

**East Portal Bocce Club Board Meeting
East Portal Park
June 3, 2024**

Club Website: www.epbcsac.com

The meeting was called to order by President Jay James at 5:29 pm.

Officers/Directors Present:

Jay James, President
Joe Pane, Vice-President
Iggy Lopez-Alvarez, Treasurer
Catherine Travers, Secretary

Steve Choe, Director
John Leonard
Henry Powell, Director
Michele Rogers, Director

Romano Luchini, Facilities Manager

Officers/Directors Absent:

Al Velasquez, Director

Visitors:

Stephen Rogers
Louis Lodi
Londi Medrano
Laura de la Rosa

Roll Call

The roll call sheet was passed around by the secretary.

Approval of May Minutes

It was pointed out that in the section “Raising Annual Dues” one sentence needs to be changed to “... most of them do not have annual dues”.

It was moved by Iggy and seconded by Henry to approve the May minutes as changed. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Iggy noted that we received \$290.71 in interest on the CD in one month. There is \$129,622.11 in the account. John asked if that includes the insurance money received and Iggy responded in the affirmative.

It was moved by Joe and seconded by Henry to approve the May Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Calendar Report

Iggy sent the calendar out to Romano and Ryan. The only paid rental in June is from Sutter Health on the 12th.

Announcements

Regarding the American Cancer Society Tournament, Laura de la Rosa handed Jay a thank you letter which he read to the Board. She would like to make this an annual tournament.

Joe moved that we schedule Laura's American Cancer Society Tournament in the future and that EPBC will not require a rental fee. Henry seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Jay reminded the Board that we want to thank Phil Pluckebaum for his support now and in the future. Therefore, he created a certificate of appreciation and which also gives him an honorary membership in the Club. He gave it to Catherine to give to Steve to hand to him.

Iggy told the group that we traded in a Master Card for a Visa Card. Any board member can go to the bank and get a card. Responding to questions about itemizing, he gets a monthly statement from the bank. He compares Romano's receipts with the itemized statement. Steve asked about further itemizing and a reminder of what the money was used for. Iggy would like to keep the Treasurer's Report to one page. Joe doesn't want to create more work for Iggy. Iggy can bring bank statements to meetings in case there are questions.

Old Business

USBF Memberships

Steve will probably return the cards he has to Jay since it's too late in the season to sell them. Probably 20% of tournaments are USBF sanctioned tournaments. If we want to sell the cards, we need to do it in December/January. He recommends we do that for next year. He believes he's sold three cards.

Colleoni's Bid

Daniele Colleoni met with Steve on Sunday and they talked for almost two hours. There was a lot of fine print in the estimate that Steve needed to clarify. He would start with cement (which we already have), then an asphalt coating, then it's levelled. Then they put in the court in layers. Because they're an Italian company and work in various states they don't do the asphalt work. They would prefer that we do the asphalt with their specifications which are in the estimate. Steve committed to find out what that would cost. Colleoni thought that the asphalt process is somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for each court. It could be less.

Colleoni made it clear that they would send the materials in pallets and we would have to pay the tax on it. It would come out to about 9% of the materials which would be probably another \$4,000. So now it looks like instead of \$20,000 per court it might be \$30,000 to \$35,000 per court. Steve told him that we don't have the money now to pay for two new courts. Colleoni is booked up for this year and we would have to sign a contract for next year.

Henry had a question about pouring epoxy on the new courts. Steve responded that it's a poured-in-place synthetic. It's very dense and thick and goes on top of the asphalt which provides a very level surface.

Romano questioned why we need such expensive courts. Steve's opinion is that it's about being a better bocce organization. Steve wonders why we're putting so much money in a roof when we could have an elevated bocce experience bringing in better talent with better courts. Romano pointed out that we're a rec league that brings in about \$30,000 a year. They both agreed that fund raising is the only way to pay for two new courts at Colleoni's price. Jay pointed out that the new roof is the priority

right now. John believes we are trying to provide a bocce experience for a lot of people and he doesn't hear anyone complaining about the courts.

Non-profit status

GoFundMe is a possibility to raise the money. Steve could do a page and send it to everyone possible. Steve believes that successful GoFundMe campaigns ask for money because of a catastrophic event and it's a good cause. Steve is interested in turning the Club into a non-profit organization that can collect tax-deductible donations. This may also depend on eliminating the annual membership dues.

John gave us an overview on a model that doesn't require annual dues but court use fees. When people play in a league you pay a fee to use the courts. This group has a partnership with the county. John spoke with a tax attorney (Nancy Lee) and she suggested that it would be difficult to get 501(c)(3) status because our primary goal is not doing community work.

Gifts to Share is a non-profit which works with the City of Sacramento to facilitate organizations to raise money on a non-profit basis.

Our club doesn't operate as a non-profit because we're not a charitable organization which makes it difficult to accept donations that are not taxed. As a club we don't qualify. But John thinks there is a conversation to be had on this issue.

Joe asked if John asked Nancy Lee about the annual dues/league fees issue. John said he didn't but his conversations were more about having an operation in support of community service.

Steve thinks that no one is sure how bocce federations in Northern California operate as 501(c)(3)'s and that we should start asking them questions to see how they are able to accept tax deductible donations.

Shade Structure Update

John said that at the City meeting they were clear that they don't have the money to pay for the rebuild. If the City does the ADA improvement it has to be prevailing wage. In contrast, if we pay for the rebuild, it shouldn't require prevailing wage. However, he thinks it's best to get two bids, one for prevailing wage and one for not prevailing wage. John thinks there will be a 40% difference. The rebuild is not a capital improvement but a repair.

John talked with Steve Cohn this morning and they decided John should have a conversation with Ryan Moore, Asst. City Manager, to have him confirm that the rebuild doesn't need to be done with prevailing wage.

John thinks we should start thinking about how to come up with any difference between what we have for the rebuild and what it will cost, even debt.

Iggy isn't sure that people will not donate if they don't get a tax deduction.

Steve also noted that he talked with someone on the courts from East Sacramento Preservation who might donate money. He also talked with a man from Walker Lumber who ended up giving him a bid of \$4,000 to provide the trusses and install them.

Michelle asked how we stand with bids. Steve is giving Fritz more information to try to get a bid. Elzie isn't a possibility for a bid any longer. Chris from Pride Industries should give us a bid. When it comes to the permits, John has a copy of the final document with comments and notations regarding issues and David Heard believes he can answer those in a couple of days. The only large issue left with the permits is ADA compliance which John will address by talking with the City.

Third league Update

Steve believes that one of the benefits of having a shorter league is that we now can put in a shorter fun league and have another source of income. He thinks of it as a lab to try different things out. Steve provided a proposed schedule for three leagues next year. The format would be different with three-person teams and there would probably be less teams than during the present Spring or Summer Leagues. He would like to allow people to substitute on a team as long as it's not on the same night they play. The teams aren't capped at three—there could be four on a team. Steve pointed out numerous possibilities of format.

Michele would rather have set rules for all the leagues.

Henry asked if rules would be set for the new league in the bylaws and Steve concurred.

Raising Annual Dues

Jay reminded us that we discussed this last month. This would be our second discussion and according to the bylaws we can now put this in the new bylaws with a vote. Steve agrees that we are due for a small increase and \$60 seems reasonable. Also, this won't happen until next year and if we become a federation and a 501(c)(3) organization we may not be asking for annual dues. We may have to do what other organizations do and that's to charge more for league play. He noted that Iggy brought up the issue of people who are not playing in a league and pay to have access to the courts. He proposes an annual or 3-month or 6-month fee to have access. We would have their personal information. They wouldn't necessarily be members but people getting public access. Henry noted that that we still have insurance to cover people using the courts whether they are paying or not.

Iggy brought up that if someone had only a 3-month membership they would still have the codes for one year. Steve looked up digital locks. There are two different styles. We could change the code only for those members. Also, there could be a code that they punch in to open the gate. Iggy thinks it would be hard to manage. John suggested we proceed with raising the annual dues and league fees both. If we find out that there is going to be a transformation to a different non-profit status, then we can deal with that.

Joe moved and Steve seconded a motion that we raise the annual dues to \$60. John thinks that the league fees are very low for what the players get. Michele pointed out that with high inflation this is not the right time to raise both fees. The motion passed.

Prize Money

Iggy told us that we decided last year to award prize money as follows: \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place. He doesn't think it's necessary to discuss or vote on this every year. Iggy moved that effective immediately all end-of-the-season playoff prize money will add up to \$600. Henry seconded the motion. John doesn't think that it's necessary to vote on this every year. Jay pointed out that we are responsible for how the club money is spent and this makes it clear how the money is being spent. John thinks we should talk about it every year. Iggy amended his motion to cover the Spring 2024 League only. The motion passed.

Morning League

Henry is looking for a chairman for the league and would like to start it at the end of August. It would be two weeks in August, four weeks in September and four weeks in October. It would be on Tuesday. Michele would like the day league members to meet on the third Wednesday in August to meet to organize the teams then they would start play two weeks after that. When play starts they could pay their dues. Henry wants to send an email asking interested people to send in their application for membership letting them know when the meeting is and when play starts. Michele will organize it. Henry got over 20 responses which doesn't include spouses or friends. The number could be close to 40. Play would be from 10:00 to 12:00.

Henry moved that the Board approves starting a morning league at either the end of August or the first of September and Michele seconded it. The motion passed.

New Business

Maintenance Report

Romano reminded us that the kids' program is going to start. It should go from the middle of June to the middle of August on Monday and Thursday from 10:00 to 12:00. An email blast will be sent out to ask for volunteers.

All the box boxes are repaired. He will restripe courts 4 & 5. The three display cases and the shed need work. Steve asked how close Romano is to completing his goals and he responded that he's halfway there.

John brought up that David Zaffa scratched his name on the new concrete that the City poured. He wants it to be removed with a grinder. Romano will work on it.

BBQ

John wanted to talk about the barbecue. Jay doesn't think we can put in an immovable object i.e. a built-in barbecue because it would then be the property of the City. John thinks we have a few options. Jay said that some of the renters would like to have access to a barbecue. Iggy confirmed that and believes it would be a selling point for rentals. People wondered if it would be difficult to have a charcoal grill on a pedestal. John

thinks having fire there would be a bad idea. He recommends buying a used gas Weber grill for \$250. The gas tank could be put in the locked shed. Romano said that we need a new shed. Steve noted that when it rains water goes from the shed onto court 3.

Recognition of David Heard

Henry moved that we recognize Dave Heard with a plaque for his pro bono work on the pole barn rebuild. Steve seconded and the motion passed. We will give him the plaque at the dinner in October.

Flags

Iggy would like to buy an American and Italian flag to hang up at the courts. It was moved by Iggy and seconded by John to buy the flags. The motion passed.

Sons and Daughters of Italy

Lou Lodi is the vice-president of the Northern California section of the Sons and Daughters of Italy. He's in charge of 18 lodges. He praised the Club for the tremendous work of the Bocce Club. He then presented the Club with a banner thanking the East Portal Bocce Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.