



Minutes of The Directors of Mississippi Gulf Coast Pickleball, Inc.

A regular meeting of the Directors of the above corporation was held on the 17th day of June, 2021, at 1:02 PM at Donal Snyder Community Center, 2520 Pass Road, Biloxi, MS, in accordance with the Corporation's bylaws.

I. Quorum. A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following Directors: Tom Linenberger, Deonne Linenberger, Jerry Hodges, Rebecca Watson, Paulette Dove, Lanny Henderson, Shirley Maxwell, Mo Pouriraji, Mike McElroy, and Dan Hunter.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Officer's Reports

Tom Linenberger (President):

- 1) SMPDD Partnership: Tom opened the meeting with a short description of SMPDD (Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District), a non-profit agency that provides assistance and funding for senior programs as one of their missions. Tom distributed copies of their quarterly newsletter highlighting the Pickleball Mixer Tournament sponsored by SMPDD on May 19 in conjunction with Mississippi Gulf Coast Pickleball, Inc. This tournament was held during "Older Americans Month" and our non-profit received a \$2,000 sponsorship from SMPDD for the event; SMPDD wants to continue to partner with us in the future.
- 2) Pascagoula Pickleball: Tom said that he and Deonne met with the City Manager and Recreation Commission for the City of Pascagoula. Two

outdoor courts will be constructed at Lighthouse Park in the Fall of 2021. The Commission was receptive to developing a plan to use the City's Recreation Center for indoor courts and possibly converting tennis courts at Pine Street Park to pickleball.

- 3) Ladder League: Tom reported that Vicki Collier and Bob Summerville tentatively volunteered to start a Ladder League in the Fall.
- 4) Treasure Oaks Pickleball Exhibition June 11: Tom reported that a pickleball exhibition was held at Treasure Oaks (tennis club) in Ocean Springs to generate interest, and that Jenni Boscovich and Brad Shonk did an excellent job introducing the sport to those that attended.
- 5) Pickleball in Bay St. Louis & Diamondhead: Tom asked Shirley Maxwell to update. She provided the following: Two clay courts at Tennis World in Diamondhead are available, with money approved for courts at the Clubhouse to be redone in the Fall. Goldie Fairconnetue has talked with the mayor of Bay St. Louis, and will meet with him again concerning availability of pickleball facilities.
- 6) Night play: Tom said that he is still looking for available places for night play in the fall, with Michel Jr. High School as a possibility.

Deonne Linenberger (Vice-President):

- 1) Status of gulfcoast.org website: Deonne stated that she has met with the website content manager, Matthew Knight, and provided him with testimonials; we will be included under "Sports/Facilities" and would like to be listed under "Things to Do" and "Free Things to Do". Deonne reported that photo shoots at all Gulf Coast pickleball play venues were completed by a photographer for Coastal Mississippi, and that shots from the Senior Olympics will also be included
- 2) Per statistics gathered from players at the Senior Olympics Pickleball Tournament and computed by the Coastal Mississippi organization, Deonne reported that the economic impact of the event was \$139,740.00.
- 3) Deonne submitted updated visitor statistics from Dec. 1, 2020 to May 27, 2021. A copy is attached to these Minutes.
- 4) Raffle Proceeds: Deonne submitted an accounting of revenue and expenses related to the fundraising raffle held at the Senior Olympics Pickleball event. Net proceeds totaled \$3,479.55.

- 5) Status of Fundraising Efforts: Deonne reported that a total of \$5,342.30 has been received thus far as a result of the fundraising email and post to our Facebook page. Funds donated are specified by donors to either General Program expenses, Non-restrictive use, the Veterans Outreach Program, or the Capital Fund.

Jerry Hodges (Treasurer):

- 1) Jerry reviewed the financial status of the organization as of June 17, 2021, per documents attached to these Minutes.
- 2) Current Status of Application for Gulf Coast Restoration Funds (GCRF) project: Jerry reported the following:

Mayor Gilich enthusiastically supports the project and wants Biloxi to become a pickleball mecca. Per a meeting with the City of Biloxi Administrator, the City will commit to a 20% match of funds; a resolution will be submitted to the City Council for approval at the next meeting. Dan Hunter has reached out to members of Harrison County's Board of Supervisors and secured a meeting with them for matching funds support. We currently have letters of support from 4 casinos, 2 physicians, the Senior Olympics Committee, and are pending a letter from First Baptist Church. Tom has been working on photos to include with the grant application. Jerry now has financial data to project some of the economic impact from tournaments, and still needs financial impact numbers for those who decide to move/relocate to the Gulf Coast. The writing of the narratives to support the application has begun; Grace Aaron (City grant writer) will be consulted for review. We discovered that funds expended subsequent to 2010 can be counted toward the 20% match requirement; we will present the proposed expansion as phase 2 and completion. The City of Biloxi's commitment to construction of the bathroom at the Popp's Ferry courts will be counted in phase 2. Jerry closed with 3 points: the grant approval process is highly political, we have a "feel good" project with lots of support, and he likes our chances of successfully getting this grant.

IV. Old Business

Status of Promoting Pickleball with Home School Association and Gulfport Athletic Director

Paulette Dove reported that this will happen in July. She explained that in-service training for teachers is conducted prior to the

beginning of the school year. Paulette has talked with the Gulfport Athletic Director. He approved a plan for us to teach pickleball to the coaches during in-service training the last week in July, so that the coaches can then teach the students.

V. New Business

Construction of Restroom at Popp's Ferry Courts

Per Tom Linenberger, the City of Biloxi passed a resolution to fund the project as a capital improvement and will design the structure in-house. The mayor did not request funding from Mississippi Gulf Coast Pickleball, Inc.

Hosting Charity Tournament in Fall

Tom Linenberger proposed hosting another charity tournament in the fall. He said that Vicki Collier has volunteered to run it and asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to support the tournament. Dan Hunter volunteered for committee chair, with Rebecca Watson agreeing to serve on the committee. Discussion followed regarding which charity organizations to raise funds for; no final decision was made.

In addition to the above New Business items from the Agenda, Shirley Maxwell communicated a question from Robert Phillips: can we have some programs to increase awareness for seniors on how to recognize symptoms of potential heart problems? Tom Linenberger agreed to talk with the SMPDD organization and find out what they could do for us.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 2:20 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 1pm on September 16, 2021, at Donal Snyder Community Center.

Certification

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Corporation, do certify that the foregoing is a true, exact and correct copy of the resolutions adopted at a lawfully held meeting of the Corporation's Board of Directors on the 17th day of June, 2021.

Rebecca Watson
Secretary