

**i Yukon Pickleball Monthly Meeting
October 13, 2022
12:00 -1:30 Sport Yukon**

Attending:

Jim Gilpin, Hector Campbell (Zoom), Erik Hoenisch, Brenda Dion , Gord Clark, Sue Staffen, Walter Brennan

Call to Order:

Jim Gilpin called meeting to order 12:07.

Adoption of Agenda:

Item #11, Relationship with Tennis Yukon, Added by Jim. Moved by Sue, 2nd Jim.

Minutes of September 15, 2022:

Motion to adopt: Moved by Brenda, 2nd Jim.

Old Business: Nothing

New Business:

1. Treasurer's Report:

Close to \$7 K in bank account. Waiting for Strategic Planning money from CDF. \$800 paid to Sue Meikle so far which includes \$100 for Survey Monkey. Since last meeting we have had another 11 Takhini sign-ups for a total of 47. We had 53 YPA members signed up for outdoor play at Mt Mac this summer. Jim received \$100 from Carmacks Recreation for Clinic in Carmacks. Jim and Gord have donated some of their winnings from the Carmacks tournament to YPA.

2. Strategic Plan Update - Brenda:

Plan is on schedule for Saturday, October 15th.
We expect a total of 12 including Board members, Past President, some member invites, and Sue Meikle. We have extended an invite to Keri at Canada Games Centre but still awaiting confirmation.

Gord has agreed to arrange for coffee, snacks, and lunch. Walter and Sue to bring muffins.

3. Dawson City Clinic November 13-15 – Brenda:

Brenda and Bryan offered to put this on at the request of Dawson City Recreation Coordinator. Dates confirmed. Dawson City will pay for flights, hotel and per diem for two people. Two evening clinics proposed (Sunday and Monday). They also want to expose kids on Monday at the school. Brenda expressed that we like to have 8 minimum and 12 participants maximum at each session. They have two nets and 3 courts in the school. Brenda will bring one net, paddles, and balls.

4. NCCP Level 1 and Level 2 Courses – Brenda

Pickleball Canada is now starting courses to certify Level 2 Instructors. Presently YPA has 8 Level 1 Instructors who are fully certified and eligible to take Level 2. Mark Renneson from Pickleball Canada has expressed interest in possibly coming up to deliver both a Level 1 and a Level 2 course for us this spring (Easter weekend?).

There are some challenges for us to do these this spring. Is there enough interest for both courses? Can we secure a facility that will give us three 8 hours days in succession? We will need one 8-hr day for Level 1 and two 8-hr days for Level 2. Pickleball Canada is now making recommendations on skill level for those taking part in these Levels (3.0 for Level 1, 3.5 for Level 2).

Brenda will contact Mark Renneson after our Strategic Planning session to find out when he can come to deliver these courses asking for Spring and Fall options and the costs associated with the delivery. In the interim YPA will poll the pickleball community to gauge interest in taking these courses and when.

5. International Day of Old Persons at CGC:

Hector was contacted the day before the event to see if YPA could help. Thanks to Brenda, Bryan, Sue, and Ted they were able to make it happen. It was basically a “see it – try it event” on a drop-in basis. This approach does not work well for us.

There was some confusion as to who was to organize the Pickleball portion of the event.

This is an annual event on October 1st every year. For the other activities there was a sign-up schedule in half-hour segments. If we are going to be involved, we would like to schedule 1/2-hour segments to coincide with the other activities. YPA wants to ensure we show we are organized and prepare a segment that will attract the public to

the game of pickleball, but not on an ad-hoc basis. This has been expressed to the organizers of the event which we want to be part of.

6. Pickleball Fundamentals at CGC:

CGC has approached YPA to teach three courses in the new year (Jan, Feb, and March). Two sessions are from 6:00 -7:30 and one later from 8:00- 9:30. Brenda has sent a note to all Instructors asking if they can help teach the classes. Some have been more involved than others in the past but now we have nearly everyone who is interested in participating in the program.

There is a fundamental problem in that those taking the beginner classes have expressed a concern with where to play when the classes are finished. Most do not feel welcome and are intimidated going to the CGC open times. This has been an ongoing issue we have heard repeatedly. A start for CGC could be scheduling court times for beginners only. They have been ambivalent in the past to consider this option.

YPA will be meeting with Keri at CGC to try and resolve this issue and discuss several other topics where CGC can have an important role in promoting the game. In addition, teaching the Pickleball Fundamentals for CGC will be discussed at our Strategic Planning session and we would like to have Keri attend to hear the concerns being expressed.

7. Takhini School Fall Update:

Wayne Tuck has agreed to co-ordinate Ladder League #2. Presently there are 17 signed up but we would like to have 30. Jim has sent out a note informing members they need to contact Wayne to let him know they are interested and to let him know if they need a sub to fill their spot.

Hector has been working closely with the folks at Pickleball Canada to align our website with the PCO website. He walked the group through the process he has been working on to improve our website and replace Signup Genius for Takhini by the end of October. As there has been a lot of complaints about our website and the ease of signing up for various programs we will move slowly to have full implementation of the revised website by January. The ability to sign up for Round Robin, Shot Clinics and Private Court Bookings will be in place by the last week of October. Jim, in collaboration with Hector, will be sending out instructions to YPA members on how to sign up for these events.

To encourage existing and new members to take advantage of Takhini courts the fee will be reduced to \$10 for the remainder of the fall session. The fee will be collected by a Board member at the facility.

Shot Clinics are still scheduled on Saturdays from 4:00- 6:00. Six people with two instructors. November 5th- Walter, November 19th Brenda, December 10th Jim/Hector. We do not have access to the gym on December 3rd.

8. City' Approach to Developing Pickleball Courts:

City of Whitehorse Recreation unit is planning on painting pickleball lines on several community rinks in an effort to help meet the need for pickleball courts. This was done even though the YPA had advised against this approach. The YPA would like to meet with Mayor and Council to explain why this may be a short-sighted approach to meet the growing demand for pickleball courts in Whitehorse. We have a lot of data and information we can share with the city regarding what is happening across the country and the problems with having courts near residential areas like outdoor community rinks. Jim will try to arrange a time for a YPA presentation to Mayor and Council. We can also inform others in the community who support pickleball we are meeting with Mayor and Council.

9. Indoor Multi-Use Racquet Facility:

Jim will attend another meeting next week with Tennis Yukon, Badminton, Pickleball and Squash on the development of a multi-use racquet facility. Tennis Yukon would like to see two courts which translates to at least 8 badminton / pickleball courts.

Given we pay the same rates as Tennis Yukon members and the courts are rarely fully subscribed during the evenings Jim will approach them to see if we can extend our use beyond the weekly morning times to include at least two days a week from 5:00 -9:00 that does not interfere with their programming. Jim will draft a letter for our review that we want to work with Tennis Yukon co-operatively on the use of both indoor and outdoor courts.

10. Tennis Yukon Summer Pass Reimbursement:

Eric will write cheque for \$1500.00 to Tennis Yukon for the use of the outdoor courts this summer

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm. Gord and Sue will be out of town

Next Meeting: Nov 10th , 2022, 12:00 noon @ Sport Yukon