



MINUTES OF A BOARD MEETING

Cochrane Toyota, Cochrane Alberta

Thursday, May 18, 2023 | 3 pm - 5:30 pm

Members present

- ❖ **Greg Young, President**
- ❖ **Bill Cooper, Vice President**
- ❖ **Joanne Ferster, Secretary**
- ❖ **Les Franke, MAL**
- ❖ **Krissy Thompson, MAL**

Members absent

- ❖ **Lorraine Makowecki , MAL**
- ❖ **Bob Marescaux, Treasurer**

Welcome

Greg prefaces the Meeting by thanking everyone present for their attendance, and congratulating all the new Board Members on being either elected or acclimated into their current position.

Greg states that it is important to him to do what is in the best interests of the club, the new courts, and moving forward. Because there is a lot to cover, and recognizing that there are a number of issues which may be contentious, he asks that everyone strive to keep discussion both professional and respectful.

Call to Order

Greg calls the Meeting to Order at 3:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

There are no Minutes from the previous meeting since this is a new Board.



DISCUSSION ON COMMITTEE LEADS/FLOW CHART OF POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

Greg proposes that together they will determine who from the Board is going to represent these committees and those who have volunteered to lead them.

❖ Court Utilization Committee:

- Scheduling of club events raises six issues.
 - Does the Court Utilization Committee only create schedules, or are they also responsible for monitoring and reporting who was using the courts and how long they were being used for ie are we paying the Town for court time that we are not actually using?
 - Could we reduce court usage since the current court fees projected to be owing to the Town are unsustainable? If singles, and other scheduled events were eliminated that were not being attended would this make a difference. What about events cancelled due to weather? We should be paying for what we know we need.
 - Is the current schedule weighted too heavily toward the upper players? Is there a way to spread out the events accommodating all the groups more evenly?
 - Is it possible to revisit the current agreement with the Town?
 - Greg proposes that he would like to survey the membership regarding the issue of scheduling to see which of the two schedules being considered they would prefer. The first is the current schedule, the second is a revised schedule that Greg has created after polling the RR Captains regarding their needs and attendance.
 - How will the anticipated arrival of the indoor players on the outdoor courts affect court usage?

Joanne asks for a vote on putting out a Survey to the Membership.

MOTION to send the Survey out for vote to the Membership regarding the two schedules for court utilization: Les Franke

SECONDS THE MOTION: Joanne Ferster

VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

Greg says that he and Tony Van Son are currently the Court Utilization Committee. Greg will be the liaison and Director of the CUC and Tony will be the Court Utilization Lead for now.

❖ RATINGS COMMITTEE

Greg initiates this issue as the most important. There are players who are new to the Club who do not know where they can fit in and play. This has to be remedied as soon as possible. Greg asks Les for the status of the current Ratings Committee.



The previous board had a mandate to choose a system and formed a Ratings Committee for that purpose. They did that. And now that current ratings committee does not have that purpose. The purpose of the Ratings Committee has changed and a new committee has to be formed.

MOTION made to Nominate Les as Director of Ratings: Joanne Ferster

SECONDS THE MOTION: Greg Young, Bill Cooper (Simultaneously).

VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

Les Franke will serve as the Director of Ratings and liaison to the Board for Ratings.

- Les appoints Bill Cooper as Ratings Lead for DUPR.
- Les appoints Steve Katulka as Ratings Lead for Skill Ratings.

Les will set policy regarding Ratings. His policy does address both DUPR ratings and Skill Ratings. But they'll be held separately. DUPR has its own platform for ratings on line. Skill ratings will be a Club rating as it was last year, the year before, and before that too. Policy will integrate those and make some kind of policy respectful for both.

❖ **COURT ACQUISITION COMMITTEE**

Greg initiates discussion regarding Court Expansion.

Joanne is identified as the natural choice for Court Expansion Director.

MOTION to Nominate Joanne as Court Expansion Director: Greg Young

SECONDS THE MOTION: Les Franke

VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

Committee Members Remain as Is: Les Franke, Nikki Franke, Krissy Thomson, Brenda Boyd.

❖ **ELECTION'S COMMITTEE (Not required at this time).**

❖ **COURT MAINTENANCE**

Bill Cooper volunteers to be the liaison for the Court maintenance Committee.

There are currently two volunteers: Rod Ball and Mike Mellon.

Some discussion ensues which raises two questions:

- Will the Town provide equipment for us to wash our own courts? Will they prune some of the trees that cause so much debris on the courts?



- Is there a Town waiver that those who work on the court maintenance need to sign in case of injury? Should there be a blanket waiver recusing the Club from liability should you be hurt while volunteering?

To be researched.

❖ **COMMUNICATIONS**

Greg wants to know if Sue O'Reilly and Marianne Streukens are currently working on the website. Bill also identifies Linda Hoyt as another member who has volunteered to help with the website.

Joanne explains that she is a Graphic Designer and that is her area of expertise and had been denied access to the website in the past.

In order to avoid "ownership" of the website Les makes a motion to elect Joanne to be the director in charge of overseeing the website committee.

MOTION made to assign Joanne Ferster as the Director of the Website Committee: Les Franke

SECONDS THE MOTION: Greg Young

VOTES IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke, Joanne Ferster

❖ **PLAYER DEVELOPMENT**

Tony Van Son would like to stay on as Player Development Committee Lead.

MOTION made to Nominate Les Franke as Director of Training: Joanne Ferster.

SECONDS THE MOTION: Krissy Thomsen

VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

Beginner players are not showing up for introductory courses previously run by Val Ball.

Les believes that will change. Judy Kirschner and Deana Meyer will take over from Val Ball.

❖ **TOURNAMENTS**

Greg volunteers as Director of Tournaments.

MOTION made to nominate Greg Young as Director of Tournaments: Les Franke

SECONDS THE MOTION: Joanne Ferster

VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke



DISCUSSION: There are already many volunteers to help out with tournaments. The Board is also hopeful that Val and Gene Vollmin, both of whom are Level 3 Referees, will be able to provide a refereeing session for those interested. There is always great interest in refereeing.

❖ **ROUND ROBINS**

Lorraine is suggested in absentia to be the Director in charge of Round Robins.

Discussion ensues regarding not only identifying the volunteers who will Captain the Round Robins but also regarding membership numbers. It appears that the club has not seen the numbers that they had expected in the membership at this time. This makes it difficult to forecast Round Robin needs and court assignment.

Although only Members in Good Standing will be allowed to vote in surveys it is suggested that perhaps sending a different survey to past members may remind them that they have not joined. Their opinions will be acknowledged but not count toward the decision making made by the current members.

Captains will be contacted and meet with Lorraine to familiarize themselves with Round Robin protocols and policy.

❖ **LADDER**

Tony is running it.

VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

❖ **FIRST AID**

Kathleen Cranidge and Catherine Burnett will continue with First Aid.

Discussion ensues regarding installing an AED at the courts. Krissy highly recommends that we have one. The AED should be installed where it is both visible and easily accessed. It makes sense because of the age group and their vulnerability. Krissy volunteers to research the procurement of an AED.

❖ **LOST AND FOUND**

Greg volunteers but Joanne says she will put it on the website.

Fay Durocher will be in charge of Facebook and can also post Lost and Found on the Facebook Site.



❖ **TOWN LIAISON**

Greg proposes that Joanne should be in this group because of the Grant Application and because the new courts are so important. Bill wants to stay on. Greg, as President, should also be included.

MOTION is made to assign Joanne Ferster as Lead for the Town Liaison Committee: Les Franke

SECONDS THE MOTION: Greg Young

VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

At this point Greg asks if there are any sponsor banners left on the website. He requests that the sponsors who donated to last season's inhouse tournament be reinstated as sponsors. Bill says he will have them put back on.

❖ **NEW SCHEDULING SOFTWARE**

Greg has researched a couple of software packages but the average cost is \$100/month and he thinks that is too much.

The Court Reserve App is currently his preference. It automatically generates an invitation every week, and includes all the invitees on the list and their contact info, their level and you can contact them or opt out. You can use it for six months at a time which is ideal for an outdoor only club.

Joanne suggests it is tabled until Greg does more research.

❖ **BANK SIGNING AUTHORITY**

Greg says the bank requires a letter informing them that the previous Board has been replaced therefore Tony Van Son, Claudia Obando, Catherine Carter, and Bill Cooper are off.

Signing officers are discussed.

MOTION to remove Tony Van Son, Claudia Obando, Catherine Carter, and Bill Cooper, off the previous bank authorization document, and give signing authority to Greg Young, President, Bob Marescaux, Treasurer, and Bill Cooper, Vice President. However, Bob Marescaux should be involved in the decision regarding how many people should be required to sign a cheque: Joanne Ferster

(It is unanimously agreed that they should wait to hear from Bob Marescaux regarding the amount of people required to sign the cheque. Whatever is Bob's recommendation will be followed.)

SECONDS THE MOTION: Greg Young



VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

MOTION made by Les Franke that all agree that this Motion is decided and that this Motion will not be tabled again. Once Bob Marescaux makes his recommendation it will be considered adopted and approved by all.

SECONDS THE MOTION: Joanne Ferster

VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

Furthermore, the Board decides that there needs to be a policy regarding how much can be spent without Board Approval.

MOTION made that any amount over \$500 should require Board approval: Greg Young

SECONDS THE MOTION: Joanne.

VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

❖ **ZOOM MEETINGS**

Bill Cooper says that if you are going to use Zoom for meetings that you will have to purchase a program from Zoom. That the free time does not last long enough for meetings and it is annoying.

All agree. Joanne says that we can purchase the Zoom software for \$200 and that includes the software for conducting voting on Zoom calls. There is an option on the Zoom Call to vote. There is some confusion over exact pricing so Joanne volunteers to research the Zoom option.

Les asks that we clarify the confusion over the bylaw regarding allowing voting on line by the membership. He wants the Board to address this issue to ensure that the Membership are able to vote on issues on line. Bill feels that you have to be present somehow at the meeting. Joanne feels Pickleball Alberta clarified that was not the case. Discussion ensues and Greg asks that we table this discussion for now in order to continue with the current agenda. More research has to be done on this issue.

❖ **BUDGET AND SCHEDULE**

The current Budget and Schedule as prepared by Greg is reviewed and approved.

Items of concern are identified and addressed.

❖ **SURVEY**

Discussion ensues regarding sending out a survey and who has Administrative Access to the Pickleball Canada Website. Currently Bill and Tony are the only persons who do. Bill wishes to



maintain control of it.

Greg and Les must have administrative access. Les indicates that he needs access as soon as possible. Members are reaching out for information that he already has prepared for posting. Bill agrees to help Greg and Les have access.

Greg asks if everyone is happy with the Survey. Joanne asks that this survey goes out to past and present membership. She will send Greg the link but Greg will have to send it out via the Pickleball Canada Website. She will also add to the survey a question asking if anyone with web design experience might be interested in volunteering. Greg approves.

MOTION is made to have the Survey approved for distribution "as is" sent to past and present Members: Greg Young

SECONDS THE MOTION: Joanne Ferster

VOTE IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

❖ **BYLAWS**

Greg asks what the BYLAW issue is.

Les responds by explaining that every board updates or tweaks the bylaws. For example, the bylaw regarding electronic voting was a point of contention because it became subject to interpretation.

Joanne volunteers to be in charge if Nikki would be on the committee. Les volunteers her to do so.

Discussion ensues regarding changing the date of the election so that (a) the membership is still in country and can vote, and (b) so that the new Board has more time to prepare for their term and the outgoing board does not stay on beyond their term and introduce policies and bylaw changes that the new Board may not want.

There is some confusion over the dates that determine how the AGM and voting is scheduled.

These dates will be clarified at the next meeting.

❖ **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Discussion regarding the number of Members at Large currently on the Board and whether it is necessary at this time to add more Members at Large. Eventually, it is decided that the current number of Board Members is sufficient.

MOTION made Greg to leave the number of Board Members as is for now: Greg Young

SECONDS THE MOTION: Joanne Ferster



VOTES IN FAVOUR 3: Joanne Ferster, Les Franke, Krissy Thomson

VOTES AGAINST 1: Bill Cooper

As a result of this discussion, it is agreed that the current Board wishes to solicit more membership participation in decision making. In order to facilitate communication between the Board and the membership a "Suggestion Box" on the website is suggested and well received.

❖ **MISCELLANEOUS**

Greg asks if there is anything further to discuss under Miscellaneous.

Les asks that the Board communicate as a team, with respect.

Greg asks who is going to be the person on the website who answers the questions as they come in. Krissy said that Sue Kanak volunteered to answer those questions.

❖ **Greg calls to Adjourn the Meeting.**

MOTION to Adjourn the Meeting: Greg Young

SECONDS THE MOTION: Les Franke

ALL IN FAVOUR: Bill Cooper, Joanne Ferster, Krissy Thomson, Les Franke

Meeting is adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Future Board Meeting to be determined.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Ferster", written over a horizontal line.

Joanne Ferster