

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

A regular meeting of the Directors of the above corporation was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December at 11:30 PM at the Donal Snyder Community Center, Biloxi, in accordance with the Corporation's bylaws.

**I. Quorum.** Directors present were Tom Linenberger, Deonne Linenberger, Michael Gilreath, Arlene LeBlanc, and Dave Baron.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved via email dated October 5, 2023.

### **III. Officer's Reports**

Tom Linenberger (President) expressed his gratitude to the three Directors whose terms expire December 31, 2023, for serving on the Board: Shirley Maxwell, Judy Capranica, and Lee Yarbrough. .

Tom asked the Board to consider holding a social event to thank the many volunteers who participate to make the Board's outreach programs successful as well as the many generous donors. A catered event was suggested at perhaps the large pavilion at the soccer fields. Tom will obtain a cost estimate for approximately 60 people. This topic will be further discussed at the March meeting.

Michael Gilreath (Treasurer) gave a brief report of the current financial position. Net assets this quarter include donations for the special needs program and the pickleball project at the Home of Grace Addiction Recovery Center. Proceeds from the shirt sales were \$423.89. Proceeds were lower than usual because we had to pay taxes since the Biloxi Contracting Officer would not agree to providing a purchase order. Also, complimentary shirts were given to 11 individuals as a goodwill gesture for contributions to the MS Gulf Coast Pickleball Program. Zelle was used by the majority of visitors who received their shirts by mail.

### **IV. Old Business**

#### Partnership with Dream Foundation, Inc.

Pickleball has been added as an activity for the Dream Program. So far, three sessions have been held at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Ocean Springs. Thirty-five players have volunteered to help with this program. It will continue Thursday evenings through January 11.

### Home of Grace Pickleball Programs

Restricted donations of \$9450 have been received to add asphalt and seal coat to an existing parking apron for two pickleball courts with permanent nets at the men's campus. Michael Gilreath made a motion that the Board proceed with contracting for the work. Arlene LeBlanc seconded the motion. Since a quorum was not present, an email vote was taken and the motion was approved with twelve directors voting yes. Tom will ask Home Depot to help with fencing materials. A request was made to World Class Athletic Surfaces to help with paint for the courts. Singing River Electric was contacted to see if they could assist in installing lights. Any funds remaining after completion of work at the men's campus will be used to seal coat the playing surface at the women's campus and purchase a portable outdoor net.

### Purchase of Line Paint Spraying Machine

At the September Board meeting, approval was given to purchase a line paint spraying machine to complement court lining templates in the amount of \$161.00. After further consideration, it has been determined that currently there is not a need for this machine.

### Website Alternatives

Deonne reported that the number of contact requests through the website has dropped considerably. Visitors to the area are using Facebook to request information concerning places to play on the Coast. Deonne encouraged all to continue thinking about alternatives to the current website contract which expires August 2024.

## **V. New Business**

### Nominations for Secretary Position

Secretary Judy Capranica's term expires December 31. Nominations for a secretary will be taken and voted on at the meeting March 21, 2024. Deonne will serve in the interim until then.

### Open Discussion

Kathryn Lewis provided an update from Diamondhead via email. She reported the courts at the Clubhouse average 12-14 players three times a week. A team from Diamondhead participated in a tournament in Picayune and won several events. The Mayor is still interested in building additional outdoor courts.

Paula Fairconnetue reported via email the Bay St. Louis City Council rejected all bids submitted for construction of the pickleball courts at their meeting held on November 28. The City will advertise for bids again the

first part of 2024 to construct two pickleball courts at McDonald Park. Chiniche Engineering is handling the bid process.

Deonne Linenberger reported the opening of two new courts under I-110, two new courts at the Jackson County Safe House in St. Martin and two courts at the one in Vancleave. Also, the Pascagoula Recreation Center added another morning to their schedule.

Dave Barron asked the results of the petition with 80 signatures presented to the City of Biloxi asking that the restrooms be limited to pickleball player use only. In lieu of the request, the City agreed to hire a janitor to clean all the public restrooms at recreation sites to include Popp's Ferry. They are continuing to discuss installation of a surveillance system. The Police Department has increased their patrols.

Tom reported that SMPDD donated two picnic tables for the pavilion at the Popp's Ferry courts. They may also procure two benches. The furniture will be delivered to the pavilion when the City is able to bolt them down to prevent theft.

#### **VI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2024, at 11:30 am at the Donal Snyder Community Center, Biloxi.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 12:20 pm.

#### 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023.

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Deonne Linenberger  
Interim Secretary