



**The Board of Directors of
The Potomac Curling Club of the National Capital Area, Inc.
MINUTES: Season 2008-09 Meeting 5
October 21, 2008 7:00pm**

Board Members Present:

Lisa Andrew
Susan Armiger
Bruce Black
Ann Drummie
Sandra McMakin
Barry Nichols
Rachel Sethi
George Shirk
Richard Warner

Board Members Not Present:

Michael Fry
Emily Morris

Members Present:

Van Anderson
Bob Leonard
Ken Wray

1) Call to order

7:11pm

Warner

2) Approve minutes of September 15, 2008 Meeting

Motion – Shirk
Second – Andrew
Vote – Approved

Drummie

3) Committee Reports

a) **Outreach Committee:**

Warner, Black

i) **Policies and schedule for rentals vs. members with guests** (Habitat, Albany curler, CPAT, Wash Women)

The committee has selected the following dates to publicly offer for rentals:

Nov. 15
Dec. 6
Jan. 24
Feb. 28
Mar. 14

Each date has two slots of 3-7 and 7:30-11:30, after the Saturday afternoon league.

CPAT – The committee was asked to consider limiting this group to two draws, after the afternoon league, to minimize our volunteer effort for the available revenue. This will be within the context of hosting a bonspiel recently before or after, and a MACA.

Rates - The rates are dated 2005. The committee was asked to consider increasing each category by 10%, but to be sensitive that potential renters may already be working from the rates posted on the website. Susan Armiger will go through the files to determine our rental patterns for group size and payments and will send to Bruce Black, Rich Warner,

Bob Pursell, and Sandra McMakin). The outreach committee will set up a conference call to coordinate a strategy for this season.

Micro-rentals – We have a schedule on the website already. Groups are required to give the club notice, by contacting Howard Griffin through the website. We are asking for a \$10 donation per participant for the lesson, and another \$10 to stay for a game. This initiative may also provide instructional resources that can help the Junior’s coaches those nights as well.

Overall - The discussions within the committee should address the difference between renting the space and renting for opportunities to advance the sport of curling.

b) Membership Committee:

Black, Sethi

i) Review (President’s Reception, phoning, mailing)

The President’s Reception was well received. Over 80 members attended. There were 9 chili entries. Many membership and league forms were submitted that night.

Phoning: Members seemed to really like hearing from the membership committee. If there were concerns about returning they were usually about cost.

Mailing: Envelope stuffing occurred at Rachel Sethi’s house with Ann Drummie, Michael Fry, Megan (guest), Lisa Andrew, and Jason Sethi. To continue with the next phase of the plan, next year we will transition to having email-only as the default, and receiving hard copies in the mail as an opt-in.

Open House: Rachel Sethi emailed the newspapers, but fairly late. She put both OH and LTC on Craig’s list, and as a free classified on WTOG online. She also emailed visitors of open houses today with a thank you and more info on LTC, leagues, and drop-ins.

We had 58 visitors (Thursday 13, Saturday 38, Sunday 7) which is better than recent years.

The Sunday competed against a home Redskins game and holiday weekend.

Rachel Sethi is gathering old email lists to compile a big distribution list for OH and LTC, ready to use for second half of the season.

Hope to see a push for membership at the end of LTC this Saturday and Sunday.

ii) Preliminary review of roster

Drummie

- 135 members registered.
- 4 members hope to return for the second half.
- 8 new members of varying levels of experience.
- 50 unknowns
- 7 not returning
- Sent an email on Sunday checking on unknowns.

c) Training Committee:

McMakin, Shirk

i) General update (Wheelchair curling clinic, Instructors Level I, member clinics)

Wheelchair clinic – The clinic was cancelled primarily because the time of day did not work.

Promotion had been through a disabled sports group. They may want to try it again later in the season on a Saturday afternoon when it is more convenient. The wheelchair instructors are willing to come back with enough notice.

Level I Instructor – The clinic occurred on October 11. We have nine new instructors.

Conductors were George Shirk, Howard Griffin, and Doug Andrew. They did a wonderful job.

Members clinics – The turn out for the first few was ‘dismal’, suggesting that maybe we not host them so early or with such density next year. Similarly, more should be scheduled later in the season when members recognize their flaws. Spreading them out more will also help members put them in their calendars.

LTC – About 35 have signed up.

Level 1 and 2 Officiating: A clinic was supposed to be for this weekend, but will be rescheduled. This does not need ice time, just a room. Sandra McMakin will focus on advertizing within the club. The Level 1 will be in the morning, and the Level 2 in the afternoon. Fees: \$35 for I, \$15 for II.

d) **Leagues Committee:**

Andrew, Morris

i) **General update** (participation, conditions of play)

About 120 people have signed up.

There are two draws for Monday, Wednesday, probably Pizza.

The committee recommends extending the online registration for all leagues for second half.

It's "absolutely the slickest thing" and has worked well for the TGIF league.

ii) **Junior time on Thursdays**

The league and the Junior practices have been coordinated.

e) **Ad hoc Committee re Age in Bonspiels:**

Nichols

i) **Need for a minimum age in bonspiels**

Committee Recommendation: It is not wise for us to suggest any minimum age for bonspiels.

On the one hand, some participants may be uncomfortable, but on the other hand some participants may want to play with young players and we don't want to discourage that.

There is no data to assess if the participation of young players would change someone's choice to participate in a bonspiel in the future. Similarly, there is no data to identify the age that would sway this choice.

The committee will monitor patterns to reassess at the end of the season.

f) **Events Committee:**

Fry

i) **Inaugural Bonspiel follow-up**

The event seemed to go very well. We had 28 teams (about half from out of town). The winners were Scott Edie's senior men's team.

ii) **Grass Out – Ice In**

George Shirk will check back in with Fred. If lawn bowling season has ended, we can welcome them to come curl.

iii) **BIG Spiel**

FL will be chairing the event. She may be modifying the format, but it will still encourage participation and team parity.

iv) **Jan. 2010 Men's Qualifier host request**

Potomac has been asked by the USCA to consider being a host site for a Men's Qualifying round in January 2010. The last time we hosted, the event ran from Thursday morning through Sunday night. The Board acknowledged the effort that would be required of the ice committee, but also acknowledged that it is a very structured schedule which helps. It would be good timing for promotion in an Olympic year. We would likely have to move the January Open House. It would bring a level of competition to our club that is a real opportunity to watch. It would also likely be our year to host the Kayser.

Motion – Warner

Second – Andrew

Vote – Approved

Ann Drummie will inform Bob Pelletier.

- g) **Finance Committee:** *Nichols*
- i) **Financial report ending September 30, 2008**
The latest version of the financial guidelines was distributed, as well as detailed expenses by vendor for July to September, and a balance sheet for the end of June for the prior year. We ended the year with about \$93,000 cash of which \$50k is the CD.
Barry Nichols mentioned the need to research \$5k retainage from the Builder re leakage. (Was it ever settled? Was the money forfeited?) Susan Armiger and Barry Nichols will research.
\$3,262 is in the White fund.
\$15k is in the checking account. (Normal for this time of year.)
- ii) **Insurance**
GNCC is renegotiating the periods of coverage with the USCA through to November. They are running behind. "Errors and omissions" is expected to cover directors and officers.
- h) **Operations Committee:** *Wray, Shirk*
- i) **General update** (lockers, keys)
There are currently no issues, electrically or plumbing-wise.
Rachel Sethi is coordinating locker requests as they come in.
All Board members should have a front door key. (Coordinate with Rachel Sethi.)
- i) **Ice Committee:** *Nichols*
- i) **General update**
This past weekend, we donated one of the scrapers to the Pittsburgh Curling Club. We still have two reliable scrapers. The committee is looking at replacing the ice thermometer toward the end of this week. Siemans will be here Friday morning to replace the carbon cylinder in the de-ionized system.
We may be underestimating the costs of making ice. The committee will review the costs of this year to plan for the rest of this year and the future, considering the use of deionized water and our contract with Siemans, and the age and maintenance of our equipment.
Ken Wray is writing up a lessons learned like last year.
The nipper is not nipping as aggressively as last year before it was overhauled. Ken Wray is making progressive adjustments to gradually see the ice speed increasing sooner in a game.
George Shirk, on behalf of the Board, thanked Ken Wray for all of his efforts, especially for getting the ice in, and for preparing the ice through the Inaugural bonspiel.
- j) **Vision Committee:** *Drummie*
- i) **General update**
No report
- k) **By-laws Committee:** *Fry*
- i) **General update**
No report.
- l) **Communications Committee:** *Drummie*
- i) **2008-09 calendar**
Distributed.

4) Other Business

Fundraising:

There is a need to identify a fundraising chair. George Shirk mentioned that he was disappointed that there wasn't an auction at the Inaugural. At least however, the club should be getting something back from the hotel, and a check from Goldline (approximately \$250), and there was a 50:50 draw. The Finance Committee will try to identify someone.

Volunteer jobs for team trials in Colorado:

The information for our members to volunteer at the National Championships/Olympic Trials is posted on the bulletin board.

5) Next Meetings

Sunday, November 23, 2008, noon (Emily Morris and Ann Drummie will be away)
Sunday, December 14, 2008, 3:00 pm (tentative time - pending BIG Spiel schedule)

9:05pm