

Pittsburgh Curling Club Board Meeting Minutes

12/10/2012

7:30 PM

RMU ISLAND SPORTS CENTER
HAT TRICK CLUB

MEMBERS PRESENT	Andy Banfield, Matt Berwick, Dan Bliss, Steve Buffington, Michelle Crown, Amy Hannan, Jen Poeschl, Marie Rose, Jacki Temple
MEMBERS ABSENT	Amanda Marchitelli, Daphne Roberts, Brian Stuart
OBSERVERS	Thad Fields, Beth Cubbison
CALLED TO ORDER	7:35 P.M.

Agenda topics

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

DISCUSSION		
	None.	
CONCLUSIONS		
	Motion to approve November's minutes: Temple/Crown – carried unanimously.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION		
CONCLUSIONS		
	Motion to approve the consent agenda: Berwick/Banfield – carried unanimously.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

MEMBER COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	
	Inspired by the previous month's member comments from Thad Fields about being more communicative with the membership, Beth Cubbison made a prototype brochure for the club to share. If produced, this could be displayed in the warm room as well as at the front desk of RMUISC to keep the members apprised of what's going on in the club and what is needed for fundraising and volunteering.
CONCLUSIONS	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Contact RMUISC if brochures can be displayed at the front desk	Buffington	

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD MEMBERS

DISCUSSION		
<p>The Girl Scout troop that did a learn-to-curl with us mailed us a very nice thank-you note.</p> <p><u>USCA Arena Curling Championships:</u> USCA newsletter announced they will be hosting a national arena curling championship July 18-21 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The event will feature 32 teams which 16 will be men's teams and 16 will be women's, with each region of the USCA being assured at least one entry and with the preference going to the clubs that enters both a men's and a women's team. The entry consists of the club president filling out the pre-registration form, and for which ever teams are selected, the pre-registration forms have to be in by April 15. Then for those teams selected, those individual members have to then visit the USCA website and register themselves by May 22. The discussion is to decide how we should pick our four men and women to play.</p> <p>Given that our region, the GNCC, has so many arena clubs, it is likely that the selection from our region would go to a lottery for which club get selected to send their teams. The rink fee would be \$400 per team, to be paid after the team has actually been accepted into the event.</p> <p><u>Mail:</u> It has come to our attention that mail sometimes erroneously gets sent to us at RMUISC so we need to make an effort to check with RMU periodically to make sure we are not missing out on any important mail.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

FINANCIAL

DAPHNE ROBERTS

DISCUSSION		
Cash on hand:		
Money Market	\$20,011.97	
Checking III	17,615.76	
Assoc Checking (PayPal)	2,661.97	
PayPal balance	0.00	
Logo Shop change	100.00	
Giant Eagle Gift Cards	5,462.50	
Charles Schwab account	131,000.46	
Undeposited funds	\$60.00	

Current cash on hand	\$176,852.66	

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

TRAINING

TBD

DISCUSSION		
None.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

FUNDRAISING

AMANDA MARCHITELLI

DISCUSSION		
<p>Amanda has been working hard on fundraising efforts, which nets us some money. Though it's not a lot of money, the little bit we get matters.</p> <p>Now is the time to start thinking again about setting up an NCAA pool and figuring out how we want to run it this year. Andy would like to be the administrator of the pool. More will be discussed at next month's meeting.</p> <p><u>Small Games of Chance:</u> It's time again to renew our license. The county renewal office told Daphne that we will get a renewal notice 4-6 weeks before our license expires (January 23, 2013). Once we have received that, all we need to do is send it in with the payment due. No other action is required.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

OUTREACH

DAN BLISS

DISCUSSION		
<p><u>Pop-Up Curling:</u> Brian Kurtz from The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership is trying to get a few-hour outdoor curling event set up for their next gallery crawl ("Pop Up") on January 25. In the past, they have done a bocci court and food truck corral to help get people interested in walking around to different locations downtown. Food trucks are planned to be nearby again, and tables, chairs, and standing heaters may also be available to help people stay comfortable and warm. It is not yet clear where we would be set up. Suggestions were made for possibly getting setup on the PPG Place ice rink or even the new Penguins rink in the Southside. The event will take place on a Friday night, and there is little possibility for use of the PPG ice. Likewise, with the new Penguins ice not being located downtown, setting up there may not be feasible. It was discussed that using wheelie rocks</p>		

would be best.

Learn-to-Curl:

There is a group that may be interested in doing a corporate learn-to-curl event in January or February, contingent upon ice availability. No night time slots are available so it will have to be a day time event. Dan will need volunteers.

2014 Olympics:

The GNCC has begun preparation for their "Project 2014" outreach. During the next GNCC spring meeting in May 2013, they will be hosting a workshop for clubs to begin their own preparations ahead of the Olympics, and they have requested that each club appoint a person to be their Project 2014 contact person. It was discussed that for the 2010 Olympics, materials were handed out to each club, but there was no recollection of any workshops offered previously.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Find out more about location and event details.

Buffington

Find out if any ice time is available for a LTC.

Bliss

Email Michelle the GNCC Project 2014 info.

Buffington

PRO SHOP

BRIAN STUART

DISCUSSION

None.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

LOGO SHOP

JEN POESCHL

DISCUSSION

None.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

EVENTS

MARIE ROSE

DISCUSSION

Friends and Family - Sat Dec 29 - 9:30 ice

Has been posted to the website.
 One draw only. Members who bring friends and family are responsible for any on-ice instruction.
 There will be no club instructors available.

Rochester Bus Trip – April 13

Easter is March 31.

\$1825 - \$58 per person. Consider asking \$50 and club pick up difference.

McCarter Charters was virtually sold out of busses. I suggest paying the deposit ASAP.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Distribute notices to the membership.	Hannan	

MEMBERSHIP

**AMY HANNAN
 BRIAN STUART**

DISCUSSION

None.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

SCHEDULING

STEVE BUFFINGTON

DISCUSSION

None.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

LEAGUES

STEVE BUFFINGTON

DISCUSSION

None.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

FACILITIES

ANDY BANFIELD

DISCUSSION		
None.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

OMBUDSMEN

JEN POESCHL

DISCUSSION		
None.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

DOCUMENTS

DAPHNE ROBERTS

DISCUSSION		
None.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

TROPICURL

ALL

DISCUSSION		
Submitted by Marie Rose:		
<p>TropiCurl Hotel Last year our rebate from the Holiday Inn was \$1440 – so we used about 140-150 room nights. Interesting info: Pgh hotels are at 94% capacity relative to national avg of 72%. Holiday Inn University Bvd – unavailable due to RMU judo tournament</p>		

Crowne Plaza Moon – unavailable due to RMU judo tournament
 Double Tree University Blvd – not enough rooms for the block
 Fairfield Inn Neville Island – not enough rooms for the block

Double Tree Green Tree – 11.8 miles, 15 min (Google Maps)

Block:

Wednesday – 20 rooms (this is too many – will adjust)

Thursday – 60 rooms (this is too many – will adjust)

Friday – 60 rooms

Saturday – 60 rooms

Double room - \$105 – NO BREAKFAST

Discounted Guest Room Rate of **\$119.00** including breakfast for two (plus tax)

A discounted breakfast price of \$10.00 inclusive will be offered to additional guest.

The hotel agrees to pay a 10% rebate to Pittsburgh Curling Club when 80% attrition is met.

Hotel will provide one shuttle to and from Island Sports Center with set times.

Pittsburgh Airport Marriott – 8.3 miles, 19 min (Google Maps)

Block requested (confirmed can be increased)

Thurs – 20 rooms

Fri – 50 rooms

Sat – 50 rooms

Double room - no breakfast - \$99

Double with full breakfast - \$109

The hotel agrees to pay a 10% rebate to Pittsburgh Curling Club when 80% attrition is met.

NO SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE

It was discussed that because The Green Tree Double Tree hotel can offer a shuttle service, and because we already have a relationship with Tara (formerly of the Holiday Inn), that we should go with this hotel rather than the Airport Marriott. Jen expressed concern that the recent undertaking of renovations at the Green Tree Double Tree may not either have been completed yet or be up to most people’s standards. She recommends that we look into the renovations progress to make sure that everything is OK.

CONCLUSIONS

Motion to approve the choice of the Green Tree Double Tree, contingent upon the status of renovations as promised: Banfield/Bliss – carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

PUBLIC RELATIONS

MICHELLE CROWN

DISCUSSION

None.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

WEBSITE**MARIE ROSE**

DISCUSSION		
None.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

PRESIDENT’S REPORT**STEVE BUFFINGTON**

DISCUSSION
<p>During the member comments portion of the November meeting, it was made abundantly clear that I need to bring everyone up to date on developments with the Building Committee. We'll do that tonight, and it's the last item on the agenda.</p> <p>The comments from last month can be summarized in a few points that I'd like to respond to now so we don't take up any time on them in the agenda item.</p> <p>Point 1) A concern was voiced that the Club may not survive the current late ice times and split week format.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Board has been talking about that very issue since May when we first heard about the reduced ice times. At that time, we were afraid membership numbers might fall to as low as 30 to 40. With the corresponding declining revenues to RMU, they may well take back the rest of the ice time.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">We split the league into two nights so we are able to maintain 80 Can-Am curlers and adjusted the fee structure to make things a little more attractive to both the membership and to RMU. Plus, the membership committee did a great job of promoting the league and made an appeal for everyone to stick with us until we can get into our own facility. And the results were much better that we expected! The Can-Am league is full with 82 (2 teams with 5 members) and actually have 20 members in the Vampire league.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">This was a very good indication that the membership still supports the club. Now we need to repay their loyalty.</p> <p>Point 2) The Building Committee and Board of Directors need to present a vision that would lead us to a curling facility.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Building Committee has never stopped working on the concept of dedicated ice. We've slowed down a few times as the plan that was being pursued hit a road block, but the overall goal of obtaining dedicated ice has never waived. Many building options have been investigated in detail. These include a partnership with RMU to build a boathouse/curling club; purchasing and renovating a roller rink; leasing a warehouse; buying a warehouse; erecting a tension fabric structure and building the facility in phases, two sheets at a time. Cost estimates have been generated for most of these permutations, which will be useful in any design that we end up with.</p> <p>So a lot of work has been done. These activities have not been presented to the membership because none of these paths have been fruitful – yet. Without that announcement, it's understandable why members might think there is no plan.</p>

Following tonight's discussion, we intend to present the same information to the membership and try to follow that up with a big meeting with the membership and Mac Purvis.

Discussion:

Mac Purvis came forward a long time ago, offering the use of some of his land (1.83 acres) for building a club. At the time, the FEMA flood maps indicated that a large portion of that land was located within a flood plain area. The club decided that based on that information, the land was not viable for our use. Also at the time, we did not have enough money raised to buy land of our own. As a result over the intervening years, and while we have continued to try to raise money, our agreement at RMUISC has lulled us into a sense of complacency. With this year's severe reduction in ice time, we have all realized that we are now faced with a huge challenge. As a result, in the summer of this year, Mac Purvis again approached the club with the offer to use his land. When we reconsidered the land again this year, we eventually discovered that the FEMA maps have been updated to show that the flood plain is much smaller. This was all taking place while we were scrambling to put together this year's new scheduling structure, trying to find the best way to keep the current membership happy for the 2012-2013 season so no mention of the building committee's efforts has yet been made.

Mac Purvis has been a benefactor of the club since soon after the club's inception, and at almost every turn, he has asked to remain anonymous in his gifts to the club. This was another factor in not giving the membership all of the information. However, now that everything is in the open, there is no problem with divulging Purvis's name.

Going forward, members of the building committee investigated the suitability of Purvis's land further, but the opinion is that the land cannot possibly flood enough to endanger a club building. They tried to schedule a full committee meeting with Purvis, but it did not work out. As a result, a handful of committee members were able to get an impromptu meeting with Purvis to talk about his plan for our use of his land. The biggest concern was how to merge private land with the club's money. According to attorney Eric Davis, the way the building committee had hoped to do it was not possible. Other ways of doing this are currently being explored.

If we want to have a facility up and running by the 2013-2014 curling season (to make sure we can get the Olympic "bump"), we need to start building by this summer. Building plans take an average of 3 months (minimum) to gain approval, which means submittals need to be made by April of 2013.

In the meantime, we need to go after all possible sources of alternative funding, both external to the club and internally.

Jen Poeschl expressed concern about any potential liability that we, as a club and/or board of directors, may be responsible for if we default on any loan agreement(s). Steve Buffington indicated that we need to get more information about all loan stipulations and requirements.

CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion to adjourn: Temple/Poeschl – carried unanimously.
NEXT BOARD MEETING	January 14, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. – Hat Trick Club, RMU

EMAIL VOTES

ALL

DISCUSSION		
None.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE