

ABQ Pickleball Club Managing Council

December 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Executive Team & Advisors present: Gary Rutherford (Cesar Chavez, Desert Ridge), Joyce Montoya, Gopal Rao and Dale Reynolds (Los Vecinos)

Managing Council Members present: Nabil Merhi (Roosevelt), Neville Fridge (Raymond Sanchez), Nancy Lesicka (for Paradise Hills), Ruth Madrid (Sandia Prep, Manzano), Evelyn Wheeler (Los Duranes)

Visiting Club members present: Pearl Maestas, Albert Chavez, Virginia Welty, Don Welty, Bill Burch, Kris Stichman, Felix Rabanal

- **Introductions** – All participants introduced themselves. Dale introduced Virginia and Kris, who are serving as Assistant Coordinators for one day a month at Los Vecinos

- **Opening Comments:**
 - Approval of minutes and posting on ABQPickleball.com web site – Moved and 2nd to approve. Carried unanimously.
 - 2017 membership update - over 590 members.
 - Dale encouraged all VCs to continue offering membership to players. There are currently 599 members – only one more needed to make 600 before the end of 2017.
 - City Waivers were brought up, and Dale noted that these need to be signed by all players at city venues each year.
 - Club Membership is currently counted from as far back at the inception of the Club in 2014. In 2018, an 'opt out' option will be offered on general club emails rather than asking all members to renew their registration.

- **Financial Status** - Gretchen
 - Treasurer's Report was presented by Joyce. The balance in the Club accounts at the end of November was \$5,237.84. Joyce noted that this healthy balance may make it possible for the Club to hold a Club Tournament in 2018. Full copy of the Financial reports through November 2017 is available at <https://abqpickleball.com/managing-council-news/>

- **Tournaments** - Gary
 - Past tournaments-Dinkathon, Day Venue Challenge
 - Compete and Meet

- Gary presented the following recap of tournaments held from Oct 21-Dec 7, 2017
 - October 24-Dinkathon-approximately 28 people participated in a dink/ladder tournament at Cesar Chavez Community Center
 - November 3-The day venue challenge was played at Cesar Chavez Community Center. 7 venues participated sending 2 doubles teams with ratings not to exceed 3.5. The winner was Cesar Chavez which currently has the trophy on display.
 - November 18-19-Meet and Compete. In coordination with Senior Affairs, the ABQ Pickleball Club put on the Meet and Compete Indoor Tournament. The tournament was done in pools by skill level, in which 68 people and numerous spectators participated.

- **Future tournaments**

- 2 with senior affairs – planned for April and November. A third was proposed by Senior Affairs, but may become a Club tournament instead
- NM Senior Olympics – state tournament in July at Manzano Mesa Pickleball Courts
- NM Games – Some flexibility on dates, possibly September
- Club Tournament – possibly our own sponsored tournament in October
- Smaller tournaments: dink, venue, ladder, etc. – suggestions are always welcome
- Discussions:
 - Scheduling of local tournaments must include consideration of other tournaments being held in and around the area
 - We should promote other tournaments in New Mexico and encourage promotion of our tournaments at other venues
 - Gopal suggested that almost all tournaments be held outdoors
 - A request was made for larger venues for indoor tournaments. Gary reported that the process for acquiring a venue such as the Convention Center requires a request from a City office and approval by the City Economic Director
 - Nabil suggested that players consider being USAPA members, and that USAPA and SSIPA are great draws for highly skilled players to come to Albuquerque to participate in our tournaments

- **Discussion Topics**

- **Elections/Advisory positions –**
 - ✦ Gopal (Nominating Chairperson) presented the nominees for Executive Team positions: Gary Rutherford, Joyce Montoya, Nancy Lesicka, John Kimbrough and Ron Farmer. After discussion of the nomination process, the Motion was made to elect all five candidates to the Executive Team. Motion was seconded, and the vote was 11 in favor, including email votes, and 1 abstention

- ✦ In addition to the Executive Team, the following members have volunteered to serve as Advisors to the Team for the upcoming year:
 - Dale Reynolds – Communications
 - Gopal Rao – Policy
 - M'Lee Beazley – Graphics and Promotion
 - Penny Forgette – Referees
 - Gretchen Denman – Major Tournaments
 - Gary Oppedahl – City/County Liaison

- **Open houses/public health fair** – Gary presented the following:
 - October 21-Sandia Labs second open house. There were approximately 30 people from Sandia Labs who attended, learned and played pickleball. Many from the club participated in demonstrating and teaching pickleball.
 - October 27-Club had a booth and demonstration area at the public health fair in the convention center. We had interest and participation of approximately 36 people. Special thanks to all those who operated the booth.
- **Paradise Hills Xmas Breakfast** – the proposed Christmas breakfast, which the Club agreed in principal to sponsor, was cancelled
- **Referee Committee** – Neville reported that the Referee Committee encourages VCs to get players interested in refereeing.
 - ✦ The Committee is working on various multi-step training programs to help new referees become proficient.
 - ✦ Bill asked the Club for support to provide rule books, score sheets, clipboards, etc. for use in training new referees. The Executive Team noted that USAPA Rule Books and score sheets are available on the Club website and the USAPA site, as well as in folders that should be available at each venue; Bill insisted that trainees need to have hard copy in hand to study.
 - ✦ Albert bought up the problem of referees being in short supply at tournaments, especially in the afternoons as play focuses more on higher-level players who are also most of the referees. A suggestion was made that tournament referees sign up for and commit to specific shifts.
- **Lockbox** – Joyce reported that, in discussions with the Ruidoso pickleball club, she has chosen a Rigid lockbox, with keys or combination lock to be used by designated Club representatives, for installation at Manzano Mesa Pickleball Courts for storage of extra paddles, balls, and other Club materials. The cost for this lockbox would be around \$200. Motion was made and seconded to purchase said lockbox (appx. 24" x 48" with changeable combination if possible) be purchased. Motion was carried unanimously.

- **New Business:**
 - **focus areas for the coming year**
 - Porta-potties for Manzano Mesa Pickleball Courts!

- Nancy strongly suggested that the Club become more committed to player development; not just getting people on the court, but helping them develop skills and increase proficiency. “Emeritus players” should be encouraging other players. The Executive Team will consider appointment of a Player Development Committee.
- Neville suggested that the Executive Team look into insurance alternatives for club events and for the board
- **City Venues –**
 - Gary proposed that Desert Ridge be added to the Club list of venues, and Eisenhower deleted. Moved and seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - Southwest Valley Community Center offers pickleball two days a week, with one court. Gary will find out if they want to be listed as a Club venue, though they have a limited space
 - We have not heard from Los Volcanes recently. The Motion was made to authorize the Executive Team to delete Los Volcanes from the Club venues if no representation or response is received to direct inquiry. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Next Meeting:

Location: **Jerry Cline Tennis Complex**

Date and Time: To be determined, based on ABQ Senior Affairs schedule to present the City Volunteer Program.