

NIPISSING RIDGE TENNIS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 19, 2023; 5:30 pm; via Zoom

MINUTES OF MEETING

Attendees: 39 people participated in the meeting (quorum is 10).

Chair: Laurey Gillies

Recorder: Shelley Young

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Laurey welcomed and thanked everyone for participating and confirmed that we have quorum. Attendees were advised that: questions are welcome during the meeting and to please enter them into the “chat” section; Sandee Roberts would be monitoring the chat area to ensure that all questions were reviewed; the AGM is being recorded only for the purposes of preparing the Minutes of the meeting; everyone is welcome to participate in the meeting but only attendees who were members in 2022 vote. Voting would be done using Zoom’s polling system.

Laurey introduced the members of the Transition Team and thanked them for all their hard work since the group came together in September 2022. The Team members consisted of these individuals in the following roles: Laurey Gillies (President), Shelley Young (Vice President), Michael Thompson (Secretary), Jackie McCluskey (Treasurer), Nancy Muzar (Membership), Sandee Roberts (Social), Kim Eckersley (Social), Marty Kilby (all around helper).

Laurey welcomed and introduced Ryan Gibbons (Director of Community Services) and Terry Green (Manager of Parks and Trails) from the Town of the Blue Mountains.

Report from the Transition Team/Organizing Board

Referring to the Powerpoint presentation, Laurey shared and reviewed this report with the attendees. The first job of the Transition team was to establish authority in order to act on behalf of NRTC. We wrote by-laws and prepared other documentation leading up to this AGM. The By-laws and the election will convey authority to the Board to sign an agreement with the Town of the Blue Mountains. We have been working with Ryan and Terry for several months on the fee for NRTC’s use of the courts. This was a Council-based process and the fee was ultimately included in the Fees and Charges By-law for Community Services. After lengthy discussions, we were pleased with how this unfolded.

We wanted to enhance communications with our members, so we developed a website and we have been sending out frequent e-blasts to the membership. We streamlined the membership process using an online application that includes a waiver and electronic signing of documentation.

We wanted to enhance the player experience, so we have implemented online court booking (using Skedda). As part of the membership application process, once you complete your application you will receive a link to Skedda to do online court bookings. There are some rules associated with the bookings which is embedded in the software. We are also planning some fabulous social events and drop-ins to enhance the player experience.

We are expanding player development opportunities and have met with a couple of pros (John Long and Tom Kern) to develop a guest pro approach. Under our agreement with the Town, we must submit insurance certificates for the pros as well as vulnerable sector checks. Consequently, anyone teaching on our courts has to be “registered” with NRTC. Through our website you will be able to see who is available at NRTC to teach you a lesson. More information on this will follow. We have some June clinics scheduled with John Long, and details will be posted on the website soon.

We also reviewed business fundamentals for NRTC. We are acquiring General Liability insurance in the amount of \$2 million dollars (which is required by the Town) and Directors and Officers Liability insurance. We have opened a business bank account in the name of NRTC at TD Canada Trust. We have been developing a budget (which will be reviewed in more detail later in this meeting). One of our next steps is to confirm records management requirements.

Plans for future projects are also being discussed, such as having ladder play, teams, and there has been some suggestions that we could have tournaments. None of this has been fully discussed, but are some things we are considering.

Motion: That the Transition Team report be received.

Moved: Larry McLachlin

Seconded: Sandee Roberts

Carried

Questions

Laurey opened the floor for questions.

1. Is there a limit on hours for pro teaching? Answer: No – we have not yet set any hours.
2. When will we know details of the clinics (times and when they will be offered)? Answer: Details are not on the website yet as we have to meet with the pro, but the dates will be: June 5, 7, 26, 28 from approximately 9:00 am to noon using 1 or 2 courts. The clinic will be for members only on a first come, first service advance registration. A fee will be charged directly to the clinic registrants.
3. There was a question regarding the need for liability insurance. Michael Thompson confirmed we maintain general liability insurance, identified that the insurance is required by the Town of Blue Mountains and clarified that the insurance will cover situations where, for some reason, the waiver signed by Members as part of the application process does not apply.
4. There was a question regarding the pro teaching lessons. It was confirmed that the member will have to book the court for a lesson with the pro. Members will be limited to making 2 bookings in any one week.

By-laws

Laurey explained that in developing the by-laws we looked at samples from a variety of clubs and developed the version that is on the website. There were no questions regarding the by-laws.

Motion: That the By-laws be approved.

Moved: Sandee Roberts

Seconded: Larry McLachlin

Carried (70%)

2022 Financials

Laurey thanked Jackie for preparing the 2022 financial documentation and provided a review.

Right now we are carrying forward some surplus funds.

Motion: That the 2022 financials be received.

Moved: Sandee Roberts

Seconded: Paul Feinstein

Carried

2023 Budget

Laurey shared the 2023 budget and reviewed it. There are three columns in the budget (based on 100, 150 and 200 members). Membership fees are set at \$40.00. Our agreement with the Town is that we will pay them \$10.00 per member with a minimum of \$1,000.00. Insurance will end up costing us approximately \$600.00 more than was originally budgeted. We also need to establish a reserve of \$1,000.00 as a deductible under our agreement with the Town. We expect to breakeven at 150-170 members (which was our goal).

A question was raised about the membership fee being too low. Laurey noted that the fee has been set for this year, we should be fine to cover costs, but this matter is something we can review for next year.

Questions:

1. How many members did we have in 2022? Answer by Kim – approximately 247.
2. Will there be a cap to the 2023 membership? Answer – no, not at this stage. Last year we were capped at 250.

Motion: That the 2023 budget be received.

Moved: Sandee Roberts

Seconded: Shelley Latimer

Carried

Board Election

Motion: That Laurey Gillies, Shelley Young, Michael Thompson, Jackie McCluskey, Nancy Muzar, Sandee Roberts, Martin Kilby and Kim Eckersley be elected to the Board.

Moved: Paul Feinstein

Seconded: Larry McLachlin

Carried

Remarks from TBM

Laurey introduced Ryan Gibbons and Terry Green and invited them to make remarks.

Ryan expressed his thanks for being invited to attend the NRTC AGM and gave his thanks to Laurey, Shelley and Michael for the work they have done and all the effort put into formalizing many NRTC processes. Ryan stated that this is the right time for change, and the membership is at a capacity

now that it will benefit from a collective voice, and information can formally be brought forward to the Town. We saw that this process proved to be very successful when Shelley spoke directly to Council (on behalf of NRTC) to request the change in the fee (to \$1,000.00 minimum). Council did accept the recommendation. Ryan feels there is a good relationship between NRTC and the Town, and this will prove to be a good example of how the Town wants to move forward with other groups. Ryan stated that he felt the members of the club are in good hands with the volunteers currently leading the club. Ryan thanked the newly elected Board for their patience in the lengthy process of working with the Town. Ryan thanked Terry Green for all the efforts by him and his team for looking after the property and the courts.

Terry updated everyone that the courts have been pressure washed and, once the weather improves, the courts will be opened (hopefully beginning of May). This summer the pergola will be replaced (as budgeted by the Town and approved by Council). The structure will be built in-house (less expensively than if the job were tendered). Installation will take place with minimal interference with any tennis functions. Some of the old landscaping will be removed and improved. Town staffing shortages are still an issue, but all the work will get done as quickly as possible. Terry has some specs/drawings for the new pergola which he will share with the Board. It is a similar design to the current structure, except that this time there will be a concrete pad instead of paving bricks. Terry said he is available any time for questions (by phone or email).

Thanks was expressed to Ryan and Terry for their participation at the meeting.

Questions

Kim noted that the first social event will be on Saturday morning, May 20th (rain date May 21st) at the courts.

On behalf of the meeting attendees, Rosemarie Pedulla expressed her sincere thanks to the Board members for all their work this past fall and winter. Thanks were also given to Ryan and Terry.

A reminder that member and public play times are the same as last year and are listed on the NRTC website. Public days are open for anyone to play. Ryan Gibbons confirmed that the booking and fee/charging system the Town had last year for TBM courts will not be implemented this year. Under the NRTC Skedda court booking system, play time for singles is 1 hour and doubles is 2 hours. The tag board near the courts will be removed by the Town.

A question was asked about non-TBM residents being members of the club. Laurey responded that this year there are no restrictions. On the membership form we have asked people for some residence information, but that is only for the Board's information. Ryan confirmed that there is

nothing in the Town's fees and charges documentation about charging non-residents a different rate, and there has been no conversation about this.

Laurey asked Ryan if the Town would be open to NRTC expanding our hours (likely not this year, but perhaps in the future)? Ryan responded that yes, this is something they would be open to. Some of the membership data and information NRTC is collecting this year might support that. The Agreement between NRTC and the Town will be reviewed annually.

A question was asked about how a member will prove they have booked a court. Laurey explained that the member will receive a confirmation email from the Skedda system which shows the individual's court reservation.

Ryan confirmed that the tennis courts at Boyer are not part of the agreement with NRTC. Laurey asked if this might be changed in future (both for Boyer and Bayview) and Ryan responded that the Town is open to the idea.

A question was asked about a maximum number of participants for mixed and ladies play and whether members would have to sign up (or just show up). Laurey stated that this is not something the Board has worked on yet. Sandee and Marty have some experience with their club in Florida on this matter, and will be sharing details with the Board at a later date.

Laurey noted that we are looking for other volunteers who might be interested in running a ladder or developing some teams. If anyone has some gardening expertise, the Town would welcome some assistance. Also, the Board may be looking for a volunteer to provide an independent review of our financials next year. Marty asked for at least 2 volunteers to run some of the games at the May 20th event. If someone is interested in helping with a particular project, they are invited to send an email to tennis.nrtcgeneral@gmail.com.

A question was asked about additional tennis courts in the Town. Ryan said there is a budget for two additional courts and the Town will be approaching the public for feedback. The funding has been approved in the budget, and now the main task is to find the location for the courts.

Someone asked if the Town is considering putting pickleball lines on the tennis courts. Ryan confirmed that there are no plans to do this. Laurey noted that in the agreement with the Town, NRTC has requested that there be no pickleball lines put on the tennis courts.

Terry Green can provide safety pylons to NRTC for the opening day event, if requested.

Laurey asked Ryan about the item in the agreement where NRTC is being asked to use environmentally friendly products for social events. Ryan outlined that the Town has declared a climate emergency and is asking that we use non single-use plastics where possible (or ask people to bring their own utensils). The social committee will highlight this in the advertising of any NRTC events.

Shelley commented that later in the season the Board might like to put out a membership survey to get member feedback.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.