



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

A regular meeting of the Directors of the above corporation was held on the 21st day of September 2023 at 11:30 at Donal Snyder Community Center, 2520 Pass Road, Biloxi, MS in accordance with the Corporation's by laws.

1. Quorum declared by present members: Tom & Deonne Linenberger, Chris Hardy, Michael Gilreath, Judy Capranica, Arlene LeBlanc, Paula Fairconnetue, Dr. Michael Van Winkle and Dave Barron.

11. The minutes of the previous meeting held on June 15, 2023, were approved via email on July 5, 2023.

111. Officers Report

Tom Linenberger, President

Kathryn Lewis nominated Nancy Depreo, Mayor of Diamondhead, and Ernie Knobloch, Diamondhead POA President, to serve on the Board of Directors. Their nominations were unanimously approved. Board also voted to send letters to Robert Phillips & Dr. Gerald Bristol thanking them for serving as Advisory Board members for the past three years.

Michael Gilreath, Treasurer

Reported that we have a balance of \$11,936.21. We received a donation for \$800 which allowed us to purchase a permanent outdoor net for the Home of Grace Addiction and Recovery Center in Vancleave. Other expenses included purchase of pizza for the Veterans event and the annual website fee.

Judy Capranica, Secretary

Judy recognized Tom's & Deonne's many years (8+) of service, dedication, and achievements growing our pickleball community.

IV. Old Business

Tom Linenberger

**Popp's Ferry Pickleball Complex/Open Air Pavilion
Milestones-**

The restroom construction is scheduled for completion on October 1. Electronic locks have been installed on the entry doors with the timer set to open at 6:30 am and close at 10:00 pm. The pavilion construction is set to start Wednesday, September 27. It will be a 20 x 20 timber structure with two picnic tables and three benches. A fan, lights, and electrical outlets will be installed.

Training at Blake Fitness Center (KAFB)-

The Blake Fitness Center has four indoor courts. We trained 54 active duty, retirees, and dependents during two sessions, August 23 and 26. Construction of outdoor courts are still planned.

Kathryn Lewis (read by Deonne)

Hancock Co. potential indoor sites-

Kathryn visited two shelter sites in Picayune and Kiln. She was advised to wait until after the November elections to speak with newly elected supervisor.

Paula Fairconnetue

Bay St. Louis/Waveland update-

Paula said that Bay St. Louis is accepting bids to construct two courts and Waveland has received a grant through AARP to build four courts.

Chris Hardy

Beginner lessons in Jackson County update-

Chris had suspended lessons during the summer due to the heat but is ready to start up again. He stated that Anthony Callegari's beginner/intermediate clinics are a great idea and there are more certified coaches that could join in. Deonne shared she has received positive feedback from attendees. Anthony is using Circle Park in Biloxi for the clinics. Deonne stated that Anthony met all the City's requirements to allow him to charge for the clinics - registered with the State and IRS as a sole proprietor and has liability insurance through the professional pickleball registry.

Deonne Linenberger

Website usage and cost-

The annual website service fee expires August 2024. If the Board is interested in a cheaper website cost, Deonne suggested the Board members research alternatives and have a discussion concerning future website services closer to the end of the current contract. All members present agreed.

V. New Business

Tom Linenberger

Meeting with Bacot Foundation of South Mississippi- Tom and Deonne met with the Executive Director, Todd Trenchard, to discuss pickleball programs that jointly would aid our mission and their foundation's interests. Bacot Foundation is a non-profit public charity that

supports youth, education, the arts, and other worthy causes.

Status of Home of Grace-

Home of Grace Addiction and Recovery Centers were ideal for promoting pickleball programs. The men's facility is in Vancleave and the women's is in Gautier. We will continue training sessions monthly as new clients cycle in. We have donated outdoor nets, paddles, & balls, and used our court template to line the courts. We are working with the Vancleave staff to add additional asphalt paving to construct an additional court. The clients in both locations are enthusiastic and play pickleball frequently.

Partnership with Dream Foundation, Inc.-

Through the Bacot Foundation, we have partnered with The Dream Foundation to begin a special needs pickleball program. They work with over 400 special needs youth and adults in other sports and activities and would like to add pickleball. LeAnne Gilbert, who taught special education for 31 years, has stepped forward to lead the program. Fourteen pickleball players have volunteered to assist her. The program will start in late October with approximately 20 participants. An estimated \$600-\$800 will be required for equipment to get the program started. A motion was brought forward by Dave and seconded by Chris to allocate the funds for the equipment if donations are unavailable. All members present agreed. Arlene shared that there is a children's book about a special needs girl called "Pickleball Is My Superpower".

KAFB Youth Center pickleball training-

We will be holding several pickleball training sessions at the Youth Center for 10-15 year olds. Several have volunteered to assist with this training. First session is October 4 with additional three days of camp in December with two-hour sessions each day. This is a good way to introduce pickleball to the youth.

**Southern Pickleball Association Tournament-
Registration for this tournament has been a little slow and they have extended registration through October 14. Island View Casino has agreed to sponsor a comfort station. We will provide volunteers to distribute water, Gatorade, juice, power bars, crackers, and chips.**

**Biloxi High School Softball Booster Club PB Fundraiser-
Popp's Ferry courts have been reserved for a tournament December 9 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Proceeds will benefit the Biloxi softball program.**

**Purchase of paint machine-
Tom suggested purchasing a Grainger paint machine to complement our court lining template. The template has proved to be a useful tool & adding the paint machine would make the process easier. The cost would be \$161.00. Judy made the motion with Michael Gilreath seconding and all present members approved the purchase.**

**Pickleball courts in D'Iberville, Downtown Biloxi, and Bay St. Louis-
Tom was asked by the D'Iberville Parks and Recreation Director to provide a cost estimate for the Mayor to convert four tennis courts to twelve pickleball courts. Tom also met with Biloxi Main Street who have awarded a contract to construct two courts under the I-110 bridge. The site is south of the farmers market with shops & restaurants close by. We had also previously heard from Paula about the two courts in Bay St. Louis.**

Deonne Linenberger

**MGCP, Inc t-shirt sales status-
Deonne said we ordered 218 shirts on September 13. T-shirts should be ready for pick up the week of October 16. Volunteers will be needed to sort & distribute the shirts. Michael Gilreath suggested for our next fundraiser we also offer towels & hats & volunteered to take for action.**

Open Discussion-

Deonne mentioned that Eagle Point Park is installing lights at the courts. Deonne also mentioned that a Pickleball Club has been started at Biloxi High School. She also shared that since January, 482 new players have been trained at the introduction to pickleball classes all along the coast. Also, beginner open play is now scheduled at Donal Snyder on Tuesday and Thursday noon to 2:00 pm and at Lyman on Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 pm.

Chris Hardy mentioned Harrison County may convert old tennis courts to pickleball at the Community Center in Woolmarket. Also, Jackson County and the YMCA have plans to put courts in the Safe House shelter in St. Martin as part of a program called Active Jackson County.

Tom mentioned some private developers may be interested in developing courts on Pass Road in the old Hobby Lobby location.

Michael Gilreath mentioned he is working with his leadership at First Baptist Church Gulfport to line the gym floor for a court and also with the developer in his neighborhood to construct a court.

Judy said that putting a court in her neighborhood came up for discussion, but after being presented with preliminary costs, they did not have enough funds at this time. Judy said they may mark a court in one of the cul-de-sacs and invite neighbors out for a tutorial to spark interest.

Dave brought up requests from players about relining the courts at Lyman to include one more court. Deonne's concern was it would interfere when they close off the extra room and also that the population of players would not warrant it yet. Hopefully,

participation will continue to increase and a fifth court can be added.

VI. Next Meeting

Since our next tentative meeting date is so close to the holidays, we agreed to change the date and keep the Donal Snyder location.

Our next scheduled meeting is to be held on Thursday Dec 14, 2023, at 11:30 am at the Donal Snyder Community Center.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:36 pm.

Certification

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Corporation, do certify that the foregoing is true, exact, and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a lawfully held meeting of the Corporation's Board of Directors on the 21st day of September 2023.

**Judy Capranica
Secretary**

