



Back of the Strip Mall
146 Roosevelt Rd
Villa Park, IL 60181

October Board Meeting Minutes 10/26/2022

Board Members:

Present: Aaron DeGagne, Raymond Stone, Barry Hutchings, Jon Henderson, Eric Reithel, Eric Clifford, Eric Baudais

Absent: None

Quorum present: Yes

Others Present:

Club Members: Karen Miller, Rachel Ault, Matthew Ault, Sara Heatherly, Anne Pettinger, Julia Makiejus, Matt Galas, Mike McHugh, Tom Arra

Opening Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by President Aaron DeGagne

Old Business

- September Financials - Jon H.
 - Financials presented via Zoom Screen Share by Jon H.
 - MOTION) Accept Financial Report - Eric B.; SECOND - Eric R.
 - MOTION: PASSES
- Plaques and Trophies - Barry H.
 - Founders Cup - Update engraving
 - 2021 Winners: Greg Torkelson, Scott Piroth, Scott Maples, Jeff Elborne
 - 2022 Winners: TBD
 - Mixed Doubles - Update engraving
 - Eric R. to reach out to Kelly, Dan, and Donna about 2021-'22 Session 4 Finals
 - Anne P. - Updating Plaque
 - Found out S1-S4 winners and "Winners" for the "Competive" (sic) Plaque
- Merchandise - Tonya
 - Re-stock Koozies
 - Not needed - Tonya found another box
 - Re-stock Decals
 - Chris Arra?
 - SUGGESTION, from Tom Arra) Use Sticker Mule
 - We'll get hot sauce!
 - Aaron D. will drop off 500 new club pins on Thursday, October 27th
- MCA Updates - Eric R.
 - Dar Curtis registration now open for Nov. 19-20, 2022
 - Held this year at Waltham
 - Eric R. to post to WCC socials

- Next meeting of MCA reps set for Nov. 7th, via Zoom
- Locker Fund - Aaron D., Eric R., w/ Matt G.
 - Will dedicate the funds from locker revenue to locker improvements
 - Improvement ideas still under discussion
- Marketing Work for the board and long-term goals planning - Aaron D. & Barry H.
 - Eric B. coordinating a member survey with Karen and Matt Ault
 - Board will then set a long-term plan and view of Windy City Curling
 - Survey to find ways to check our progress against short-term benchmarks
 - i.e. - 10% Membership growth
 - I.e. - Filling each league
 - Barry wants to generate a full to guide people to full membership, from their Learn 2 Curl, into a Rookies League, and on to Regular Leagues
 - This will be a new marketing attempt and approach
 - Barry working with Siobhan and Anthony on a Database Grab with event attendees, L2Cs, etc. with the aim of guiding them through this plan
 - Database Grab: Generates automatic email survey for user feedback
 - 12 responses already!
 - Barry following-up via phone calls with five respondees
- Rookies - Barry H.
 - Adding 4-week sessions to Sundays in the second-half of the year
 - Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 - would fit nicely into the calendar at the top of the 2023 year
 - Aaron D. to add to the website/registration
 - QUESTION from Matt A.) What's our conversion rate from L2Cs to membership/leagues?
 - Can we reach out to people and explore more options to get them on the ice?
 - L2C to Rookies Conversion Target: 15% of participants
 - Rookies Conversion Rate into Leagues: 60-70% (per Barry's memory)
- Bongspiels and Events
 - Founders Cup - Aaron D. and Ray S.
 - Six Teams Registered w/ 4 draws
 - Draw Times to run from 3pm Sat to 1pm Sun
 - Dinner on Saturday night
 - Included for registrants, others invited to come out and join
 - Drag Effect bongspiel - Eric R.
 - Six Teams currently registered
 - Hotel Block Confirmed - Marriott Oak Brook
 - WCC Marriott Rewards
 - SUGGESTION from Matt A.) Have WCC set up a business account to generate points so we can offer hotel rooms to future guests
 - Barry H. will look into this, possibly setting up a WCC account
 - SUGGESTION from Tom A.) Check-in with Simon Ganet if he setup a WCC "business" account already
 - Creating Award Rins: In-progress
 - 10-year anniversary party - Aaron D.
 - Windy City Curling - Founded Dec. 31st, 2012
 - New Years' Eve Party on that night?
 - Aaron D. will look into club's availability and plan an event
 - SUGGESTION from Anne P.) Do so ASAP so people can plan their NYE

- Leagues Update - Aaron D. and Eric C.
 - Set Leagues: Sunday Brunch (24), Chaos (24), Friday Late Night (22)
 - Not full/needs discussion
 - Monday Doubles
 - For curlers without partners: Eric C. has reached out
 - Working to partner up people who registered as singles
 - Tuesday Mixed
 - 9 teams currently
 - Odd number, working on finding another team to avoid Byes
 - SUGGESTION) Reach out to new women with a direct invitation
 - SUGGESTION) Encourage WCC club veterans to volunteer and meet new people, to help folding new players into the club's leagues
 - FEEDBACK) Keep the league format completely true to Mixed teams
 - This was meant to create space for women, and should stay so
 - The Board won't break-up teams to form "mixed-ish" teams
 - Wednesday Women
 - 11 curlers - Need to get to 12 at the least
 - Eric R. to reach out to the registrants to discuss the future of the league
 - Need to do before Eric C. needs to form teams
 - Barry H. to reach out to all WCC women to drum up more players
 - Friday Happy Hour
 - 11 curlers - Need to get to 12 players
 - Needs to reach minimum, lest it be canceled
 - *Proposal*: Change which leagues play on which days in the future to make sure women can compete in both Mixed and Women's leagues without too many nights in a row
 - Will request feedback in Eric B.'s member survey for next curling season
 - *Proposal*: Swap Women's League to Open format to allow a Wednesday night league
 - (See notes above) - Eric R. to reach out to the women playing first
 - *Resolution*: No changes will happen this season, since people are already planning
 - Eric R. also would need more time to plan a future calendar for 2023-24 season
- Wheelchair Curling - Barry H.
 - PVA Wheelchair Curling is going incredibly well, with positive feedback
 - Want to generate a future league schedule and Bonspiel
 - Barry H. to reach out to Eric R. about scheduling/dates
 - Sara H. will help Barry be a "set of eyes" on marketing and sensitivity concerns
- Amazon Smile - Ray S.
 - https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas
 - Club's charity Name = Windy City Curling, Inc.
 - Shoppers can pick a charity
 - Every \$100 spent = \$0.50 for Windy City 😊
 - Ray S. to get Eric B. info for next newsletter

(New Business begins on next page)

New Business

- 2023 WCC Club Championship Format - Aaron D.
 - Players qualify via a “Points System” w/ points earned through participation/victories:
 - Every curler gets 1 point for each session played in (6- or 8-weeks in length)
 - Every curler gets 2 points for playing in a competitive league
 - Bonus points for certain leagues winners:
 - Players on the winning team of an 8-week session gets 1 bonus point
 - Players on a Competitive League runner-up team gets 2 bonus points
 - Players on a Competitive League winning team gets 3 bonus points
 - Championship Requirements:
 - Open Format, to be played across a week of evening draws (dates/times TBD)
 - Registrants must have earned at least 1 point in the ‘22-’23 season
 - Each team must have a minimum of a combined 7 points
 - Teams may be ANY combination of qualified players, regardless of whether they played together during the regular season
 - A team's collective point total will then be used for bracket seeding purposes
 - Will possibly make this announcement along with the NYE/anniversary party
- USAC Members’ Assembly recap and discussion - Aaron D., et al.
 - *Recap:* USCA voted to remove the GNCC region from the USCA
 - The Midwest Curling Association voted to KEEP the GNCC, but was overruled
 - USCA’s Lynn LaRocca gave a statement in solidarity with CEO Jeff Plush
 - As a result: WCC is currently Fact-finding possible membership into the GNCC
 - Aaron D.’s Initial findings: \$15 per member to join the GNCC
 - WCC to update our Open Letter with a firmer/stronger stance:
 - Will call for the resignation of CEO Jeff Plush
 - Will call for the USCA to reveal the results of their internal investigation
 - Will expressed frustration with the AAC’s massive voting bloc and how it helped shut down debate to silence delegates still waiting to be heard, and helped expel the GNCC, with no clear reasoning or rationale given
 - Will threatening to withdraw from the USCA (by a certain date)
 - Would trigger a “GNCC sitch” within the MCA’s membership numbers
 - Should be in lockstep with the other clubs within the MCA
 - Will expressing solidarity with the GNCC
 - Frustration with the undemocratic way curlers were disenfranchised
 - WCC will withhold hosting future USCA events at our club
 - WCC to set a Town Hall in November with the sole goal of discussing this topic
- Recruiting for 2023-2024 board - Aaron D.
 - Positions coming up this term: Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
 - SUGGESTION from Anne P.) Post responsibilities of each position online for interested parties
- Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association (NSSRA) curling - Aaron D.
 - Wednesday, February 1st @ 11 a.m.
 - 3-hour event - Aaron will confirm
 - Volunteers needed!
 - WCC will provide volunteers with lunch & a bar credit, etc.
 - Want to get volunteer requests out there ASAP
 - About 8 wheelchair curlers expected
 - Will offer a L2C-esque event for participants

- Chicago Junior programs - Aaron D.
 - Web link from Chicago Curling Club: [Junior Curling](#)
 - Extend an invitation to our members on behalf of CCC
 - Will share in our FB group and Social accounts
- Rescheduling rules and reminders - Aaron D.
 - Remind teams to make their scheduled games, except for rare circumstances
 - *Feedback:* Should same-day rescheduling requests count as a forfeit?
 - *Response:* Yes, it's not fair to the teams who can make it to have to make new plans, when they were able to make their draws on time
 - Teams can and should escalate rescheduling issues to their league coordinators and/or Board of Directors as needed to address disputes
 - Ray S. will co-coordinate Thursday Competitive for the remainder of S1-2 w/ Aaron V.
- Code of Conduct - Eric B.
 - Sharing kudos from Cape Cod and other clubs who would like to emulate our CoC
 - Will reply with thanks and an invitation to further collaborate, if needed

Closing Proceedings:

- Motion to adjourn - Eric R.
 - Seconded by - Barry H.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Eric Reithel