

Potomac Curling Club
43rd Annual Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2005

I. Call to Order

President Dominique Banville called the meeting to order at 5:20pm

II. Secretary's Report

Motion: Approve minutes from the May 14, 2004 Annual Meeting
[1st - Lin, Charissa 2nd - Arminger, Susan]

Vote: Motion approved unanimously

III. Treasurer's Report

- a. Rich Collins distributed and reviewed the attached report.
- b. Barry Nichols discussed the budget process.

IV. Closing of Polls

V. Forum

- a. Board Operation – Banville described the Board structure (11 members for 3-year terms unless partial terms are available, officers elected by the board at the first meeting of the year). Committee structure was discussed.
- b. Membership categories / Dues structure – Barry Bass / Michael Fry presented a membership analysis. Discussion of dues took place.
- c. Volunteerism – George Shirk made a presentation on volunteerism and made a special call for assistance with the work parties over the summer.
- d. Operations / Club Maintenance – Doug Andrew, Rich Collins and John Bittner gave a brief presentation regarding operations, club maintenance and summer work plans.
- e. Kitchen Policy – Per Banville's request - Mark Hartz gave reasons for why we needed a kitchen policy – public health and sanitary health concerns.
- f. Rental Philosophy – John Bittner & FL Ettlin briefly said we will raise the rates.
- g. League Structure – Discussion of league schedule, including recommendation for changes by the scheduling committee.
- h. Calendar 05-06

VI. Question and Answer period

Tabled – already discussed in the Forum section

VII. Election Results

Dominique Banville (3-yr term)

David Hamilton (3-yr term)

Mark Hartz (3-yr term)

Brian Galebach (1-yr term to finish Collins term)

VIII. Adjourn

Move to Adjourn (1st – Fred Hopke, 2nd – Tim Harwood)

Vote: Passed unanimously

Meeting ended at 7:03pm

General Notes:

From Barry Nichols' discussion of how the Budget Process takes place. (25k utilities, 15k taxes, most of the rest of 165k-180k annually goes to mortgage and loan payments). Revenue side is fueled by the top three categories of Membership Dues, Revenues from Bonspiels, followed by Donations/Contributions/Fund Raising activities). We build a budget based on what we expect to spend in the coming year.

Derek Surka mentioned the possibility of having the membership elect people for some specific positions – such as officers and committee chairman roles. ByLaws would have to be changed for this to take place.

Ann Drummie mentioned that within the new structure we would need to have some sense of a succession plan. (i.e. VP will be President the following year).

Scott Edie suggested that there is the possibility of having multi-year positions for some of the most important committees to ensure that there is a chance to train others.

Ed White mentioned the rotation of officer positions as well.

John Warshawsky suggested the possibility of a “Hybrid” dues structure – with a base dollar rate for membership, with a fee per half-season league.

Charrissa Lin – Concerned that if we drop membership dues to a per league basis can we support as many members as needed to bring the income up to where we will need it to be.

Kathy Riikonen – Mixed message. We want to encourage people to curl, yet Charrissa is saying we can't expand the club. Kathy R. also suggests that the Hybrid rate should be something to consider. Perhaps different leagues should be worth different amounts, and that total costs would have to be capped.

Barry Bass – are we a club or are we a facility? A club encourages people to be here as much as possible, or a pay per visit type of approach. We need to decide our philosophy.

Barry Nichols – revisits budget item – could drop 60k portion of the budget which is driving the membership fees to reduce membership costs, if we pick up that money elsewhere.

Jan Little – Says the cost is about \$20 a week. We can't afford to reduce the dues because we have a huge debt.

Barry Bass – when setting the budget, we haven't been able to convince ourselves that we will have the income from other sources to allow the reduction in dues.

Fred Hopke – Make a more graduated step for new curlers, or is it a matter of it just being too expensive? Also – if you go for a pay-per-league structure the police work by league coordinators will be difficult at best. He feels we are a member of a club.

Caitlin Shaw – How do we relate to other clubs? (Bass - Broomstones is \$430 for full rate, they also offer young adult, provisional membership, and junior rates.)

Michael Fry – Club vs. Facility. A couple of years ago, the Board met and set out a 5-year plan. We collectively came up with the idea of “the Club”. Is the distinction of a Club vs. Rental facility such as a bowling alley worth discussing? General opinion is that we would destroy the Club by changing the atmosphere to a rental facility.

Ann Drummie – feels that our investment in members and participation is working. We are supporting people to help them get to the eventual full-priced member category. Option on the table is to create some kind of discount for those that are playing once per week. If we can create a way to say i.e. \$350 you can play once a week, this is a discount and a privilege.

Barry Bass replied that for the Math of this – if 80 members curl in that \$100 discount category we would be down 8k annually and would have to find another way to replace those monies in the budget.

Heather Cook – Feels our prices are not out of range.

Tina Ours – Feels that \$20 a week is a better way to look at the costs. \$450 doesn't seem so bad when you realize the value.

Louane LeBlanc – Feels that the additional costs of curling need to be kept in mind, gas, dinner, etc. There is more than \$20 a week being spent.

Charrissa Lin – If we go towards single league rate, consider having a rate for people who just wish to practice and not join any league at all.

George Shirk – 20/80 Rule on volunteerism. It's actually 40/80 in our club (unscientific). 40% of members do 80% of the work. 37 sub-committees are looking for help. A great way to start out is to clean up tonight.

Dave Crim – a board listing people that volunteer would be worthy. A way to recognize volunteers would be good.

Charrissa Lin suggests making a “volunteer budget” The Board may need to think about where to spend those hours carefully.

Rich Collins – discussed the need for volunteers to help out with the bar, kitchen, drink cabinet, maintenance and general facility operations. Harvey has been doing Pro Shop,

John Bittner is our liaison for the Gardens Ice House, (we may need to take a more active role on restrooms),

Doug Andrew – Summer plans – cleaning, painting, general repair, a spot to hang measuring devices. Last summer we had 31 people provided something like 70 person days worth of work.

On Rentals – please consider the costs of facility, ice condition recovery.

Leagues – still working on making decisions.

Derek Surka – We've talked about capital league moving, to try and avoid complications with bonspiels/tournaments. Why impact all three leagues?

Brian Galebach also wants to know why all three leagues.

Ann Drummie – the key is the new league, and when is the new time for the new league?

Charrissa Lin – Can we take a poll about league movement? I understand why expand juniors, but this removes practice time. Can we do a shared timeframe?

Dawn Findlay – What is this ladder league? Is it open? (Yes, open – will it impact ladies league?)

Derek Surka – it seems that we think about making these things based on what we hear from people. We are just speculating. Can we ask people in a poll?

Jan Little – the only way curling will survive is through grass roots curling, not competitive curling.

Dawn Findlay – Helping grow women's curling in the club is one of the major reasons to curl in that league. You will severely impact women's curling in the club by having another league on the same night.

Brian Galebach – suggests Saturday afternoons

Fred Hopke – asks everyone to understand that the schedule/leagues is still evolving.

Dominique Banville – we will do this in steps, and we will let the membership know about what is going on regarding the leagues/schedules.

Joan Twigg – alternate ice times / game times – are we going to vote on this or ask for input? (Please start thinking of preferences, each league will make their own choice for start times.)

June 11	Work Party
July 16	Work Party
August 20	Work Party
Oct. 15/16	Open House
Oct. 21-23	Inaugural Bonspiel (Coordinators is Neil C and Mark Hartz)
Dec. 15-18	USCA Men's Prelims (for the worlds)
Feb. 9-12	Dykes
TBD	Chesapeake/Potomac Invitational Bonspiel
Mar. 23-26	Cherry Blossom