacement strategy is as follows: I usually put out 50 new balls and remove the any remaining balls for use at the Woods or to feed back in as the supply dwindles. As the new balls attrit I feed the old balls back in 10 or so at a time until the total number drops to around 25 (3/court). I then repeat the cycle which results in a replacement cycle of 50 X-40 balls/ 3-4 weeks at the landings. Ball usage at the Woods has been much less, perhaps 20 or less/month. I have personally ordered 3-4 each of Joola, Dura, PCKL, and Penn Pro 40s to try. Decision requested to order sufficient balls to carry us through the remainder of the fall season and depending on ball choice perhaps through to March 2024. We do not currently have sufficient balls to issue to additional BOD members at the moment but can do this as soon as a replacement order arrives.
- Bottom Line: BCPA needs to order balls to arrive NLT late October or we will exhaust current supply of balls.

c. Policy: Not my direct area but as I have reported more extensively in several recent emails, I have been drawn in to several discussions at recent BCPA playing sessions that:

- BCPA policy on rotating 4 players on and 4 off must be followed whenever we have 6 paddles waiting. If additional courts are set up and the stack reduces we can go back to 2 off and 2 on. It is not acceptable to tell waiting players to wait longer while nets are set up. Players are also expected to set up nets as they arrive if needed. As we lose lights it will become even more

essential for senior players and Board Members to emphasize this policy since many of our players really are not used to having to rotate 4 off. IMO we may need to recruit additional BOD adjuncts to help us reinforce this policy since most of us come early and leave early in the sessions.

- I have confirmed with Jon that BCPA policy on not allowing Challenge Courts will be maintained due to the fact that it has resulted in significant disruption to BCPA playing sessions. I would suggest that we encourage those who want this type of play to get together during non BCPA playing times. I have discussed and confirmed with Andy that he will also pass this information to league players who were somewhat confused about this as the league concluded.
- I believe that these items are settled policy so do not recommend further Board discussion time at present.

d. Newsletter: Last Newsletter was June. Considering Topics for newsletter with a target mid October.

7. Internet Update: Jon.

Accomplishments/ Items of Interest

- a. Set up Signup Genius for the BC Festival. Took care of BCC paperwork and communication for our participation. The t-shirt incentive really helped get out the volunteers.
- b. Set up Signup Genius for Andy's Summer League and the subsequent league tournament.
- c. Set up Registration form for October Tournament
- d. With Con Milas' assistance made a major revision of the Website to include: the new Logo; a new color scheme to make the site more accessible to color blind viewers; updated all pages to from HTML4 to HTML5 because many HTML4 tags have been deprecated; used more CSS; installed a dropdown menu for compactness which is especially useful on small devices; and added a Sitemap to summarize the main pages.
- e. The News page and Archive pages get updated PRN.

Actions Review and Status:

Formal actions were not levied in June due to delays in issuing minutes. The following is a resume of Actions done by various BOD members. Please submit edits or additions and I will work these with you offline.

- *June 23-1: Mary, Jon, and Genevieve sponsored weekly session from July 7 - Aug 31 on Thursday evenings by reserving two tennis courts (4 pickleball courts) through tennis call and coming to unlock and secure equipment. Attendance varied. Status: Closed*
- *June 23-2: Mary worked 3 different vendors before choosing Suit-up to complete production and delivery of two batches of BCPA tee-shirts. Batch 1 was delivered prior to the Burke festival to volunteers. Batch 2 was delivered in mid September. Thanks Mary and Con and everyone who worked on this project. Status: Closed*
- *June 23-3: There were several security incidents of the Landings Equipment Box being left unsecured (closed but unlocked). Various Board members worked together to send several security alerts to the membership along with detailed procedures for packing and closing the boxes, and instructions for who secures the courts. Reminders are being included in Playtime Scheduler each week. Status: Needs continuous monitoring.*
- *June 23-4: Andy Forsyth, AJ Donelson, and Christine Carlock executed the plan for Summer League play and playoffs are underway to complete soon. League had record participation. Andy's report is coming soon and results will be posted on the Website. Status: Continuing*
- *June 23-5: Mary and Jon with strong support completed planning for the Festival, including finding a great raffle opportunity to publicize the club. Execution was nearly flawless despite many opportunities for issues. Thanks Mary, Jon, Kevin and everyone else who contributed effort and who volunteered at the attractions and Booth. Highlights included a visit from Congressman Connelly and BCPA completing over 40 hours of high profile volunteer work as well as conducting Tee-shirt, paddle and CD raffles to help increase our club profile within the community. Status: Closed*
- *June 23-6: Jon developed and executed a new process to repair the nets center post using Shoe Goo and Tape. Several of our nets are back in service without the use of metal clips. Thanks Jon. Status: More discussion needed to decide how to maintain nets in future - Action Follow Up: John S. Lead discussion to decide the process and how we want to replace or keep spares.*