

**Mission Royale Pickleball Club Executive Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes January 8, 2025**

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm in Resource Center.

Board Members Present: Ron Olson, Rick Bird, Laurie Gigstead, and Jan Santarius.

Board Members Absent: Alice Scroggins.

Others present: James Sadler, Gary Gilligan, Carmen Piquette, Jim Hamann, Donna Chimino, Carrie George, Derek Wilson, Gord Glass, Duncan Ross, Gerry Bertrand, Brian Schumacher, Sel Sanchez, Stonewall Jackson, and Bill Fleming.

2. Approval of Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda. Rick/Jan Approved.

3. Approval of Minutes.

- a) December 9, 2024 Working Session of Executive Board.
- b) December 11, 2024 Meeting of Executive Board.

Motion to approve the December 9, 2024 and December 11, 2024 minutes as presented. Jan/Rick Approved.

Ron stated the HOA had amended the club guidelines and he would review them later in the meeting. The board will discuss items first and then members can make pertinent comments after the board discusses and before Executive Board takes action.

4. Old Business.

- a) **Rating Procedures Committee Recommendations.** Gary presented an overview of the committee recommendations. He said he was one of nine members that discussed potential changes and also suggestions from members. He stated Juli made the first presentation to the board and that he would present five other recommendations the committee discussed.

First option is a skinny singles play format with no skills testing that was suggested by a member. A candidate would play 10 games of skinny singles with

players at the current level. Out of 110 possible points the candidate would need to get 95 points to move forward. The challenges the committee discussed included volunteers to participate, singles play is not representative of full play and our club has no background with this and our members are older. The positive with the format is a candidate must rely on their own play skill.

Option two would continue with skills testing with modification to be more specific for each level. A few people would be chosen to rate your play with specific skills during round robin play. The committee felt challenges would be getting the necessary volunteers together that were available and unbiased.

The third option was a point system round robin with skills testing. Skills testing modified to be more level specific, such as making the player move during skills test. There would be two, six game round robins and one game with lowest points scored in each round robin would be dropped. A specific number of points would be needed to pass to the next level. A passing point of 7.5-8 points per game could be determined at a later time. The reasoning for dropping one low game in each round robin is to counteract manipulating or tanking a game, drawing a weak partner or possibly just a bad game or nerves. They felt the positives are more accountability and eliminating subjectiveness and favoritism. The candidate will also know how they did and understand the skills they need to work on if they don't pass.

The fourth option is a combination of skills testing with the skinny singles option discuss in the first option. This option had similar challenges and positives as previously discussed.

The fifth option is requiring all members to use an IPTPA rater and the IPTPA rating system to get rated or move up. The positive is that there would be no volunteers needed and eliminate favoritism and blame.

Gary stated that options 1, 2, 3 and 4 require club volunteers and option 5 does not.

Jan stated that she tracked scores for two days at the 3.0 round robins. She said 6 was the lowest score and the average score was 7.

Laurie stated that she feels our process must include a play aspect in the rating process.

Gord asked if there is a recommendation from the committee? He felt it should go back out to the general membership.

Jan stated the committee gave us six recommendations. Should it go to members?

Duncan asked if there was a consensus within the committee?

Gary stated he preferred the IPTPA option but that was his opinion. There was no consensus determined.

Ron said we want to eliminate favoritism and create fair play. He likes a play aspect.

Gerry stated Gary made a good presentation but he only presented limited information. The board needs more detailed information before making any changes.

Gord said the recommendations should be narrowed down and the committee given specific direction on what the board would like.

Ron stated he would like to table the discussion because there is a lot of information to consider.

Carmen asked why the committee wasn't give clear direction?

Jan stated the committee did what we asked. Laurie confirmed that the motion was simply to bring back recommendations but agrees that the direction needs to be more specific.

Derek commended the Gunthrops and the Sanchezes for taking on the task of rating chairs. He stated that there are many IPTPA raters for 3.5 but limited rater for 4.0 and above.

Ron stated we're are trying to find a fair way.

Gord stated he belongs to three different clubs and there is evolution of the game and play. We have a player in our club who could evaluate players and do the rating internally. He feels the playing portion is most important in the process.

Ron stated he visited the 2.0/2.5 round robin and asked players if they would be interested in having coaches attend round robins and give advice during active play. He said the response was about 50/50.

Rick stated that we will come up with an avenue to move people up fairly but we don't have an avenue to move people down.

Gerry stated that we are a social club and with that comes the fact that once you have reached a level then you are playing with your friends and peers and as we age there will be some fluctuation in levels of play.

Gord suggested that a mentoring program would be helpful in preparing to bring people up.

Ron suggested letting a few members just come play in an upper level for a couple of weeks to see if it is where they belong.

Laurie stated that would potentially compromise the play too much for everyone.

Motion to table the ratings procedure discussion. Rick/Jan Approved.

5. Board Member and Chair Reports.

- a) **Treasurer's Report.** Jan stated the beginning MRPC account balance was \$36,120.43, revenue from memberships was \$1,810 and expenditures totaled \$45.42 for an ending balance of \$37,885.01.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Rick/Laurie Approved.

- b) **Vice President's Report.** Rick reported that we received a LED bulb but they won't work and all the ballasts would need to be replaced which would cost approximately \$20,000. The HOA will not change the ballasts but will continue to replace bulbs as needed. He said we have a good supply of pickleballs and that the 3.5 level play is working good and he does not play to split the group.

Duncan stated that over time the LED conversion would pay for itself in energy cost savings.

There was discussion about people leaving the lights on at the courts when they are done play. Gerry suggested an email go to the members reminding them to turn them off when finished and that they need to be off at 9:00 pm.

Rick stated we need to approve a motion to purchase the new ball machine. Laurie asked what the specific details were. Rick stated it was the one that the group demonstrated at Robson Ranch but we would purchase the electric version. Duncan stated this machine is metal while others are plastic.

Motion to approve the purchase of the type of ball machine viewed at Robson Ranch in the electric version in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Jan/Rick Approved.

- c) **At Large Member Report.** Alice was unavailable to attend the meeting.

- d) **Ratings Chair Report.** Sel reported that four members tried out in January. Two at the 4.0 level, one at 3.5 and one at 3.0. Only one person passed and is in the process of completing the round robins.
- e) **Training Chair Report.** Alice was unavailable to attend the meeting. Gary stated that there would be 3.5/4.0 lessons on January 11th at noon. Jan asked if there were any volunteers to do 2.5 and 3.0 lessons. Gerry and Gord volunteered. Rick would check in with Alice and contact Gerry and Gord if they decide to have the lessons on January 11.

6. New Business.

- a) **Bylaw Amendment Results and Approve Amended Bylaws.** Ron stated the bylaw amendment passed with 76 yes votes and 47 no votes. The amended bylaws need to go to the HOA for approval.

Duncan asked why the vote was sent out without a basis? Ron stated that the reason was confidential. Laurie stated that the discussion and prior actions are in the previous minutes.

Duncan asked why he did not receive a response to his emails?

Ron reviewed the recent changes the HOA made to the Club Guidelines giving an overview of the ones that pertain to the pickleball club. He stated copies are available at the front desk at the Recreation Center.

Jan stated that the general membership meeting and potluck is scheduled for February 19th.

Stonewall stated he has been watching some MLP events and suggested it as a fun idea for a club event or tournament.

Rick stated that he advised Brian and Mike that their tournaments could occur or be scheduled from 10 am to 2 pm occasionally on Saturdays.

Gerry stated that if the club was interested that Monica Weeks has volunteered to coordinate and track scores for ladder play. He suggested it could be scheduled in a 4:00-6:00 pm time slot.

- b) **Appoint Nominating Committee.** Laurie stated that according to our election process a nominating committee needs to be appointed and is chaired by the president. She asked the members in attendance if anyone was interested in volunteering. Derek stated he might be interested but wanted more information. He was told that there are three positions up for election this year – president, secretary and member at large. The committee would solicit interested volunteers. The candidates are presented to the membership at the general membership meeting in February. There is also a call for candidates at that meeting. After further discussion Derek, Carrie and Bill volunteered to serve on the committee.

Motion to appoint Derek Wilson, Carrie Goerge and Bill Fleming to the Nominating Committee. Rick/Jan Approved.

- c) **Motion to Adjourn Meeting.** Rick/Jan Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Drafted: 1/11/2025

Approved: