**INVERMERE PICKLEBALL CLUB AGM MEETING MINUTES - FINAL**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

**LOCATION: INVERMERE AND DISTRICT CURLING CLUB**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Ray Schoepfer – President (Outgoing)

John Robertson – Vice President

Sheila Stevenson – Treasurer

Lisa McIntosh – Communications

Kathy Billesberger – Secretary

Carol Keshin – Social

Wes Coulson – Facilities (Outgoing)

Simon Gingras – Volunteers (Outgoing)

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

1.**Approval of minutes from previous AGM**.

Minutes for the 2022 AGM approved.

2.**Treasurer’s Report**:

Items purchased last year included 100 Franklin pickleballs. No new nets were needed which was a great savings. We currently have just over $9,000 in our bank account with just a few bills left to pay. The amount leaves us in a good position as we move forward renting the curling club for next year. We currently have 160 adult members and 10 junior members.

Drop in fees for next year were discussed and considering leaving it the same for next year. $10 drop in fee for scheduled events at the curling rink and a $5.00 drop in for Mt. Nelson or the curling club when we move indoors for poor weather.

3. **Recap of the 2023 Season**:

Overall our move to one membership fee which includes access to all outdoor and indoor play was extremely well received by members. Guests to the valley over the season were enthusiastic towards what we have to offer. General level of play within the club has increased beautifully this season due to the popular skills and drills program and the sheer availability of playing opportunities.

Next season we plan to continue with the paddle in play system for drop in to allow for the mixing of all club members. The challenge board trial was not successful so we will continue to explore other ways to offer different levels of play outside of the regular drop in times.

Lessons for beginners were extremely popular this year and so we will continue to make those available to our community. We expect great turnout for those. Increasing the importance of having play time specifically for beginner plays before they are comfortable enough to come out to the drop in.

The skills and drills, ladies’ night and advanced round robin will be a go again for next year. All suggestions for other sessions are welcome. It was suggested at the meeting that a skills and drills session during the day (in addition to the evening one) would be appreciated.

It’s important to note that with the curling rink and access to Mt. Nelson in the mornings (hopefully the District of Invermere (D.O.I.)will continue to allow that for the next season) we are able to offer a wide range of programs. ALL of which will be contingent on having enough volunteer hosts to make it happen. Without the volunteers the club is limited to what it can do.

**4. Society Update**:

We are now a registered Society and are hopeful the D.O.I. will move towards providing permanent outdoor pickleball courts. As a Society we are in a position to participate in some sort of fundraising component to assist in making it happen.

**5. D.O. I. Update:**

We continue to try and get the D.O.I. to provide permanent outdoor courts. We have been presenting options and waiting for over four years. The Club still maintains turning Mt. Nelson into permanent courts makes the most sense from a location and cost perspectives. We agree it’s important to also offer great basketball courts for the only other user group of the site. Perhaps in the big space right next to the courts. The D.O.I. currently has an $80,000 grant offered to them from B.C. Tourism. It was earmarked for pickleball, but no action has been taken and at some point will be lost if not used. We will once again approach the D.O.I. asking them to move forward with putting the money towards building new basketball courts and converting the existing area to a permanent pickleball site.

**6. Invermere and District Curling Club**:

All in attendance agreed the curling club facility has been a great asset to our club for the past two years. Wes explained the improvements planned for the curling club to manage the noise. The offer is also on the table that we can cover the advertisements on the wall if want to do that. If anyone is willing to take on that project, please let someone on the Board know.

It was agreed we should try to utilize the curling club more next year. Ideas thrown around included offering a tournament, hosting inter-club play, etc.

**7. Winter Play:**

Winter play continues to be outside of the Club’s responsibility. In the past, winter play was handled by the Columbia Valley Indoor Pickleball Association (CVIPA), but this year the rec center has indicated it will manage all play and interested members are advised to continue to monitor their website to see what is offered. The CVIPA continues to keep an eye on what’s going on and are in communication with the management of the rec centre to ensure there are some great options for play this winter.

**8. Membership Fees**:

The Board was prepared to keep fees the same for the year ahead, but the members in attendance voted to increase the Invermere Pickleball Club portion of fees from $80 to $100 per person per season plus whatever fees being charged by Pickleball BC and Pickleball Canada. Reasoning behind the decision included the ability to comfortably pay for the curling rink, provide new nets, etc. as needed and to have the beginning of a small fund should we successfully get the D.O.I. to provide a space for permanent courts. It has been made clear the Club will be required to participate in funding.

**9. Board of Directors For the Coming Year:**

Lisa McIntosh – President & Communications

John Robertson – Vice President

Sheila Stevenson – Treasurer

Kathy Billesberger – Secretary

Carol Keshin – Social

Ray Schoepfer – New Player Development

Cathy Howard – TBD

Rachid Ould-Hamouda - TBD

Position #9 – Open

Position #10 – Open

Thank you to Wes and Simon for their work on the Board. They have resigned their positions. Ideas for available Directors’ positions include Volunteer Coordinator, Junior Coordinator and Member Liaison. The subject of “subcommittees” was suggested and will be considered moving forward.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15.