

# Burke Centre Pickleball Association (BCPA)

## Board of Directors (BoD) Meeting Agenda for 3-5 PM, July 16, 2024

### BCPA Meeting

#### Attending:

Jon Weber, President BCPA and Internet Chair BCPA

Mary Abney, Treasurer BCPA

John Simpson, Courts-At-Large BCPA

Genevieve Methvin, Membership, BCPA

Board members Fred Rothe and Ed Verchot were absent.

The meeting started at 3:10.

#### 1. Equipment

We considered the current balls in use. It was noted that although the Franklins are popular. They do crack and wear out faster than some of the other brands including getting out of round. The Selkirk S1s held up very well over the winter although they too got out of round. Although they are sturdy, the Onyx are not popular because they are too soft. However, they are probably better for beginners. Based on our inventory, we will probably need to order another 200 Selkirks for next winter.

**ACTION: None currently.**

#### 2. Courts

The court gates have been left open at both the Landings and the Woods on several occasions when we show up to use the courts.

**ACTION: Monitor this situation and make a record of each occurrence. If this happens regularly, approach the Conservancy to consider self-closing gates so the last person out the gate doesn't "forget" to close it. John also suggested the Conservancy install a simulated/decoy camera for deterrence.**

#### 3. ID Badges

After some discussion on the pros and cons, we tabled the decision regarding ID badges.

#### 4. Budget

Mary reported that we were good financially. We reviewed some line items, which may change when we get permanent courts.

#### 5. Membership

Genevieve and Mary reported on membership. We will continue waiving college students to play with us over the summer break. Mary shared that she had updated the email templates that we use when new players register. She added an updated PayPal link for BC residents to use for their prorated membership fee. She also updated the link to Tennis DNA pickleball drop-in lessons. New members are still joining, while some old

members are dropping out. Ed has been purging non-paying members from Playtime Scheduler. This has helped stimulate people to pay their fees. Although signing-up for open play on the Scheduler is not being performed by many members, members report that they use the Scheduler emails as a reminder of open play. John suggested that we collect data on **new** members staying with us or leaving over the last six months. He will get the ball rolling on this with Mary's assistance on the players to contact.

**ACTION:**

**Mary will provide a list of players' names and emails who have joined since 4/1/24 so that John can communicate with them to learn about their experience playing with the club. Mary offered to review John's draft communication.**

**Jon will update the link to Tennis DNA lessons on the BCPA pickleball site by linking directly to the Burke pickleball lesson page on the Tennis DNA site rather than their flier which changes seasonally.**

## **6. Court Conversion**

Mary and Jon reported two votes at the BOT meeting the night before. First and most importantly, the BOT voted 5 to 2 to allocate funds to convert three tennis courts at the Landings to eight permanent pickleball courts while retaining the existing poles. The poles will have to be covered with padding which is inexpensive and easy to obtain from on-line vendors. It's not clear if that will be done by the vendor or if BCPA should do it. However, BCPA isn't responsible for court enhancements or safety issues. In any case, Jon will clarify that with the Conservancy. The Conservancy staff was authorized to finalize the process of the installation. Second, the BOT agreed by a vote of 5 to 2 to consider more limited lighting enhancements to the courts on next year's budget. Two proposals for this were 1) enhancing the existing lighting and adding four more lights for ~\$24k, or simply adding four lights to the three poles between current tennis courts 2 and 3 for about \$5-6k. It is likely that due to materials installation requirements of temperature and lack of rain, the conversion may not take place until October.

**ACTION: Jon will request the implementation timeline from the Conservancy and advise them of our concern that surfacing materials may not adhere properly in humid and rainy conditions.**

## **7. Newsletter**

Instead of a newsletter at this time, it was decided that we would send out some member-wide concise emails with information. Concomitant with these emails it was suggested that we have a link on our website to a Feedback form for members to submit feedback such as comments, questions or concerns. To assure that we only consider feedback from members, the email of the feedback submitter will be collected. One of the fields can ask whether they are a BC resident or non-BC resident. Feedback from anyone has the potential to be helpful whether they are a resident or not. We hope the Feedback will give us insight into why members leave the club and what members think can be done to improve the club.

**ACTION: Jon will develop communications to the membership advising about the court conversion, the availability to provide feedback on our website, and to save the date for volunteering at the BC Festival.**

#### **8. Burke Centre Festival**

The BC Festival is coming up quickly- September 8 and 9. Jon has already submitted to the Conservancy all our forms and our request for a booth. We still need input from the Conservancy about where they need our volunteers. It was suggested that we send "Save the Date" emails to members a couple of times as well and put this on our website. Last year we gave logo t-shirts as an incentive to volunteer for the Festival. We were not pleased with the shirts because they did not wick, and the shirts did not fit women well. Alternatives were discussed. We decided to offer the shirts again, but we will have women's sizes and men's sizes. We will also offer a logo ballcap. Mary did some preliminary work with Suit Up. They can provide 2 online stores like last year: one where BCPA will fund 1 item (shirt or cap) and one where a player can make their own purchase if they want additional items. We agreed that having a giveaway sweepstakes will be repeated. Costco has the two Selkirk paddles deal going again, so we will get those for two prizes. We also discussed having a pickleball bag as a giveaway as well as music CDs that Andy Forsyth provided.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**Mary will get the assistance of Kathy England on the t-shirt fabric. She will also order giveaway paddles from Costco and a pickleball bag from Amazon.**

**John will also talk to Con Milas (BCPA member graphic artist) about colors for the shirt and logo and caps. Dark colors were not recommended because they get too hot in the summer. Gray was suggested as a light and neutral color.**

**Jon will talk to John Vaught about providing a free or discounted pickleball lesson from Tennis DNA as a giveaway based on Genevieve's suggestion.**

**Jon will follow up weekly with the Conservancy staff on time slots for volunteers.**

#### **9. Behavior on the Courts**

We discussed some of the bad behavior on the courts. It is primarily affecting newer or less skilled players and especially women. These players either don't join us for open play but instead play at other times with comparably skilled players, or they leave the club entirely. The offending players disparage the less skilled player with comments or body language, or they play too hard, i.e. slamming the ball at the less skilled player to score points. The less skilled players do not like being intimidated and blown off the court, nor do they like receiving disparagement. It was agreed that first a Board member needs to speak with the offenders privately in person, so they become aware of how they are perceived. If the behavior persists, then the offender will receive a letter. If the

behavior persists after these two steps, we may have to take the step of removing the offender from the club. There was some suggestion of having an easy-does-it court for the less skilled players, with space for more experienced players to rotate in and help them learn skills and strategy. This will be easier to implement once we get our permanent courts.

**ACTION: John will initiate an email to Board Members requesting their thoughts on what should be said to a player when he/she is demonstrating bad behavior or hard play with lower-level players. We need to be on the same page and communicate a consistent message when we approach the player about their behaviors.**

#### **10. Social Event**

There was enthusiasm for another social event in the fall. Banditos was a popular choice. Going on a Tuesday coincides with Taco Tuesday with discounted drinks. We will give the first x-number of arrivals with a free drink ticket. It was suggested that we could add a drink ticket as an additional incentive for Festival volunteers. It was also suggested that we might meet at the Beer and Wine Garden at the Festival.

**ACTION: Fred and Mary will follow up on this.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10.