

**East Portal Bocce Club Board Meeting
East Portal Park Clubhouse
August 5, 2024**

Club website: www.epbcsac.com

The meeting was called to order by President Jay James at 5:30 pm.

Officers/Directors Present:

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

Officers/Directors Absent:

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

Romano Luchini, Facilities Manager

Visitors:

Kim Cantrell
Paulette Wells
Stephen Rogers

Roll Call

The roll call sheet was passed around by the secretary.

Approval of July Minutes

It was moved by Henry and seconded by Al to approve the July minutes. The motion passed.

Kim Cantrell

At the beginning of the meeting Kim Cantrell spoke to us. She is a third season player on Monday night. Her concern is that now that the league is 11 weeks (which she is supportive of), the Fall League is starting in July instead of August

which requires playing in more hot weather than before. She is suggesting that we look at the schedule to adjust it. Steve Choe told her that we are already going to add a third league so that the Spring League will start sooner and the Fall League will start later. He explained that the new league will involve a 3-person “fun” league. She was appreciative.

Treasurer’s Report

Iggy reviewed the report for us. Henry asked about the total memberships. It’s 374. Catherine asked about the new team “Untouchaballz”. It’s a team that is being substituted for a team that dropped out on Friday night. She will update the score sheet for Friday night. Jay believes that money spent on David Zaffa is money well spent because the courts are always clean. It was moved by Al and seconded by Henry to approve the July Treasurer’s Report. The motion passed.

Maintenance Report

Romano reported that two benches by courts 4 & 5 have been elevated. The ladder and wheelbarrow have been removed from the shed to create room. David would like a weed eater. Romano will start working on framing the banner.

Calendar Review

Iggy reviewed the calendar items:

Saturday, August 3	The Royal Electric Family Picnic
Saturday, August 10	Jay’s Going Away Tournament
Wednesday, August 7	Veteran’s bocce
Thursday, August 15	Kids Kamp ends
Tuesday, August 27	Morning League starts

Henry asked Iggy to put Tuesday, August 13 on the calendar for the 10:00 am meeting for the new Tuesday morning league.

Al asked if September 28 was available for a new 3-person tournament he and Steve want to start. It’s the day of the Summer League playoffs so they’ll pick another date.

Announcements

Friendship Tournament

Al told the Board that there were 32 participants. He had to even out the teams but once it got started it went smoothly and was done by 2:30 pm.

End of the Year Dinner

Joe gave us a complete three-page handout about the dinner setting forth costs and the menu. Joe noted that John would like to see us not subsidize the dinner. The subsidy was around \$20 last year. It's always a no-host bar. He went over the menu and the itinerary. He went over the three options for how much to charge people. Henry asked about the raffle baskets and Iggy said that we made \$250 on them last year.

Joe reminded us that we have four honorees:

Plaques:

Ryan Tracy	-	updates the scores and standings
Mike Moylan	-	website and mass emails
Dave Heard	-	architect who has done pro bono work

Honorary Membership:

Phil Pluckebaum	-	new city council member
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Henry asked about voting during the dinner. There was a discussion about who needs to be reelected. Some board members have a two-year term, but the terms were staggered so that everyone isn't up for reelection every two years. Michele reminded us that we decided in the past how to vote for people so that club members don't have to show up at the dinner to vote. Joe suggested that we put this on the next agenda.

John praised the dinner's budget and the menu. He believes the club should be aware of finances and if we are going to subsidize the End of the Year Dinner it should be done at the lowest level possible. Then we should evaluate how we should do it in the future. He also noted that they are charging tax on the tip which isn't normally done.

Michelle would like to charge \$50 with a \$20 subsidy because she believes it will be difficult to sell 125 tickets at \$60 per person. Joe said that we have several weeks before the event to give the Dante Club our numbers.

Joe moved that we charge \$60 per person with a \$10 subsidy. He'll send out a flyer explaining. Al seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Joe said that Paulette needs two annual memberships to put in the raffle baskets for the dinner. She showed us the posters for the dinner which everyone loved. Joe moved that the Club provide two annual memberships for a raffle basket. Michele asked who is providing the memberships exactly. Jay said that the Board would pay for the memberships out of our funds. Al seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Bylaws Roster Changes

Iggy proposed new Bylaws language: If a player on a team can no longer play bocce due to an injury or for health reasons, the captain may petition the Board to permit a roster change after the first match of the season. This petition would be reviewed by the Board on a case-by-case basis at the next Board meeting. If the Board approved the petition for the roster change, the players that were removed from the roster are no longer members of the team and thus cannot return to the team for the rest of the season.

Henry moved that we adopt the proposed language. Al seconded the motion. Michele asked to verify when this could happen during the month before a meeting. Iggy explained that we could vote electronically once the petition is received. The motion passed.

Old Business

First Aid Kits

There is a first aid kit in the shed and one where the score book is. Michele requested that we send an email to tell everyone. Romano will put up a sign where the kits are.

Bylaws Change Rescheduling Games

Jay proposed language for the Bylaws to cover rescheduling of games. Catherine read the proposed language: "I propose we put into our by-laws an exemption from prohibiting the rescheduling of league matches. This exemption will be for inclement weather **ONLY**. There will be no requirement to reschedule. This exemption is not meant to take anything away from the captain's duties. Inclement weather is defined as rainy weather, weather temperatures 40 degrees or lower, or weather temperatures 100 degrees or above."

“The captains of the two teams involved in a particular match will meet and confer as to whether they want to reschedule their match. So as not to hinder the volunteers who help with the scorekeeping, they should reschedule their match sometime within two (2) weeks of the original scheduled match, if they want to reschedule at all. Again, there will be no requirement to reschedule.”

John asked if both captains have to concur that the match should be rescheduled or if it can be a unilateral decision. Michele asked if we should specify a severe weather warning. Jay said that according to his proposal there is no requirement to reschedule. Steve feels that if it's very hot and there's a 70-year-old on the team, they should have the right to not play. John stated that temperature is a subjective thing.

Iggy reminded everyone that this has come up in the past and he'd like to let teams reschedule for any reason and take the onus off the directors and put it on the team's captains. If both teams don't want to reschedule, the game would go down as zeros which wouldn't affect your percentage.

Steve feels it's unfair to the people who don't want to be at risk but want to be competitive. He's opposed to having to forfeit because team members don't feel it's safe to play. Steve has listened to people in the last few weeks who don't want to play in very hot weather but don't want to take a forfeit.

Jay said the answer to that might be to cancel all games during a week when the weather is bad. Steve thinks if we give a range of temperatures for when games can be cancelled then both teams can take a zero. If both teams agree, then the game can be rescheduled.

Romano reminded us that last year we pushed the season ahead a week and that could be a possibility. Michele said that we have had so many days above 100 degrees that it could create a problem.

Michele feels that it's unfair to rely on percentages when one team is playing more games than another. Al noted that any team can sign up for the playoffs.

Henry said we shouldn't focus on the people who want to win at any cost but should focus on people's health. If the Board puts forward a temperature range that would help. Iggy asked about rain and what the requirement should be. He would like not to be pigeonholed with a specific range. Iggy would like it kept open between two captains. Romano reminded us that it should come down to two captains talking with each other. Henry moved that we table this issue to next

month. Steve seconded the motion which passed. Everyone is to work on language to propose and send it to the Board by email.

Update on Pole Barn/Shade Structure

John doesn't have a budget yet on the rebuild. He took photos of the columns and the trusses on top and found out that all the columns are damaged except two on the far end. He convinced the structural engineer that those two don't require repair which is very positive. John has had ongoing conversations with Paolo (the structural engineer) and David Heard (the architect). They determined that the design of the fix is excellent with one exception which is that all the columns have a two-piece system that is welded but this doesn't need to be done on all of the columns. The plans are being redrawn now with the modifications. The plans will be resubmitted and John will follow up with the City. He's not sure how much will be saved with this effort but the work needs to be done. It's a permanent and good solution. The savings should be 10% to 20%.

David Heard has communicated with a steel fabricator who declined to bid since they're too busy. John got in touch with another fabricator who will come out and look at it. If we can get the 12 caps made and hand them to a general contractor, it will make their job easier. John is awaiting their bid.

Henry asked if this job is turning out to be more complicated than we thought at first. John believes that the tree falling on the pole barns twisted the entire structure and caused cracks on the columns. John believes that once we get the complete set of plans approved by the City, we should be able to discuss it with some general contractors for bids.

Steve talked about the very real possibility that we won't have enough money from the insurance to pay for the rebuild. He enumerated possibilities to fill the gap:

- insurance money
- a loan
- tax-exempt donations
- money from club members

Henry asked how much the building permit will be. John thinks it'll be around \$1,500. Henry expressed a concern that once the job is done the City will "take it over". John said the City will own it immediately.

501(c)(3) versus 501(c)(7) Update

Steve discovered that he can access the required forms on line. He was able to read the mission statements of several bocce federations on line. It looks like making the change would entail moving from being a private club to an organization that promotes the public good. After looking into it, Steve believes that it wouldn't change what we do but how we do it. Here are excerpts from some of the mission statements:

- To promote the establishment of bocce throughout the US, to educate the public primarily related to the sport of bocce. (USBF)
- ...to provide for the development of an ongoing bocce ball courts program for fun and competition...and to raise money for charitable purposes. (Concord Bocce Federation) They define a charitable purpose as maintaining a bocce ball court for the public to enjoy.
- An organization formed to promote and educate ... in the recreational sport of bocce. (Joseph Polich Bocce League, Michigan)
- Amateur bocce league (Lancaster Bocce League, Inc.)

The primary requirement of an organization holding 501(c) (3) status is that it must not serve any private interest which we do because we have members which makes it a private club. This is why Concord doesn't have a membership annual fee however they still make money by charging a higher league fee. Earnings must be used for charitable purposes only which can include maintaining bocce club facilities for public use. The change for us would be that the courts would have to be treated like public courts.

Jay asked if we don't have paid members how would that work. Steve said that people would be league members. Steve plays in a league in Concord on Monday nights and anyone can walk on and use the courts when there's no league playing except in the winter when they chain off the courts because they're dirt and don't want them to be damaged. In Sacramento the people who pay the league fee would have access to the boxes. Al noted that we would just have to open the gate.

Steve doesn't think there will be a change in the rentals. John thinks the only pro is that we can collect tax deductible donations and it will take several years to educate everyone about a change. Steve believes that this is what the City wants us to be—stewards of a public facility. John contrasted our position with the Sutter Club. They have a 501(c)(3) foundation that raises money for the actual club which is a private club and a separate entity. You cannot enter the club without being a member or with a member.

New Business

Landscape Request

Romano read a letter from Elizabeth Antonini-Seargeant. She would like to spread bark and rocks on existing dirt at the complex at her expense. John would like to see the Club add irrigation which would help any landscaping project. Al moved that we approve her project, John seconded and the motion passed. Romano will touch bases with Elizabeth. John would like an email sent confirming the vote.

VIP Games

The president of the group sent us a note thanking the board for their support. He is requesting that we waive the court fee for the future. It would be \$150 which would be in lieu of a cash donation. John moved and Al seconded a motion to approve their request. The motion passed. A letter will be sent to the president.

Certificate of Deposit

The CD matures on Wednesday. The Bank of America is offering a 7-month extension at 4.87% or a 4 month at 3.93%. John recommends a 4-month CD. John moved and Henry seconded to purchase the 4-month CD. The motion passed.

2025 League Dates

Steve sent the board an email setting out proposed dates. The item is tabled for next month.

2025 Budget

Iggy handed out a preliminary budget for next year. It doesn't include the insurance money. John would like the board to look it over and send questions or requests for modifications to Iggy so he can bring in a final proposed budget.

There was talk about our bottom line of \$11,000. Steve sees that we could do what we're doing now and also bring in large amounts of tax-free donations. Henry believes that charitable organizations are having a tough time now with tight money. Steve believes that we can create a tier for people who don't play in a league but want access to the courts and balls. He thinks that Go Fund Me would work for us because we were subject to storm damage. John said we could bring in a third party to whom we pay a small percentage to facilitate receipts of donated funds. He also believes members might donate money to the club. He would be

willing to draft something to ask for money knowing that we have a compelling story.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.