

Pittsburgh Curling Club Annual Meeting Minutes

3/20/2013

7:30 PM

RMU ISLAND SPORTS CENTER HAT TRICK CLUB

MEMBERS PRESENT	Andy Banfield, Matt Berwick, Dan Bliss, Steve Buffington, Michelle Crown, Amy Hannan, Amanda Marchitelli, Daphne Roberts, Marie Rose, Brian Stuart, Jacki Temple
MEMBERS ABSENT	Jen Poeschl
OBSERVERS	Burt Cubbison, Thad Fields, Len Jarabek, Mark Robinson, Bryan Ryall, Justin Scott, Al Tarkka, Neill Turner
CALLED TO ORDER	7:32 P.M.

Agenda topics

CALL TO ORDER

STEVE BUFFINGTON

DISCUSSION		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting called to order. Explanation and format of the annual meeting given to all in attendance. 	
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

DISCUSSION		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes from the March 11, 2013 Board meeting will be approved at the next regular Board meeting. 	
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

MEMBER COMMENTS

DISCUSSION		
<p>Justin Scott (Guest visitor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has curled in Chicago and D.C. • Would like to join as a member in the fall. 		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD MEMBERS

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNCC Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The meeting will be held May 18, 2013 in North Carolina near Coastal Carolina Curling Club. ○ Looking for an attendee to represent the club. Let Steve Buffington know if interested. ○ If no one can attend, the club can complete a proxy vote form. 		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

FINANCIAL

DAPHNE ROBERTS

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Club is solvent. ○ Accounts payable: \$1,182.13 • Reviewed the Revenue & Expense by Category report. • Reviewed the Budget vs. Actual report. 		
CONCLUSIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to pay invoices: Temple/Hannan – carried unanimously 		

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

ICE OPERATIONS & EQUIPMENT

JIM MEYER

DISCUSSION		
<p>Steve Buffington:</p> <p>Ice conditions this year were not very good. Even the normally good sheets (B and D) had bad ice by season's end. It's not clear what the difference was as RMU performed the same Zamboni cut as previous in years. Their ice was seeing a different use pattern with more open skating and perhaps older hockey players on Saturday before our time.</p> <p>Since it looks like we will be on RMU ice for at least part of next season, I will push harder to be allowed to do a flood of the ice on Friday nights.</p> <p>But the ice was consistently fast this year. The pebbling pattern Jim Meyer and I came up with is working in that respect.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

JUNIOR PROGRAM

TBD

DISCUSSION		
None.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

TRAINING

TBD

DISCUSSION		
None.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

FUNDRAISING

AMANDA MARCHITELLI

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundraising Activities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Day of Giving (\$8,934.00)○ Popcorn sale (\$654.50)○ Pasta sale (\$392.60 to date)○ Recycling program (\$12.24)○ Candy sale (\$14.66)○ Other miscellaneous donations ○ Total: \$10,241.94 • Upcoming Activities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We will be selling popcorn again in April. Look for an email with details.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

OUTREACH

DAN BLISS

DISCUSSION		
<p>This season presented challenges that made it more difficult than usual to introduce people to curling, but we made the best of the situation and had a successful Learn-to-Curl season.</p> <p>Our reduced ice time significantly cut back the opportunities for Learn to Curl classes, as did the lack of make-up weeks this season. Despite these challenges, we were able to introduce 143 new people to curling. 99 from our typical Learn-to-Curl classes and 44 from a corporate team building event.</p> <p>The demand for curling remains strong, but we have been unable to accommodate everyone who is interested due to limited ice time. We have 103 groups that are currently on the waiting list from this season. The groups range from individuals up to 30 people (most groups are 2-4 people). There are also names on the waiting list from past seasons.</p> <p>I want to say thank you to everyone who volunteered to help out with our Learn-to-Curls this season, especially those that took time off of work or school to help with our corporate classes. We always get great feedback!</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

PRO SHOP**BRIAN STUART**

DISCUSSION		
<p>Pro Shop sales were limited this season due to the reduced ice time. With only one draw there was little opportunity for people to hang out in the warm room and view merchandise.</p> <p>A number of curling brooms and broom pads were purchased for resale. Pads are always needed since they wear out and they fit most brooms.</p> <p>The gripper supply is not moving since Brooms Up now visits us instead of the Goldline trailer. Brooms Up carries shoes from different manufacturers. The grippers are all Goldline grippers.</p> <p>The visit from Brooms Up in October was well received by members. Brooms Up did not share their sales results but it looked like lots of merchandise was purchased. We are very fortunate that Brooms Up is a great supporter of arena clubs.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

LOGO SHOP**JEN POESCHL**

DISCUSSION		
None.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

EVENTS**MARIE ROSE**

DISCUSSION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Meeting March 2012 • Rochester Friendly 2012 – smaller group than some years and unfortunately the Rooster came back to Pittsburgh – something we need to remedy in 2013! • Venture Outdoors – a great turnout. For 2013 we have some ideas to advertise our new facility. This includes more visibility at the event, “on the spot” donations and IRS letters with \$10 logo’d stress curling stones, bookmark type glossy print items, business cards as well as our usual video and equipment display (including a curling stone). The Board determined that budgeted advertising/PR money could be spent (budgeted amount is \$500). • GNCC arena club championships – since its inception the PCC has been in the A event finals. • TropiCurl – full, successful, and a moneymaker. 		

- Several pre-season Learn to Curls
- The calendar allowed for Friends and Family – well attended. Always fun. This event required a wristband purchase by all participants.
- League playoffs – a great fan base this year!
- Men's playdowns to determine potential team for USCA arena championships
- Steelspiel – well attended with a very nice presentation by the Building Committee.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

MEMBERSHIP

**AMY HANNAN
BRIAN STUART**

DISCUSSION

This year, despite the decrease in ice time and the late hours, we had an amazing turn out by our members. We had a total of 95 members (22 new and 73 returning).

Thanks to everyone for being so flexible and working with this year's limited schedule!

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

SCHEDULING

STEVE BUFFINGTON

DISCUSSION

None.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

LEAGUES

STEVE BUFFINGTON

DISCUSSION

- Can-Am League

This year it was a challenge to fit 20 teams (80 players) into a format that played down to a single winner. About the only thing to say there is that we made the best out of a bad situation.

Once we are able to have more ice time, we will probably go back to a ladder league format.

We had six teams forfeit games this year, which is higher than usual, but 4 of them were the same team.

- Vampire League

It was a pretty good format and something that I think we could use for pick-up games when we get into our own building.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

FACILITIES

ANDY BANFIELD

DISCUSSION

Steve Buffington:

We have land: Mac Purvis has offered to donate a parcel of land in the Mars Seven Fields area. Andy did the research on the flood plane and a water management study to show that the property was viable for us. Andy has also met with the Adams Township engineer to discuss the basic project. That meeting was very good and we only have a few items to work through.

We have a building design and contractor: Mark Evans put us in contact with Larry Renninger, CEO of Metal Buildings Direct. Larry's company has built several ice rinks in the western PA area, including a portion of the RMU facility. We have met with Larry twice and have a very good quote for construction. The quote includes line item costs, so we will be able to do some work ourselves to save costs and defer other items not directly related to curling ice and occupancy requirements.

We have had a preliminary discussion with a bank: Brian spoke with First Niagara Bank who will loan us about 60% of the value of a completed warehouse.

We have other donated equipment: The Rochester Curling Club donated their used chiller. The Ardsley Curling Club donated two new dehumidifiers that they were unable to use. And we also have an ice scraper donated several years ago by the Potomac Curling Club.

We got a really good survey response: We got a 73% response rate (69 responders). The two biggest negative aspects of this move are that the location is not as good for some

people, and that the membership fee will increase. On the location, 74% said that it would be a longer trip, but overall 90% said they would continue with the club if we moved. On costs, 90% said they would accept a higher fee (up to \$500) if that meant better ice and a building of our own.

We are part way there on the funding: We have roughly \$76,000 offered in donations or loans from the survey responders.

Andy Banfield:

The site plan approvals are currently being worked on with the municipalities. On April 3, 2013 there is an informal meeting with Adams Township to show our plans and get their initial feedback. An official meeting will be held in early May for final approval. If all goes well and there are no delays, the final approval for the plans could be done by the end of May or sometime in June.

This is real. This is happening.

Brian Stuart:

A grant writing team will be getting together. We now have a much better story to present to foundations and funders.

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
<p>Steve Buffington:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pittsburgh teams who have registered will be required to put in volunteer hours during the tournament. <p>Amy Hannan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have 47 teams registered out of 48 for Tropicurl so we should be full by the end of March. <p>Marie Rose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will schedule a meeting sometime in mid-April.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

PUBLIC RELATIONS

MICHELLE CROWN

DISCUSSION
None.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

WEBSITE

MARIE ROSE

DISCUSSION
None.

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

STEVE BUFFINGTON

DISCUSSION		
<p>As I've said a few times now, this year was a challenge to keep the league together and the membership numbers up. Once the season was underway, we were able to attach the problem of finding a permanent home.</p> <p>Mac again offered the use of his land in the Mars Seven Fields area.</p> <p>Mac's donation of land really makes this a viable plan for us. Now it comes down to finding the remaining financing needed to proceed.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

ELECTIONS

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Directors Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting was turned over to the Nomination Committee. ○ Nomination Committee – Amy Hannan, Marie Rose, Brian Stuart ○ Explanation of election, voting, and nomination process was given to all in attendance. ○ Introduction of Board Nominees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thanks to each candidate and those that were asked. ▪ 4 Director Seats are up for election. ▪ Nominees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Berwick (incumbent) • Michelle Crown (incumbent) • Beth Cubbison • Thad Fields • Daphne Roberts (incumbent) • Mark Robinson • Neill Turner ▪ Additional nominations from the floor were solicited. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional nominations were provided by the floor. ▪ Brief comments were made by each nominee. 	

- Ballots
 - Ballots were distributed to eligible members (including eligible proxies).
 - Ballots were collected and tallied by the Nomination Committee.

- Announcement of election results
 - Board Members elected:
 - Matt Berwick
 - Michelle Crown
 - Daphne Roberts
 - Mark Robinson

CONCLUSIONS	
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ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion to adjourn: Banfield/Berwick – carried unanimously.
NEXT BOARD MEETING	April 8, 2013 at 7:30 P.M. – Hat Trick Club