**Pickleball Lincoln Incorporated**

Board Minutes

Saturday, August 17, 2019. 3:00 pm

Home of Bill Roehrs

President Mark Nelson called the meeting to order.

All Board members were present. President Mark Nelson, Vice President Bill Roehrs,

Fundraising Chair Gale Breed, Treasurer Ann Heerman, Secretary and Program Director Jane Cech, incoming Treasurer Mike Magnuson , Court Maintenance Director Joel Houston, Assistant Secretary Rosalie Duffy

Gale Breed gave an update on the four new courts at Peterson Park. The city spent two weeks reviewing the specifications for the new courts. Several Board members worked closely with the city, making requests and recommendations for the facility. Bids will be solicited this month and there is a three-week window for them to be submitted. City Parks and Rec makes the determination of who is awarded the contract. No one is to be onsite during construction.

PLI transfers the raised monies to Parks and Rec who then pays the contractors. Grant money is being held by three entities for transfer: $50,000 with the Lancaster County Visitors Improvement Fund, $50,000 with the Dillon Foundation, and $5,000 with Lincoln Cares.

Mike states that the IRS needs a receipt for members taking tax deductions for donations of $250 or more. Gale mailed paper thank-you letters to every donor, regardless of the amount of donation. Firespring handles all the tax receipts for the Give-to-Lincoln donations.

Ann Heerman submitted the Treasurer’s report: see attached.

Mike Magnuson will transition on as Treasurer. Ann will stay on the Board as Past Treasurer. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that Mike be added to the Union Bank signature cards for all accounts.

Our bank account will be added to PayPal for more efficient and transparent transactions. The debit cards for the two Union Bank accounts will be eliminated. Checks will be written whenever possible. However online purchases need to be paid for electronically and a PLI credit card will be used instead of a debit card. This protects our bank account.

Liability concerns were discussed regarding play on the outdoor courts. Primary liability falls on the city since these are all city properties. But when we design an event we have some liability exposure, which is mitigated by our liability policy. We rent the courts from the city for events and we provide to the city proof of our insurance before each event. (The permit fee for each event is about $25, but the city often waives the additional $100 event fee.)

Jane reported on the upcoming indoor season. Fortunately Speedway is again available. However Speedway made the decision to raise the monthly fee from $25 to $35. Drop-in play stays at $5 per day. (This money goes to Speedway, not PLI.) Besides Monday through Friday mornings 8:00 am to noon, Speedway will also offer Thursday nights for the season. They may offer additional weeknights and weekend times intermittently. Speedway has given permission to line additional courts, creating a total of 18 courts. More cardboard and tape will need to be purchased and maybe another cart. There are enough portable nets.

Indoor locations for Round Robin play are being organized. Mondays at

F Street Rec Center are no longer available. It is possible that Round Robin groups may be able to move to Speedway, days to be determined. Pricing was discussed. ALL Round-Robin participants must be members of PLI.

Bill Roehrs led the discussion regarding recruiting and retaining members. For now the retention of current members is the focus. Bill has been organizing places for beginners to play together to further their connection with PLI.

Looking to the future, the possibility of becoming involved in community events to promote Pickleball was discussed, as well as bridging tennis and racquetball players to the sport. There is a PLI article coming out in the September issue of L Magazine. If new members could join and pay online rather than filling out paper forms and writing checks it would be very helpful. (Renewals of memberships are able to be done online.)

Jane and Joel reported on tournaments. The upcoming Picklefest is Sept. 8th, with a rain date of Sept. 15th, to be held at Peterson Park. They are looking for one or two additional people to help run it. These could be non-players.

Other ideas regarding tournaments were discussed such as team challenges, how to drive traffic from other cities to Lincoln, and ideas for some kind of organized social play for the 90% of members who don’t want to do tournaments.

The damaged job box at Eden Park was replaced by the city, which apparently now has possession of the damaged one. A possible job box at Peterson Park job box would contain items such as squeegees, brooms, towels, and a first aid kit.

There was general discussion regarding the Goodyear Fitness Center closing and the possibility of Pickleball courts there.

The idea of reverting to using paddle boxes at Peterson Park was discussed. Concerns had been expressed about long wait times. One suggestion was that players should be encouraged to consider all six courts to reduce wait time. Other players have said they enjoy the extra social time to chat between games. After discussion, we decided the current method of hanging paddles at specific court gates was working well and will be continued.

Permanent shade structures were discussed. However structures must not impede sidewalks as sidewalks must meet ADA accessibility requirements. It was determined that after the new courts are built future fundraising efforts such as Give-to-Lincoln Day can target upgrades such as shade structures, and sidewalks on all sides of Peterson courts.

Bill states he is writing a history of Lincoln Pickleball. Efforts are being made toward approaching the city to have Ballard and Eden Parks’ tennis courts become permanent Pickleball courts.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday Oct. 6th at 5:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by Mark Nelson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosalie Duffy

Assistant Secretary



