To: The Ole Pickleball Community

From: The Ole Pickleball Committee; Dave Mensching (Ex Officio), Melda Bolton, Monica Cobuzio, Tony Giannola, Cindy Lane, Mike Lang, Joanne McEnroy, Kevin Scheckelhoff

Re: Summary of the 2024 Ole Pickleball Season

After a very successful season, we thought it would be a good time to reach out to all of you and let you know a bit more about the Pickleball Committee and how your donations have been used to enhance playing in Ole. With a bit of a glance backward, a look at the present, and an invitation to formulate a vision for the future, the following is a summary of our work and expenses.

Around 2023, it started to become clear that our community of players was growing rapidly and that there was an increased interest in adding more events to the playing season. To help him manage these demands, Dave reached out to a few people for help, and the Ole PB Committee was formed. We met to plan the 2023 season and, realizing that as the volume of checks being generated was also increasing, we needed to incorporate to avoid commingling funds with our personal accounts. We did that and are now officially known as ***The Ole Pickleball Club, Inc.*** This year, we applied for and received approval from the Internal Revenue Service to become a federal tax-exempt entity under Section 501(c) (7). We selected two committee members with signing privileges on our bank account: Mike Lang, our full-time Ole resident, and Monica Cobuzio, a skilled professional in everything money-related. Monica managed the entire process and diligently reports on and oversees the collection and distribution of funds.

The Ole Pickleball Club is a self-funded, relying on generous contributions from our players. These contributions, whether from event registrations, Monday morning clinics, ball money, or pure donations, are a testament to our wonderful community. Your loyalty, trust, and giving spirit make our work possible. We couldn't do what we do without you.

So, how do we use these funds? We first cover the cost of maintaining our equipment and running each event. This includes balls (500 used this season), nets (4 new this season), and glow tape for the courts, for example. We then looked toward acquiring items to expedite running our events. Most recently, that meant purchasing a tournament scheduling app and a basic iPad that stores information so that any tournament coordinator can use it. Because of our pickleball community's overwhelming participation and generosity, we could then begin to purchase things to enhance our courts' appearance and playing experience. This has included small items like whiteboards, glow markers, ball holders, first aid equipment, squeegees, and locked storage boxes. On the upper end, it has allowed for the purchase of a new ball-throwing machine (May 2024) and outdoor rechargeable speakers for both sets of courts. Finally, we have used money collected to hire live entertainment for our end-of-season party, tournament prizes, appreciation gifts, and, most recently, the Golden Paddle Awards.

While there was no cost attached to us, last year, the committee advocated for AEDs to be placed in our playing areas. The Board readily agreed and paid for the AED equipment and installation on both the north and south courts. The committee then arranged for AED/CPR training for our players.

As we look toward the 2025 season, we are tasked with deciding how next to use the donations that we receive. We know that nets, balls, and tape are recurring expenditures for which we must be prepared. We also realize that the black lights for the glow events will need replacing at some point. We would also like to consider some paddle holders, though this has become a challenge as storage is limited and, particularly on the north court, space is awkward for mounting. We are still working to solve that issue. Do we need to add anything else to our play areas? As a committee, we are committed to maintaining and sustaining the best possible pickleball experience. Some communities have courtside amenities like benches and sunshades. Some are lighted. Is this necessary or even possible to do in Ole? These are significant accomplishments and lofty goals, but we are committed open to any idea for which there is widespread interest.

In the near future we will send out a survey for your assessment of the 2024 season-the tournaments, the clinics, the courts, the social event(s). At that time, we will also ask for suggestions for improvements to Ole Pickleball. Please look for that survey and take the time to respond. Once again, we would like to thank you for your participation, help, generosity, and support. Anything and everything we do is made possible because of it.