



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

## August Board Meeting Minutes 08/12/2024

(Townhall Meeting held at Anyways Pub & on Google Meet)

### Current Board Members

All Present: Eric Baudais, Barry Hutchings, Colleen Koehler, Eric Reithel, Josh Richardson, Colin Rittgers

### Others Present at Anyways

CCC: Matt Galas, Scott Maples

Club Members: Charity Richardson, Lori Cassidy, Siobhan Cogswell, Mike O'Neill, Jeff Elborne, Anne Pettinger, Dave Jamros, Brian Morrison, Matt Kirchoff, Matt Ault, Micheal Kott, Alvin Ramos, Jason Weible, Merlin Howick, Jeff Schmidt, Sara Heatherly

Online Participants

### Opening Proceedings

Meeting called to order by Past President Barry Hutchings at: 7:07pm

### Business

#### 1. CCC Update

- Club Rebuild (Matt Galas) re-opening estimate - "mid-October" 10/18/24
- **Google Drive for photo updates on rebuild progress**  
<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipM62EiKdKpZM869VVMajjc3WrJJaW2neVQs8ajWBmQdBYH-w9KrhoJ6BUJEqXsIDQ?key=ZDNoc0FYeVhaT1VHLWU3M1MtTGVNWWFLdVF0aklB>
  - icehouse is primed
    - o new plywood (80%)
    - o carpet install (versus rubber)
  - 2 offices (WCC & CCC)
  - CCC Booking Events beginning in Nov
- Club/WCC (Facility) relationship. 2 distinct entities - CCC & WCC
  - CCC is a private entity, not all information regarding the re-build is available to WCC or the WCC Board.
  - There are legal matters behind the scenes that have contributed to the ability of CCC to share reconstruction information with WCC.
- "Will CCC be able to begin making ice prior to 10/18?" - YES. Ice will be done in parallel / (first) while construction continues.
- Targeting turning on the chiller in the next couple weeks.
- Building a volunteer Ice Crew - Matt G.
  - o Flip sheets between draws
  - o Coordinated with leagues
  - o Refresher course to re-train on pebbling, nipping, mopping
  - o Washing vinyl
  - o Installing decals
- Electronic Scorekeeping still in good order? Matt anticipating yes
- Believe that cameras have not been impacted
- Laptops were destroyed



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- Chiller: coils replaced in the last 2 months, due for annual maintenance
- eta for finished ice from time of first flood - 5 weeks (per Scott Maples)
  - o Finding ice assistance at this time from other clubs will be challenging
- Most of furniture will be replaced, couches/tables - covered by insurance
- "Occupancy" - can't be 'in the space' / curling / hosting meetings until we have occupancy. Occupancy is the 'mid Oct' date
- Question from the remote participants:
  - o is the power back on? yes
  - o is there plumbing? not yet

## 2. Board Business

- **January Financials – (Eric B)**
  - Monthly Financial Report Review;  
[https://windycitycurling.com/images/files/Board\\_Files/Financials/FY24\\_June\\_Financials.pdf](https://windycitycurling.com/images/files/Board_Files/Financials/FY24_June_Financials.pdf)  
MOTION: Accept Financial report - Unanimous  
MOTION: Eric Reithel  
SECOND: Josh Richardson
- **Reviewed 2025 proposed budget (Eric B)**
  - Membership - what is the plan to regroup lost members / slowdown of momentum (Matt Ault)?
    - Projecting to have 150 members in 2025. we do have 13k in projected net income, which could absorb a bit of a loss
    - had 169 members in 2024
  - Concerns about how to retain the people we do have, as well as increase Conversion ratio (Matt Ault/Siobhan Cogswell)
  - Bonspiel income is based on Drag Effect and WC3
    - Proposed idea - revamp the WC3 to increase participationMOTION: Approve Budget – Unanimous  
MOTION: Eric Reithel  
SECOND: Josh Richardson
- **Resignation of Lauren Visser – (Barry)**
  - Lauren submitted her resignation via email to the Board - effective immediately  
MOTION: To accept Lauren's resignation - Unanimous  
MOTION: Barry Hutchings  
SECOND: Josh Richardson
- **Board Updates (Josh)**

The Board will review the club by-laws in the coming weeks and have a solution to fill the spot on the Board to announce to membership

  - o While amidst a bylaw review, operating as follows at the current time:
    - Operating under the current by laws – "if the President is unavailable, the Vice President can act in the Presidential capacity." This is the current structure the Board is embracing at this time.



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- Based on current bylaws Board *can* fill the President spot (via appointing), if desired
  - Board's current position is that *if* this spot is filled, it will NOT be via a Board appointment (and who is then involved for 3 years)
  - Anyone who is interested in possibly participating on the Board is welcome to approach Josh/Barry to discuss
- **MCA (Midwest Curling Association) Updates – (Eric R.)**
  - MCA took summer off (so no meetings since WCC been inactive)
  - Next quarterly MCA meeting is to take place in the next couple of weeks
  - How many MCA spiels is WCC hosting this year?
    - 1 for sure - U18 (if participation permits); if not enough participation WCC gives the weekend back to CCC to use for events
    - WCC ability to host another MCA event is calendar dependent
      - question from Matt Ault - "why does WCC want to take up an event that is typically known as a 'free bonspiel'?"
        - in the spirit of curling / being a good partner
        - M.Ault recalls MCA had available funds - any consideration for use of these funds to host spiels (instead of clubs doing this for free)? Per Eric R this has been introduced (May 2024 meeting), the discussions are early and decisions to be made about what to do with the excess funds. Eric R to have additional updates in the coming weeks.
      - Do we know the dates of the Prarie State? (Rebecca Tulloch) not at this time (per Eric Reithel)
- **Can-Am Tour – (Barry)**
  - Communication established between Barry H. and Steven O'Connor
  - Come to Windy City Curling on Saturday, November 16th, 2024 in the morning
    - We provide ice and 3 Club teams for them to play against
    - Open or Mixed format for WCC teams
  - We would also provide a casual meal and entertainment session after the games
  - Simon Ganet will help with organizing this event since he was part of the 2019 tour and knows most of the people
  - After lunch they are off to Chicago Curling Club for games and dinner
- **Facebook Messenger Chat**
  - The Board is not going to engage in the chat in "Board capacity".
  - Communication with the Board can be sent to: [info@windycitycurling.com](mailto:info@windycitycurling.com) or [president@windycitycurling.com](mailto:president@windycitycurling.com)
- **New Merch Drop- Tonya Henderson / explained by Matt Ault**
  - Broomfitters has a dropship store established for WCC
  - WCC gets 10% of total of each sale
  - use code WINDYCITY for anything not WCC specific, for a 3% discount
  - significant flexibility in products available
  - the club will have Merch on hand



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- unisex sizes are really more of a men's fit (per M.Ault)
- feel free to submit design ideas
- We can add the Broomfitters link to the GoFundMe page? YES (Eric B)
- Josh will include link in newsletter to Merch
- **LINK TO MERCH - use code WINDYCITY at checkout**  
<https://broomfitters.com/collections/windy-city-curling-club>

### 3. Volunteerism

- Establish online registration as an increased 'point of connection' (Colleen) – SignUpGenius?
- Collective agreement to work to move away from Facebook
- Create a committee of "Club Advocates" - Siobhan suggestion. Create Adopters
- Leverage a 'shadow' concept to allow for newer curlers to shadow experienced
- Consideration for increasing participation / via creating other "WCC" events & activities, i.e. 'parking lot BBQ'. Newer curler 'mentorship'
- Matt Kirchoff - Suggested "instructing" / "welcome back" mingle - pickup games
- Matt Ault - reach out to existing members that have not been curling recently... pick their brains to determine root cause and work to improve.
- Jason Weible - While re-working the bylaws - consider a role that is dedicated to Volunteerism "Volunteer Coordinator"
- Matt Ault - How to leverage existing members who do not volunteer?
- Ann - has there been any program considered to incentivize people to volunteer?
  - Matt/Ann - Volunteer 'requirement'?
- Alvin Ramos - Incentive program consideration. Friends register to LTC & Member Conversion 'referral code'... i.e. a 'discount code'
- Greg Stewart - mentioned a prior club policy to encourage volunteerism
- Tom Arra - need to get people to use the website versus Social Media. 100% penalties for not volunteering, increased costs, etc.
- Merlin - do we have someone who is in contact with Curling Club Manager who can assist with keeping the website updated/etc.? Could assist with the volunteerism organization.

Volunteer Opportunities - Need a **Volunteer Coordinator** to assist in the proactive organization of the volunteer needs of the club. Including but not limited to the below...

1. Ice Crew
2. Regular WebAdmin - WebMaster: technically Paul who owns CCM is the WCC poc. (per Tom Arra) WCC pays a yearly fee, if we aren't getting services, WCC should ask for support or be pointed in a different direction.
3. Social Crew
4. Wheelchair Curling Coordinator
5. Bonspiel Crew
6. League Coordinators
7. Rookie League Coordinator - the Board's best assumption at this time is that Lauren Visser will not be participating in the Rookie Leagues.



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#### 4. **Town Hall Questions / Discussion**

- Wheelchair nationals - Jan 9-12,2025
  - Ice donated by Matt Galas
  - USA Curling will come assist (head ice tech)
  - No monetary benefit to WCC
- Sponsorship:
  - Is PBR still going to sponsor WCC?
    - PBR is one of the sponsors - "Cool Blue Curling Guy" on the wall & a 3 sided wrap
  - Dovetail
  - Cellar Door
  - Chicago Window Guys
  - Dupage Sports Commission
  - Goldline

We are replacing all the previous ice graphics.
- 9/8 (Jason Weible) - Milwaukee Summerfest people "first annual health fest"
  - not charging anything for booth space. 10x100' space reserved (for free)
    - sell merch
    - JW bringing portable curling rink
- As soon as we know when the Club will reopen, we can setup 'coffee and curling' with a local coffee shop.
  - \*Reminder\* to share with the Social Media team
  - Please send ALL positive info to socialmedia@ and info@emails

#### **Closing Proceedings**

Thank you and wrap up by Josh Richardson.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:34

- MOTION to close (Barry)
- MOTION Seconded (Colin)