



Annual HCPA Membership Meeting

May 25, 2024; 4:00 PM

St. Croix Y Camp River Center

I. Welcome to the meeting by Deanne DeGraff, Board Chair. A thank you was given for the flexibility of meeting in a different location due to a last-minute cancellation by the camp.

II. Purpose of the meeting is to explain the following topics:

- The HCPA Organization
- Finances
- Communications
- Social and Court Play
- Court Schedule and Activities Planned
- Vote for Board Meeting

III. Introductions were made by Deanne DeGraff. She reminded the group that all of these people are **Volunteers**.

HCPA Board Members – Tom Menter – Treasurer, Kelly Dixon – Recorder, Carol Cumming – Communications (emails/website), Julie Graber – Program & Activities, Deanne DeGraff, - Chair

Operation Managers – John DeGraff-Head, Mike Hawk (thanks were given to Mike for all of his efforts this spring to get the courts ready for play.), Dale Schmidt and Jim Jenkins

Three Consultants - Colleen Hammer– (Colleen facilitated the online registration for this year and also manages the HCPA Website and Group Me app), Wes Caine – (Wes assists in meeting the Tax and IRS requirements for a 501C3 nonprofit status) and Michael Lammer (Michael continues to advise on legal matters as well as the 501C3 legal business.)

Social Committee – A thank you was given to the Social Committee for coordinating the refreshments for the event and for all of the other social events that are planned for the summer.

Partnership Recognition – The representative from the YMCA was introduced. Tyler Morgan, Senior Sports Director welcomed the group. He explained the mission of the YMCA and said that he was supportive of more partnership activities. Tyler helped with the organization of the September tournament last September.

- **Organization** – A brief history of the HCPA’s efforts to build pickleball courts was given.
 - 2017 - Surveyed members (80-100) who supported building courts, the group was playing at Anderson Park
 - 2018 - In February a plan was submitted to the City Park Board; consideration of building courts at Grandview Park on city land but the city had no money. YMCA also in partnership but no money to donate.

2018 Anderson Park Court expansion was proposed. Half of the cost would have been donated by Paul Anderson however proposal failed because the neighbors rallied and complained about the noise.

2019 - In January HCPA Board decided to become a WI Charitable nonprofit organization so gained official status with completion of 501C3 paperwork. This status provides tax exemption, donation write off for business/corporation/individuals. It also opened up many larger grants that required. At this point the Y Camp came into consideration for courts.

2020 - The agreement came together to move forward to reconstruct pickleball courts on the 2 tennis courts at the Y Camp. In February a MOU was signed between the HCPA and the Camp St. Croix. Fundraising and grants, planning of the courts and finding vendors to construct the courts began. The courts were completed in October for the \$80,000.

2024 - We are beginning our 3rd summer playing on the courts. Last year there were close 400 members and we are currently at 340+ members.

- **Importance of Partnership and Relationship with Y Camp**

We are grateful for the use of land because the Camp owns the land. We constructed the courts for \$80,000 but the Y Camp holds liability. The partnership is driven by a great relationship with Katie Haas, Director. Both entities would like to enhance the unique relationship. We encourage members to participate in Y Camp Opportunities – Farmers Market and Pizza Night, Barn Dance, etc. which will be published on the HCPA website. Also, the Y Camp may have some opportunities to volunteer to help the camp and there is an annual fund raiser for donations.

There may be times during the summer when the courts will close either for Y Camp events or HCPA planned activities. These will be announced on the website and email. Remember that overflow parking is down the gravel road.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with YMCA North spells out the responsibilities of all parties and is for 10 years. It creates HCPA reserve time, camp time and open Y/HCPA time. (HCPA Reserved Everyday 7:30-11:30 & 4:00-8:00 except T&TH; Camper's time is T&TH 3:45-5:15; HCPA and Y members open play 11:30-4:00 open play).

- **GUESTS**

Guests are welcome but must come with a member and they are the responsibility of that member. They must register at the Y Camp link HCPA website/sign Code of Conduct, pay \$10. There is a QR Code at courts, or Guest Forms in the metal box with the \$10 and form placed in Shed Box.

- **Private Courts –**

The HCPA courts are Private Courts – Not Public (Anderson Park) – We are asking for the name **Bag Tag be visible at all times while at the courts.** YMCA members will be

asked for their Y card. Everyone must be a member to play. Please respect camp guidelines (do not plan to play outside court posted hours or be on their grounds). Remember and be aware of Camper safety and privacy which is the key and what it is all about. It is the agreement we made to get courts – it should be kept **first and foremost for everyone.**

- **Code of Conduct –**

The importance of the Code of Conduct was reinforced.

Every person involved in HCPA pickleball pledges as follows:

- I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct or encourage others to do so.
- I will not engage in any behavior that would endanger the health, safety or wellbeing of others.
- I will not engage in the use of profanity or inappropriate language toward others.
- I will treat others with respect.
- I will exhibit fairness and honesty in my dealings with others.
- I will observe the Golden Rule of doing unto others as I would have them do unto me.

Each member is responsible for their behavior. Concerns on the court should be reported to a board member or Operations Manager.

- **Court Expansion –**

We all know pickleball is a popular sport and there is a need for more courts. The status of 3 court expansion has roadblocks with the Y Camp such as parking and space for the soccer field. We are trying to work around these but are not sure of success.

IV. Finances and Treasurer’s Report – Tom Menter

Current members	340	Last year members	387
Includes new members	100	Last year new members	160
Renewing members	240	Last year renewing members	227

2024 Budget was prepared based on 300 members.

Budgeted expenses include dollars for social events, pickleballs, court maintenance equipment and supplies, member expenses (bag tags and holders), and administrative expenses (PO box rental, credit card fees, website maintenance, printing).

We are also setting aside funds (saving) for long-term court maintenance such as resurfacing and nets, so we are fully funded for when these large expenditures are necessary.

Thanks to all who helped streamline our membership application process by utilizing programs accessed through our HCPA website, especially Colleen Hammer, Deanne and Carol. Also, thanks to Wes Caine and Arvid Ledin for their assistance with HCPA finances.

If you have any issues with the new membership process, please contact us so we can help.

V. Communications –Carol Cumming

Carol reported that announcements are being made through email and the website. Members are encouraged to check the website for the latest information and to read the emails that are sent. She commented that Group Me is an unofficial not sanctioned by HCPA communication tool among the group.

VI. Social and Court Play Reminders – Kellee Dixon

Kellee covered safety related items -

Quick head to toe review

- Hat / Sunscreen - Use them.
- Protective Eyewear -recommended - Note: Prescriptive glasses are NOT protective.
- Appropriate attire - dress for the weather
- Shoes - Shoes That Are Not allowed: Hard Sole shoes (i.e. Cowboy boots), Dark Soled shoes, Shoes that don't secure to the foot (i.e. Flip flops); Shoes that are not recommended: shoes that don't give the foot and ankle support (i.e. Moccasins), shoes that don't allow for side-to-side movement (i.e. most running shoes)

Hydration is always important and everyone should remember to bring water with them.

Alcohol consumption is NEVER allowed at the courts. We ask that everyone be mindful of our image and the impression we are making on the St. Croix campers - therefore no one should give the appearance of drinking alcohol while out at the courts (i.e. drinking a non-alcoholic beer, drinking from cocktail style glasses, etc.).

Music - Bluetooth speakers / Boom Boxes are not allowed on the courts. If you are working / drilling by yourself, you could wear headphones / earbuds but nothing that projects music is allowed

Emergency Procedures:

Basic First Aid kit is in Big Box. There are additional Single use cold packs are found in the Big Box. In the event of a serious emergency 9-1-1 should ALWAYS be called immediately. The physical address to tell 9-1-1 operator is posted on the lid of big box

AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is kept in Big metal box --- DO NOT PUT ANYTHING ON TOP OF THE AED. Training is NOT required to use AED -instructions are included in the AED itself and are very straightforward - however those who are interested in free AED training can sign-up is available May 16th at 9:00 or 4:00, *please note this is AED training NOT CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) or BLS (basic life support) training.

ANY emergency that either requires contacting 9-1-1 OR medical attention (i.e. going to urgent care) needs to be reported to HCPA - See a board member if assistance is needed. - This can be done after the fact.

Social Committee will have three annual events again this year

- Kick off breakfast
- Annual Picnic
- End of Season Round-Up

More information will be placed on the Website Calendar. A Monthly Calendar will be posted at Courts - these will be updated but reference to the website for most up to date information.

VII. Court Schedule and Activities Planned – Julie Graber and John DeGraff

Daily Schedule for courts – time (absolutely no play before 7:30 AM) and different level court assignment 3 days per week plus challenge courts 2 days per week. Paddle Stacking is allowed again this year.

Activity Overview includes leagues, tournaments, skill and drill days.

More information is at the end of these minutes - 2024 Activities for HCPA Courts.

VIII. Introduction of Board Candidates – Deanne DeGraff

Julie Graber is an incumbent running for reelection. Tom McDonough is running to replace Kellee Dixon who is leaving the board. Their bios were shared through email.

IX. Vote – John DeGraff

John called for any other candidates. With none, he asked for a hand raise vote for Julie Graber and Tom McDonough. The vote was unanimous.

X. Meeting adjourned with delicious treats to celebrate Kellee Dixon.

Addendum 2024 Activities for HCPA Courts

You will see additions to this year's schedule based on information we gained after events last year and the information from the completed surveys.

Leagues:

- a. Men's on Tuesday and Women's on Mondays
 - i. Men's starts on Tuesday, June 4th and Women's start on Monday, June 3rd
 - ii. Starting time for both groups is 5:15 and will continue until at least 7:30
 1. We may go longer if matches are not completed
 2. A match consists of 2 out of 3 games to 11 win by 2 points.
 3. That means you and your partner will play another set of doubles for at least 2 games before moving onto the next set of partners.
 4. You will have the same partner throughout the entire league dates.
 5. Each set of partners will pay \$10 on the first night of play if not paid before that date – the reason for the cost is to help pay for balls, prizes for the top 2 teams and to make sure you have some skin in the game.
 6. NEW this year, you can sign up as a group of 3. That way you have a built-in sub, the cost is still only \$10 per team to play.
 7. If you are unable to play during one of the nights of the league, YOU are RESPONSIBLE to find a sub to play that night!! If you don't, you have just caused at least 2 groups to not have competitive games!! Also if you have a sub, they must be of the same playing ability as the person they are playing. If you use someone who is a better player than you, a ringer, the games will be played, BUT the matches will stand as forfeits.
 8. There will be no league games during the week of the 4th of July!
 9. You and your partner need to be signed up for the league by Friday, May 31st at 11:00a.m.
 - a. This allows us time to set up the round robin league play
 - b. You and your partner must have all HCPA paperwork signed and turned in and have paid your membership fee!!
 10. League sign up will be on the clipboard in the HCPA box at the courts
 - iii. League play finishes up Week of July 22nd
 - iv. There will be Fall Leagues this year:
 1. Men's start Tuesday Night August 13th
 2. Women's start Monday, August 12th
 3. Mixed Doubles starts Thursday, August 15th
- b. Social League:
 - i. NEW this year, we will have a league that will be open to all members. This league will NOT allow players to smash the ball during play. This league will start on Wednesday, May 22nd. It will start at 1:00 and finish by 3:00. This leagues dates are Wednesdays from May 22nd through June 26th.
 - ii. Sign up for this league before Friday, May 17th at 5:00p.m.
 - iii. League play finishes up the Week of June 26th

Ball Machine Use and Drills

Ball Machine Use:

1. Members will be able to sign up to have balls delivered to them through the ball machine. The time that the machine will be used will be 7:30 – 8:30a.m. or 5:00 – 6:00p.m. starting on May 21st
 - a. There will be 4 people signed up per hour
 - i. Those of the 4 not hitting will help gather the pickleballs
 - ii. When the hour is done the machine will be put away
2. Signup sheets are 2 weeks increments, but members can only sign up for one slot during that 2 week period
3. The new sheet for sign up will be at the courts starting on the Friday at 8:00a.m. before the week the next session will start, For example: Friday, May 31st will be when the next signup sheet comes out!

Lessons

Lessons will be given by Michael Lammer and John DeGraff

- Intermediate Lessons:
 - o These lessons are geared toward those that are at least a 3.35 to a 4.0 plus
 - Look at USPA.org to review the rating system if you are unsure of your rating
- Advanced Lessons:
 - o Must have had a beginner or Advanced beginner class with Michael or his permission.
- Check the HCPA website to see when these will be taking place.

Skills Round Up/ Paddle Demo

This will be a demonstration as well as give the member a chance to practice skills.

- May 11th at 10:00 – 12:00

Skills to be covered include/but not limited to:

- Serve & Serve Placement
- Positioning
- Blocking the ball
- Paddle Positioning
- 3rd Shot Drop or Drive

There will also be several Paddle Companies Representatives there with paddles that members may try out.

- All are welcome to come and talk to these reps

Card Draw Play

This play will take place on Wednesday evening. The first 24 members that show up will be in the set up for play. Men will play every other Wednesday starting on May 22nd. Women will be every other Wednesday starting May 29th. When you get there, you will draw a card the person who has the matching card will be your partner for the evening. For example: those that have a red 2, whether it be a heart or diamond, will be partners for the night. There will be 2 matches per Wednesday session. A match is 2 out of 3 games. The beauty to this play is that you don't have to make every week unless you choose to and if you miss one time, you can always try again the next set up date. The Men's ends at July 10th and Women's at July 17th.

Tournament

Dinking Tournament set for July/August

- Men's will be Tuesday, July 30th
- Women's will be Thursday, August 1st
- Mixed Doubles will be Wednesday, July 31st
 - o Play for all will start at 5:00p.m. and will finish in one evening
 - o You will need to have a partner for this tournament
 - o We will have pool play, that means that 4 teams will be put into a group and each will play each other
 - The pair that has the most wins out of the 4 will advance on to the winner's bracket
 - Once you get to this level, it is a single elimination tournament – that means if your team loses you are eliminated!

Members ONLY Tournament Saturday, June 8th

- This will be an Open Tourney with two divisions: 3.0 & 3.5
- It will be a Mixed Doubles Tourney
- There will be no prizes but lots of bragging rights!!
- No costs
- Will have to sign up by Friday, May 31st at 5:00p.m.
- 3.0 will play starting at 8:00a.m. and 3.5 will follow after the completion of the 3.0 tourney

Mixed Doubles Fall Tourney will happen on Saturday, September 21st

- This will be run in coordination with the "Y"
- They will be handling the money and the sign-up process
- We are thinking of adding a Men's and Women's Divisions to this also

Split Skill Courts

New this year, we will be setting up courts so that you will be able to choose what level you want to play at. Four courts will be those that want a more competitive game. These will be the 3.5 and up group. Two courts will be designated for the more social game. These will be designated the 3.5 and lower. This style of play will be on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The split courts will run from 7:30 – 11:00a.m. This will start Wednesday, May 8th.

Challenge Courts

New this year, you will have the ability to Challenge other members to a game. This will be done on Tuesday and Thursdays from 7:30 – 11:00a.m. This will start on Thursday, May 9th. There will be one court for those that are 3.5 and up and one court for those that are 3.25 and lower. To be in a challenge match you have to have all 4 paddles in the Challenge slots. If you win a challenge game, the winners hold the court and losers leave. After the next game, the ones that won the first game will have to leave the court. That means that no one can hold a court for more than 2 games!

Paddle Stacking

Same as last year!

If there is a group of 3 ahead of those four players who have paddles stacked, the four must wait until a player fills in the vacant spot of the group in front of them.

That being said we are a social club, so Please try and help fill in so everyone gets chance to play! BUT we CANNOT tell someone they have to play with a certain person or group!!

Player Issues

Things we will address here and hopefully won't have to address again:

1. You CANNOT move someone else's paddle, unless they hand you their paddle to put it in a slot or to stack with them!
2. You and I do NOT get to tell someone that they are BAD or NEED to take more lessons, etc. We are a social club where members like to play pickleball and appreciate all skills levels. So please be kind to one another!!
3. We need to remember that we are at a Camp where children are present, so remember try not to use adult words, in other words try not to swear!

This is what we have planned for NOW!! We will evaluate these activities when they are completed for how we can improve for next year.