

HOP BROOK TENNIS CLUB, INC.
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
July 1, 2021
Via Internet Video Conference

Meeting was called to order at 7:25 PM by Ted Almy, President.

Present: Ted Almy
Jim Peters
Mark Howland
Charlie McCormick
Tracy Tietje
Althea Schwartz
Tom Duffy

Regrets: Todd Raymond

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

- The minutes from the 6/6/2021 meeting were approved as reported.

FINANCIAL

- Though unable to attend, Todd provided a summary Income Statement and Balance Sheet, along with several caveats regarding items that are not included or detailed.
- A line item of income of \$5,851.74 was questioned. The Board's consensus is that all or most of this amount encompasses the donations made toward the new paddle court lights.
- The Board further noted that income from the Italian/Bocce Night event was not included. It is expected that the net of the event is a gain of about \$500 for the club.
- The Income Statement does not include an expense total for the bocce court. Tom estimates that the total outlay was less than \$3,000, and that he intends to make a personal donation to defray a portion of the costs. The Board thanked Tom for this and for all his work to make the court a reality.
- The Board looks forward to a complete and current set of financials, to include investments, totals of dues and initiation fees from new members in 2021, unpaid dues from all other members, bocce court expenses, income and expenses from the Italian/Bocce Night, and other expenses such as the wind screens and the fire pit.

BOCCE COURT

- The court is essentially complete and open for play. It is anticipated that with use, rolling and sweeping, the court will become even more level and smooth.
- Ted and Tom discussed adding a 2X4 "topper" to the frame to dress up the court's appearance (and to provide a resting place for beverages).

- The Board discussed publishing a set of guidelines for the use of the court, to include sweeping the court and replacing the balls in the clubhouse when done. The guidelines will also state a prohibition from using a lob-toss, as this practice creates indentations in the surface.

CLUB WEBSITE

- Tracy thanked everyone for their comments on the website. Nearly all changes have been made and the site will be ready to be released after Vinnie makes a few more changes.
- Tracy and Vinnie will instruct Mark in updating and maintaining the website so that both Tracy and Mark will have these abilities.
- When the website is ready, we will announce it via a Constant Contact email. The email will explain the basics of the site and will include the universal password to the members-only section of the site. As such, this email should go to the “All Members” distribution, but not to the “Past Members” distribution.
- The Board expressed their appreciation for the time and excellent work that Tracy has done on this important project.
- It was suggested that the Board send an email or other gesture of thanks to the donor who has funded the costs of developing the website.

MID-SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT

- The date for this event was previously established as July 31.
- We do not have a confirmed host and theme for this event. Ted noted that repeated calls to four different food-truck operators have gone unanswered. The Board also discussed ordering pizzas or grilling various meats. The Board reacted favorably to the idea of ordering from a bar-be-cue restaurant such as Bear’s Smokehouse in Windsor.
- A daughter of one of the new members is an accomplished singer. It was suggested to the Board that she would be happy to entertain at a social gathering. The Board is favorably disposed to this idea. Ted will follow up with the member. Here are links to view and hear the singer:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBQhvfSqnqs>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSW2Wpw_7t4
- Jim noted that the equipment used in music performances can draw significant current. We need to ensure that the clubhouse has sufficient amperage to power the equipment.

FALL SOCIAL EVENT

- The date for this event was previously established as September 11.
- We do not have a confirmed host and theme for this event, but Sean and Cheryl Glasgow have expressed interest in repeating the steak-night menu from two years ago. Ted will contact them to confirm.

TENNIS LIGHTS

- Ted reported on his discussions with Pat Sullivan:
- The current lights are only sufficient to add about 30 minutes of play as darkness falls.
- It will not be optimal or sufficient to simply add lights on the existing poles.
- The approach will be to first determine an optimal lighting solution for the two courts and also for all three courts, without consideration of the lighting already in place.
- With this cost estimate in hand, the next step will be to see if the current lighting can be effectively merged into that plan and can reduce the total cost.
- It is not likely that the solution will be in place in this tennis season.
- It was suggested that if any of the current lights will not be part of the final solution, those lights can be repurposed to light the bocce court and to better light the parking areas.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Friday Night Events – These events were announced in a club-wide email, with the first to be held on 7/2 and hosted by Althea. However, rain is likely, so the initial event will be held on 7/9. Althea will host. A note needs to be sent to the membership. The note will also solicit hosts for ensuing Fridays.
- Membership – Mark reported two current leads:
 - Peter Murphy has a high level of interest. He has played at the club and knows several members.
 - Richard Daley had written to the club's email address and stated that he and perhaps others might join as paddle-only, as they play tennis in Granby and are not keen on continuing to play paddle in Suffield. Mark responded to Richard and will follow up.
- It was reported that there are bees, and perhaps a nest in the Ladies bathroom. Ted and Tom will investigate and eliminate the problem.

NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting of the Board will take place on **Thursday, September 2, 2021, at 7:15 PM.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Howland
Secretary