

Pittsburgh Curling Club Board Meeting Minutes

11/12/2012

7:30 PM

RMU ISLAND SPORTS CENTER
HAT TRICK CLUB

MEMBERS PRESENT	Andy Banfield, Matt Berwick, Dan Bliss, Steve Buffington, Michelle Crown, Amy Hannan, Amanda Marchitelli, Daphne Roberts, Marie Rose, Brian Stuart, Jacki Temple
MEMBERS ABSENT	Jen Poeschl
OBSERVERS	Thad Fields, Beth Cubbison, Neill Turner, Len Jarabek
CALLED TO ORDER	7:34 P.M.

Agenda topics

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

DISCUSSION		
September minutes need updates and corrections. October minutes are approved as-is.		
CONCLUSIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve the full and public versions of the amended September minutes, provided corrections are made: Banfield/Hannan – carried unanimously. • Motion to approve the full and public versions of the October minutes: Crown/Rose – carried unanimously. 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Update and correct the September minutes.	Temple	

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

DISCUSSION		
CONCLUSIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve the consent agenda: Marchitelli/Bliss – carried unanimously. 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

MEMBER COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	
Thad Fields talked about his thoughts about the club. He fears that the Pittsburgh Curling Club will not last as a viable organization much longer, given reduced ice times and that the Day of Giving donations were not stellar. He feels we are not anywhere near getting our own dedicated facility.	

He also feels that we lack a vision or what we want or need to be, and without a clear vision, we will not be able to raise the millions it will take to build our own facility. He feels the board members should come to an agreement of what we think our vision should be and then we should infect others with our enthusiasm. He suggests we have a vision that shoots for the stars. For example:

- PCC will be a 10-sheet club
- We will be able to host 20,000 spectators
- We will host curling nationals
- We will host the Olympic trials
- We will host the world championships
- We will make Pittsburgh the center for curling in the US
- People will flock to Pittsburgh to curl
- The Olympics training facility to Pittsburgh

Having a vision that grand will get donors, club members, lenders, and grantors excited to help us realize our dream of having our own facility.

He used the success of the Denver Curling Club as an organization that thought big when they were trying to raise money for their own dedicated facility as an example. We need to think beyond just buying land. He stated that even if we shoot for the stars and miss, we are a lot more likely at least to land on the moon. Instead of a 10-sheet club, maybe we end up with a 4-sheet club.

Outside of the membership, he feels very few people care about our club. It did not help that the Day of Giving did not appeal to non-curlers. Instead, we need to market ourselves as contributing to the greatness of Pittsburgh, i.e. we are a championship sport that could be included with the Steelers, the Penguins, the Pirates, people will buy into that. People know that Pittsburgh equals championships; Pittsburgh equals greatness. Additionally, that gets corporate sponsors. Fields gave the example of his employer, PNC Bank, who donates to a lot of different organizations for the simple philosophy of trying to make Pittsburgh a better place. To illustrate, the Market President for Pittsburgh, Sy Holzer, is a major donator and fundraiser for the Pittsburgh Opera. When the Opera tried to give Holzer complimentary tickets as a gesture of thanks, he turned them down, explaining that he does not actually enjoy the Opera. He explained, however, that having an Opera makes Pittsburgh a better city, and that is why he donates. Fields feels we should market ourselves as an organization that will make Pittsburgh a better city so that we can entice similar donations.

Banfield replied that we have tried this approach in the past, and it didn't work. He stated that no one wanted to hear it. Fields suggested that we "try it again" because we are in danger of getting kicked out of RMU and of missing the 20124 Winter Olympic bounce in membership.

Buffington stated that right now, it's very hard to run this club. There are a very few people who are doing everything needed to run the club, and we can't expect those same people to do additional work to move forward with an idea such as Fields has proposed. Buffington thinks it's a wonderful idea, but he questions whether it can be successful or not, stating that we haven't tried on that level, though we have tried on a level below that as Banfield mentioned.

According to Buffington, there is another way to obtaining our goals, and that we are currently pursuing that method. He are not able to bring that method forward at this time as there are too many unknowns, and there too many things that are questionable about whether it's possible to pursue as a 501c(3) organization. A lawyer needs to be involved in order to maneuver a way through legal issues. As a result of these extenuating circumstances, he and the others involved have not yet even brought it up to the Membership or even the Board. He apologized for not yet having brought things forward.

Buffington stated that the goal is to have a 4-sheet club within 2 years, with curling available 5 days a week, wheelchair curling, daylight curling, corporate challenges, community curling, etc.,

based on demand.

Neill Turner commented that everyone on the Board has the necessary enthusiasm but that we need to start translating that enthusiasm to the Membership. We need to get them excited about having a club and get them truly involved, to make them more than just Saturday evening curlers. For example, we could have a Pittsburgh Curling Club blog on our website that keeps everyone updated on what's going on with the club and fundraising, as well as what's needed from individual members to help meet our goals.

Buffington thanked both Fields and Turner for their comments and suggestions.

CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD MEMBERS

DISCUSSION		
The President commented on Executive Board positions and duties associated with those positions, especially with regard to the Secretary position. He reminded Temple that if she needs help carrying out Secretary duties to please feel comfortable asking for help from any of the other Board members. Marchitelli and Hannan both offered to help when needed.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

FINANCIAL

DAPHNE ROBERTS

DISCUSSION	
Cash on hand:	
Money Market	\$10,005.47
Checking III	16,779.73
Assoc Checking (PayPal)	11,857.93
PayPal balance	0.00
Logo Shop change	100.00
Giant Eagle Gift Cards	1,615.00
Charles Schwab account	131,000.46

Current cash on hand	\$176,448.59
Undeposited funds	\$310.00
Logo shop sales	
Logo shop change	

Grand total cash	\$

Current Liabilities: \$4,750.00 for the next batch of Giant Eagle gift cards.

GNCC and USCA dues and insurance will be due soon.

Operations Budget:

Because the Budget had not been publicly posted last year, it was decided that Budget will be available again this year upon request.

CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

ICE OPERATIONS & EQUIPMENT

JIM MEYER

DISCUSSION		
None.		
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

Submitted by Amanda Marchitelli:

Popcorn fundraiser is complete with us raising an AMAZING \$764.50 (which includes \$654.50 sold bags and \$110 from donations since they didn't want to participate).

From what was brought to me from empty cartridges and phones, we currently have \$20.40 at the company with an estimated \$80 more to go.

We are planning a toffee fundraiser this Nov/Dec which will end this year's fundraisers. Details will be coming out as soon as I get all the paperwork from the company to pass out. I am planning on a delivery of 12/22, which is during the A league night. Because of shipment and storage, we have to have it delivered on one night.

Once January starts, I hope to sell Sarri's Candy candy bars. I will have a proposal set up for the December board meeting, since this is a pre-purchase item.

Also in January, I have planned a hoagie sale, with the details on that coming. I have an estimated date of February 1st pick up (since we have to have only one pick up date on these because of shipment costs).

The March fundraiser is going to be pasta. There is a company I have contacted about selling pasta. It's fun shaped pasta and also has mixes. The great thing about this is that they offer free internet ordering so we could offer this fundraiser to our internet and further away family/friends.

I am still contacting a few restaurants and stores for the percentage days, which most cease to talk about it until after the holidays. Also I should have a final proposal for a spaghetti dinner for March or April. I finally got a connection to a place to rent very cheaply.

Submitted by Marie Rose:

GE giftcards – We'll be purchasing a 2nd batch in \$25 increments in time for the holidays (good for gifts!)

Submitted by Dan Bliss:

I noticed that the Triangle Curling Club just purchased a piece of land for a dedicated facility. It appears that they got a good bit of positive press in the local media stemming from this, as there are links to three newspaper articles on Triangle's website.

My impression from the articles is that Triangle is taking the approach that they'll get \$X and then do the next phase. So two members donated the money for the land and they bought it. Now they're looking to raise money to hire a site engineer so they can present plans to the city council.

Just some food for thought. I think we're getting close to the point where we could buy land, so maybe this is a model we might want to think of following.

The info is here: <http://www.trianglecurling.com/?q=content/building-fund>

Small Games of Chance:
 We got our license in January so a volunteer is needed to research what it will take to renew the license this coming year.

CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Volunteer to research small games of chance license renewal	Roberts	

OUTREACH

DAN BLISS

DISCUSSION		
<p>The waiting list for Learn to Curls is up to 159 people since the end of August.</p> <p>I've been on the fence about scheduling classes during the Vampire League, but I'll probably try one soon. With a number of late starts coming up, we might have to shoot for early December.</p> <p>Also, a photographer with a photography website wishes to build his portfolio with photos of curling taken during one of our league nights. It was agreed that as long as he share the photos with us and give us permission to use them, that we allow him the necessary access.</p> <p>Late night LTCs are hard to schedule, given that ice time is less than a regular draw as well as finding enough available volunteers, given that they typically are coming off the ice as the LTC is starting. The best we can do at this point is to pick a date and see how everything goes.</p> <p>Buffington: Wristband rebates this year will be very slim so outreach opportunities are important if we wish to make extra money.</p> <p>Buffington received an email from the Wasau Curling Club inviting us to visit their new 8-sheet Olympic facility for a bonspiel and asking us to send them information for our events. Buffington will send them info about Tropicurl.</p>		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

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		
Chesapeake Curling Club has offered to let us use their ice after the upcoming Funspiel (after the awards ceremony and once the ice is empty from the Funspiel). Buffington emailed their president, Cory Jenkins, for details. We are also invited to stay on the following day (MLK, Jr., Day) to throw as many rocks as we like. This would equate to about a day-and-a-half of free curling, excluding any bar tabs.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
A volunteer is needed to put together an announcement for our Membership to drum up interest for this event as well as to create a sign-up sheet.	Rose	

MEMBERSHIP**AMY HANNAN
BRIAN STUART**

DISCUSSION		
Submitted by Amanda Marchitelli: I just got the forms for our dues that are expected January 15th. I will have the exact number of women participants by the December meeting so we could get our dues to the USWCA.		
Submitted by Amy Hannan:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have added two new Vampire league members in the last month, bringing the official total of Vampire Only members to 6 (and the total paid members of all types this year to 93 ...yeah!!). - We still have room for additional Vampire League members so it's possible we might continue to add a few more members to the league this fall and early winter. 		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

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SCHEDULING

STEVE BUFFINGTON

DISCUSSION

I was recently approached by a curler who lives in the Pittsburgh area and is interested in practicing for regional playdowns on our open ice. Her name is Jillian Walker, and she has participated in the GNCC Junior tournaments since about 2008 and curled on a team at Tropicurl 2012. This year, she has registered for mixed doubles in Bismarck, ND on December 6-9th and hopes to do mixed playdowns later in the season.

I discussed the situation with our membership committee (Hannan & Stuart), and we ran through a few options and questioned if we might be opening a can of worms by setting a precedent for non-members to use our ice.

All of this happened Thursday Nov 1 and Friday Nov 2. So I asked her to come out that Saturday so we could talk in person and she could see if our crappy ice met her needs. It does and she would like to come back again.

One of the primary questions Brian, Amy, and I had was related to our insurance coverage. Would a walk-in curler be covered under our current insurance? So I contacted Steve Gutro, the GNCC insurance guy with the following question:

We have recently been contacted by a member from one of the Cleveland Ohio curling clubs (Mayfield) about practicing a few times on some open ice we have. Would she be covered under the general liability clause of our insurance, similar to when we have the community in for open curling classes? Otherwise, do we need her to become member at some level and with us to be covered?

His reply, below, indicates that we do not need to have a membership category to be covered under insurance.

The simple answer is that if your board and officers approve the use and put it on your schedule, have them sign the waiver with the specific information for your club and let them curl. The status of membership is not critical. As long as you board and officers OK use, coverage will apply to that person, same as it does for any member or guest in a rental or bonspiel.

Several options regarding any fees she might owe the Club were discussed. Ultimately, it was decided that, as long as open ice is available and that she pay the Social Member fee, letting her practice on our ice would be good publicity for the Club. It was suggested that maybe she be asked to help with Learn-to-Curl sessions as well as to write a short biography for us to use as promotional/marketing material for the Club.

Some members of the Board disagreed that she should have to pay anything at all, given that the Club will gain publicity from her use of our ice.

CONCLUSIONS

Motion to approve asking Jillian Walker to become a Social Member & pay the associated fees for ice time to practice: Roberts/Hannan – Motion carries 10 votes to 1, Banfield dissenting, clarifying that his dissention is with regard to the Social Membership requirement only.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

LEAGUES**STEVE BUFFINGTON**

DISCUSSION		
Well, both divisions of the Can-Am league are full, and we're entering week four of a nine week season. I think all teams are doing OK and communication with scheduling has been pretty good.		
Since there are no open sheets at the 9:30 draw, any chance of rescheduling matches will need to be at the 11:30 draw. Teams wishing to reschedule will need to take the initiative for that themselves. So far, we have had an open sheet each night, but Vampire League is gaining popularity and we do hope to have a learn to curl session at some point.		
Speaking of the Vampire League, we have twenty regulars in the league and have had maybe eight to ten "guests" on an occasional basis. We can support any number (6 to 40) of curlers in this league and randomly pick teams on that night. It's a great way to get in a practice game and to have a chance to play with a new set of club members.		
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: The holiday Inn can't accommodate Tropicurl this year. Sale of the hotel to RMU and subsequent tournament bookings have filled it up. I have an offer from Tara in Greentree. I will try to get a bid from the Crown Plaza in Moon (also a full service hotel) by the Dec Board meeting so we can make a decision.		
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 write this, the curling season is well underway both at the PCC and also in the greater curling world. I continuously get emails with a notice that various clubs are holding a bonspiel and asking that I post the related flyer. If only we had a wall to post them on.</p> <p>But the point is that there are plenty of opportunities to participate in curling tournaments. Take a look at the available spiels from the GNCC Website linked off our front page. Don't hesitate to ask experienced members of the club if anyone is going to these tournaments and if you can join them.</p> <p>I also want to point out that there are many opportunities to watch some great curling matches. Just search on "curlingzone" and you should find links to several streaming sites.</p> <p>And speaking of streaming curling matches, our own Team Robinson (Mark, Brian, Daphne and Len) were one of the featured games at the Potomac "Inaugural" spiel in early October. That game didn't turn out well for the local team, but they did great in the tournament, playing 6 matches and nearly making the finals.</p> <p>Additionally, Triangle Curling Club has announced that two of their club members have gotten together to raise money and are now in the process of purchasing land. The details are not clear, but a property is under contract. Once the land is purchased, these members will then proceed to raise the funds to build. It seems like an approach.</p>

CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion to adjourn: Berwick/Crown – carried unanimously.
NEXT BOARD MEETING	December 10, 2012 at 7:30 P.M. – Hat Trick Club, RMU

EMAIL VOTES

ALL

DISCUSSION		
None.		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE