

**East Portal Bocce Club Board Meeting  
East Portal Park Clubhouse  
February 3, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Jay James at 5:27 pm.

**Officers/Directors Present:**

Jay James, President  
Joe Pane, Vice-President  
Catherine Travers, Secretary

**Officers/Directors Absent:**

Iggy Lopez-Alvarez, Treasurer

Steve Choe, Director  
John Leonard, Director  
Romano Luchini, Director/Facilities Manager  
Henry Powell, Director  
Al Velasquez, Director

**Visitors:**

Anna Stratton  
Mary Jaschke  
Randy Stratton  
Laura De La Rosa  
Dennis Siebert  
Toni Overstreet  
Bob Overstreet  
Clark Woy

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

**Roll Call**

The roll call sheet was passed around by the secretary.

**Approval of January Minutes**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Henry reviewed the January Treasurer's Report. Henry moved and Steve seconded a motion to approve the Report. The motion passed.

Henry asked about the contract to repair the roof and asked John how the payments are going to be made. He pointed out that we're getting a good return on the CD and asked Iggy if we had to pull the money out all at once or in parts. Iggy told him we can pull out the money as needed and continue to gain interest on what's left. John responded that the contractor won't get paid until the work is done.

### **Calendar Report**

The morning league needs three teams. Jay got an email from the Stockton Athletic Club looking for players and teams for their Thursday Open Bocce League, Tuesday Raffa Bocce League and a Wednesday and Friday afternoon bocce league. They are also planning various tournaments. Jay can forward their email to anyone who is interested.

### **Old Business**

#### **Friends of East Sacramento**

Joe reminded the Board that he sent an email with the text that he and Catherine came up with. This is a soft sell at this point for money. Joe wants to talk about an event at the courts. Romano proposed selling bricks with names for the barbecue patio. Various ideas were proposed for the ad. Steve read his proposal for the text. Joe and Catherine will take the ideas and come up with a new version.

John moved and Al seconded a motion to accept the revised text as final. The motion passed.

Joe wants to schedule a function. Al suggested a tournament. John suggested an event where people can play and get instruction. It was decided to schedule it on Sunday, April 27. Language was discussed to put on the bottom of the ad.

#### **Update on Lease Agreement**

John gave an update to the Board. He just talked with Jason Wiesemann from the Parks Department. The Agreement will be on the consent agenda at the City Council meeting at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, February 18. John, Steve Cohn and Catherine will attend. John doesn't expect any problems.

#### **Update on Rebuild**

The contract is executed with Simile Construction. Now that we have an agreement on the lease, the rebuild can go forward. The materials have been ordered and construction is scheduled to start on February 18. Courts 4 & 5 will be closed for probably a week to two weeks although it's difficult to know exactly. The work will take place during the day but it's hard to know when or if the courts will need to be off limits in the evening. The contractor will be meeting with Jason Wiesemann from the City at the complex this Friday to go over the plans. Also, a construction fence will not be placed around courts 4 & 5 since the complex is fenced already. Some temporary signs will be put up. Furniture will be moved.

Joe asked about rescheduling games and John said that the team captains will be contacted if they need to reschedule.

### **United States Bocce Federation (USBF) Membership Card and Tournaments**

Steve told the group that the Club pays \$300 for membership to the USBF. In return they give us 15 membership cards retail at \$20 apiece. Steve sold them for \$225.00 which he sent to the treasurer.

Someone asked the purpose of the card. Al explained that a lot of tournaments require membership in the USBF to play. It's good for a year. Steve explained that it's the mission of the USBF to promote the sport and culture of bocce which is similar to our mission. Not all tournaments require membership. The USBF has monthly meetings with the Western Sector which Steve and Jay sometime attend.

A visitor asked if money comes back to the club from a tournament. Steve told her that there was a tournament in November that raised around \$300. John pointed out that the entry fees won't generate much income for the club.

John said that a man named Mike Mathis from Penn Valley organized tournaments here and paid for court rental which was \$150.00. These tournaments were not related to East Portal Bocce Club. Then he moved and Al and Steve wanted to have high-level tournaments. The idea is that in exchange for not paying for court rental they can put the Bocce Complex on the map as a sponsor of high-level tournaments. Another goal was to raise some money for the rebuild.

It was asked why the Club is spending money on something that most club members don't participate in. Steve affirmed that the Club isn't spending money on tournaments. The tournament in January raised about \$85.00 for the rebuild.

Steve doesn't believe that it's necessary to rent the courts when many people from the club are participating in an informal event. Steve said that if all the courts are being used during a tournament, then the courts are rented.

Romano said he's not opposed to having tournaments, but he believes that a small percentage of EPBC participate in tournaments and most members just want to play on the courts. He believes that they aren't demanding new court surfaces. Al and John believe that more and more of our players are participating in tournaments and that people walking by the courts on a Saturday during a tournament become interested in what's going on which is beneficial.

Bob Overstreet said that he believes the general membership doesn't understand the need to be involved in a national organization. They just want to show up and play in their league.

A visitor said that no one knew about the three-person league and it seems like it just happened. Jay asked if the visitors have gone to the website to get information. Catherine told them that all the Minutes and Treasurer Reports are on the website. Jay said that he's hearing criticism of our communication but he pointed out that the information is there on the website; it's that members have to access it. It was decided that the secretary should send an email blast to members with a link to the minutes and a heads up about some of the topics covered to improve communication.

## **New Business**

### **New League Schedule Due to Construction**

John will communicate about any conflicts during a two-week construction schedule that coincides with bocce play. The new schedules have been created by Ryan Tracy and will be sent to the members soon. If there needs to be a make-up due to construction, it should be agreed on by the captains.

### **Three-Person Bocce League**

The visitors had questions about the new summer league. Steve explained that when the Spring and Fall Leagues were shortened it left a gap in the summer with no evening league. Steve wanted to bring more bocce to everyone with a new format that helps people to utilize shooting. Bob asked why we couldn't have fit in a new league along with the three-person league. Steve pointed out that it's a new league and we're trying it out to see if people like it. Bob asked why we can't do both: a regular bocce league in the summer and the three-person league. After a discussion about the summer heat, the new morning league, and the uncertainty

about how many teams will sign up for the new league, it was agreed that an email will go to the members after the next meeting asking who is interested in another regular bocce league in the summer. In the meantime, we'll know how many three-person teams have signed up. The application deadline is April 30.

### **American Cancer Society Tournament**

Al read a letter from Laura De La Rosa to the Board. The fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, May 5. Jay reminded us that the Board has already moved to waive the court fees. They also have access to the clubhouse. Joe moved and John seconded a motion to donate \$500 to breast cancer research. The motion passed.

### **Purchase of New Bocce Balls**

Steve is proposing that we order six additional sets from Super Martel in Italy. These are the same balls we've had for years. We also need more pallinos. The total estimated cost is \$1,350.00. Six sets will be needed for the summer league because they will use six balls during play (12 balls per frame). We can then provide three courts with new balls. We can either sell the old balls or keep them on reserve.

Catherine asked if we could use the older balls for public access. Steve doesn't recommend providing balls for public access. Romano doesn't believe we should get rid of the old balls, and he also has some older balls from the past. Henry reminded the group that we have agreed to twelve days a year of public access and the issue is whether we open the ball stands for use or just make the courts available. There was a discussion about supervision and public access. Steve is sure that if we agree to public access on Sunday there should be Club members there.

A visitor asked about insurance. Board members said that between the City and the Club there is liability, damage and officer's insurance. Catherine told the visitors that we haven't worked out public access yet with the Parks staff.

John moved and Joe seconded a motion to approve Steve's proposal to buy bocce balls. The motion passed.

### **January 18 Tournament**

Steve told the group that he wanted to get an informal smaller group together to play bocce and ended up hosting double the people they expected. They created a side game which made \$85.00. Catherine noted that the Board didn't know about the tournament, and it wasn't on the calendar. She moved that any tournament or

activity scheduled on the courts needs to be brought to the Board for approval and be put on the calendar. There was discussion about how to characterize a tournament or activity. Henry suggested that it could be dealt with in an email. There wasn't a second. John suggested that the motion be tabled to next month. John moved that the motion be tabled to March and Henry seconded the motion. Romano brought up that courts could be rented. The motion passed.

### **Posting Rules at the Courts**

Catherine would like to have the rules posted at the court. She believes they will fit on the right side of the shed. She checked it out with FedEx and requested \$65 for formatting and \$55 for printing, laminating and mounting. John moved and Al seconded a motion to approve the expense. The motion passed.

### **Maintenance Report**

Romano said the locks have been changed and he noted the new combination.

### **Ottavio Luchini**

There was a proposal to create a plaque in his honor. Joe has a bid for \$287.50 for an 8 x 3 bronze plaque. John moved that we spend up to \$300 for the plaque and its installation and Steve seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.