Pittsburgh Curling Club Board Meeting Minutes

4/11/2023 7:00 491 McCoy Road

MEMBERS PRESENT	Dustin Devine , Travis Eiler, Sean Mizerski , Gerry Kyle, Joe Walton ,
	Steve Buffington, Allison Devine , Burt Cubbison, Erin McManus,
	Sarah Fissella , Leonard Jarabeck, Daphne Roberts , Ryan Fissella ,
	Deb Spang
MEMBERS ABSENT	Constantin Koehler
OBSERVERS	Matthew Clark, Ryan Waskiewicz , Jacki Temple, Quintin Lovicks,
	Wenjun Xue, Marie Rose
CALLED TO ORDER	7:04 PM

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

DISCUSSION				
CONCLUSIONS				
Approval of Previous Month's Minutes: Walton/Kyle; carried unanimously				
ACTIO	N ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

MEMBER COMMENTS

DISCUSSION

• Email from Neill Turner:

I was thinking last night and I was wondering if the board had considered splitting the running of the building from the running of the club. That is to say PCC the 501c3 would run everything related to actual curling, and a separate corporation "Pittsburgh Curling Center" would manage everything related to owning the building. I.e. PCC would be tenants of Pittsburgh Curling Center.

I've curled in a few clubs now in Scotland and almost all of them have this kind of arrangement where the building operations as separate from the club.

The reason they do this is to maximize the use of the building when curling isn't taking place. Some of them use the building for band practices, country dancing, carpet bowls or summer programs that would jeopardize the charitable status of the curling club since they would be outside the remit of the club.

For example, one club leases their kitchen to a catering business that runs their own business but also provides refreshments to the curlers using the building. I could see options like that potentially being long term solutions to establishing more consistent income.

If you think about the parts of the building as assets then there is a warm room that could be used as a community meeting space/venue; Kitchen space that could be developed as a food truck prep space or small catering business; practice space for local bands; and in the summer the ice house could be used for something too (bingo, Cornhole?). A for profit company running the building could maximize the use and revenue income from the building.

Also, from a membership point of view it might be worth considering partnering with PUMP for a Tuesday curling league. I know we had a one off session before, but PUMP already has a well developed membership that actively wants to try different sports. If we provided the facilities and expert tuition and PUMP provided the logistics of league management. It might not be as profitable as our own league would be but it could be a low risk way to introduce people to curling and another avenue to recruit full members outside of the learn to curls. If pump can successfully run broomball leagues or dodgeball leagues, curling shouldn't be out of the question.

Response:

- Currently the non-profit Pittsburgh Curling Clubs owns the building, and built the building with non-taxed funds so a transition to separate organizations could bring additional liability.
- o Pump/PSL:
 - Had interest in possibly forming a league this season, but we did not have the space/volunteers to support it.
 - Discussion on how to approach them to discuss a potential fall league
 - Reach out now to gage interest? Create pricing structure to present them first?
 - Discussion whether this would be financially more beneficial than keeping the slot open for private events (likely tuesday evening)

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD MEMBERS

DISCUSSION

- Lottery Raffle:
 - O Sold out of tickets just prior to the first drawing
 - O All winners have been notified
 - o \$2,488.04-total revenue
 - Q, Heather Clay, and Joe Fey were winners who donated the winnings back to the club. Big Thanks!
- Clinic:
 - o Currently have 19-20 people interested
 - O Most likely will be May 13, 2023
 - O States that he can work around Stones and Scones
 - O Question regarding best way to set up registration
 - Will be set up on Join Us

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

MEMBERSHIP

DISCUSSION

- Survey:
 - o Ryan W has compiled/categorized the survey results.
 - This has been sent out to board members
 - Discussion regarding board response to the survey
 - Recommended sending an email to membership discussing that the results have been summarized and that the club will work to implement potential changes based on the responses
 - This will likely be done primarily via the newly formed committee's
 - O Can encourage membership to join select committee's to help institute the changes they would like to see
- Spring session:
 - O Registration up to about 60 members
 - Has increased significantly since last board meeting/after the special meeting
 - Doubles being run Sunday
- Committee's:
 - o Financial:
 - Refining sub-committee's
 - Treasury/Accounting
 - Taxes/Contracts
 - Budgeting/Planning

- Fundraising/Sponsorship
- First committee meeting will be tomorrow
 - Looking for volunteers for all sub-committee's
- 0 Membership:
 - Had first meeting last week
 - 5 current sub-committee's
 - Roster Maintenance
 - Leagues/Scheduling
 - Learn to Curls/clinics
 - Social
 - Retention
- O Events/Communication
 - Communication committee will meet this Thursday
 - Email Ryan Fissella if you are interested in joining
 - sub-committee's:
 - Bonspiel planning
 - Bonspiel procedure
 - Group event/outreach
 - Communications
 - O Question about what communications sub-committee will focus on

- Is it going to be the voice for all committee's? Or is it focused on social media communications
- Discussion that it will likely focus on social media
- Would like to have next years bonspiel schedule planned by the annual meeting

o Facilities

- No current committee head
- While there are not pressing needs for this committee currently, will need to begin planning in the near future for taking the ice out, preparing to put the ice in, yard maintenance, etc.
- Discussion about running this through sub-committee's for the time being
 - Sub-committee's:
 - O Grounds-Laura Kyle
 - o Ice-Sean Mizerski
 - O Maintenance-Steve Buffington
 - O Logo/Pro shop-Ryan Fissella
- Annual Membership meeting:
 - O Discussion regarding choosing a date
 - Pro's and Con's to every choice
 - Discussion regarding choosing a date of 6/17/23, the weekend after Tropicurl
 - Discussion that membership will still be invested in the club, and may get better turnout

- Discussion that this would be potentially adding work for those who need to prepare for the meeting after having just hosted a large event at the club
- Discussion that Tropicurl financials will not be in the presentation due to the quick turnaround, but that the meeting was held prior to Tropicurl last year so those financials have also been unavailable in the past
- Election committee can begin to find candidates for board elections
 (traditionally made up of board members who are due for election the following year; Sean, Deb, Leonard, Erin)

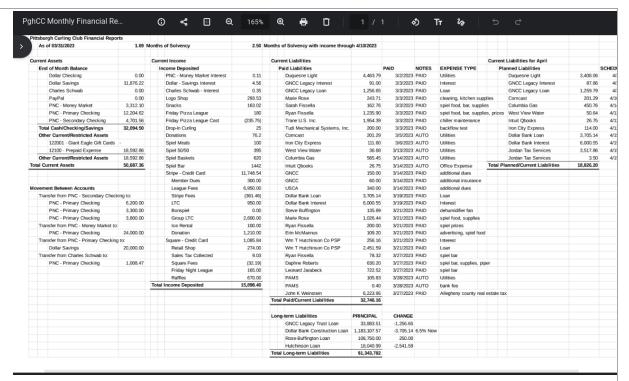
CONCLUSIONS			
Motion to host the annual meeting 6/17/23: Fissella/Walton; motion carried unanimously			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

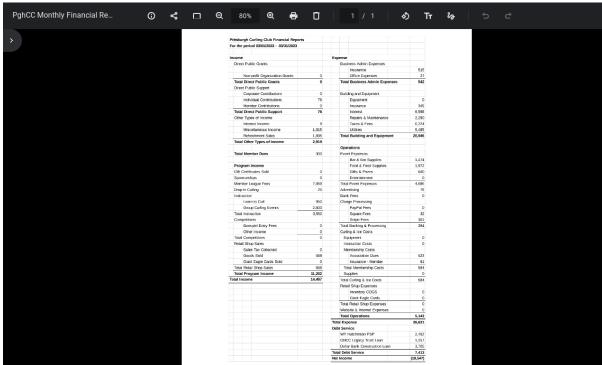
OUTREACH

DISCUSSION		
CONCLUSIONS		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

FINANCIAL

DISCUSSION	





- O Charles Schwaub account closed and deposited into PNC account
- O Currently at 2.5 months of solvency

- Increase due to spring registration, bonspiel income, rock sales, Laurel
 Medical sponsorship, group LTC, \$500 donation
- Expecting another \$3000 check from Laurel Medical
- O Sarris candy profit \$249.74, will likely be deposited this week
- O Stowe Twp property tax installments likely due May, July, and Sept (\$3500 each)
- O June-Penn National insurance will be due (last year was \$4800)
- O Income tab has been added to report, shows where income comes from

Private Loans:

- O Buffington-Rose Loan:
 - Scheduled to begin paying on this loan this month
 - Buffington/Rose have offered to extend deferment of this loan
 - Will need a copy of the loan agreement sent to Steve Buffington and Joe Walton so that a modified version with a future repayment date can be drafted and notarized.

O Hutchinson Loan:

- Received email from Dean Roth stating that if we would like to reduce or defer principal payments on the loan that they are open to that.
- Asked that the treasurer contact him if we are interested in doing so.
- Discussion as to the best way to adjust the loan
 - Interest only? Interest plus some principle? Do we plan on making a lump payment after membership revenue comes in?

o GNCC Loan:

- Dustin spoke with GNCC regarding what loans we were currently paying
- GNCC asked that we send an email to Kristin and Bob explaining our financial situation and asking to pause payment for financial hardship
 - They will take the request to the board of trustees to see what can be done

O General comments on loan repayment

- Board member discussed a concern regarding taking the offers from Hutchinson/GNCC to reduce/pause principal payments as they have been supporters in the club. Member believes that if at all possible we should continue their loan repayment and focus on revenue generation.
- Member comment regarding the possibility of continued interest being generated during any pause in principal payments, meaning the loan providers would be continuing to benefit from the loan.
- Discussion that with our current solvency projection of 2.5 months we need to find any savings that we can right now, while also focusing on potential revenue.

• Brian/potential loan refinance:

- O Daphne has provided Brian additional information on several occasions since last meeting
- O Have not heard anything specifically back at this time regarding next steps.
- Giant Eagle gift card purchase:
 - A member has inquired about purchasing a large amount of gift cards for a household project
 - O Marie Rose has offered to front the money to the club for the purchase
 - O Marie offers to update the board throughout the process, and provide receipts.

Motion to purchase \$10,000 in giant eagle gift cards once Marie deposits the funds to the club. Club will then provide the gift cards to Marie upon receiving them: Fissella/Walton; motion carried unanimously

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Send Buffington/Rose Loan agreement to Buffington/Walton	Daphne Roberts	
Reach out regarding adjusting Hutchinson Loan	Allison Devine	

EVENTS

DISCUSSION

- Wheelchair Spiel:
 - O 9 registered participants so far; also 2 registered spectators with meal plans
 - O Ryan/Matt reaching out to other participants who have indicated they plan to come, but have yet to register
 - O Laurel Medical has signed on as a "gold" sponsor, will now be called the "Laurel Medical Wheelchair Bonspiel"
 - Gold sponsorship will include a banner in the ice-house, full page ad in program
 - O Ryan checking on potential on ice assistants from Pitt/St Francis
- Friendly:
 - o 6 clubs invited
 - 0 14 current participants from Pittsburgh, will likely need some more to fill the event
 - O Pittsburgh will be donating the ice and food, other clubs have been asked to consider a potential donation
- Tropicurl:
 - O Have reached out to all teams regarding their new first draw times since expanding to 40 teams
 - O Have contacted first 8 waitlist teams, have heard back from all of them, and 4 have been invoiced/paid

- Waiting to hear back on confirmation from the other 4 teams
- Have 3 additional teams on waitlist
- O Pin design for "evergreen" pin
 - Discussion regarding the designs that were submitted
 - Discussion regarding potential costs of each
 - Due to the necessity of a quick turnaround to have the pins in time for the event Steve (who is purchasing) will speak with manufacturer's and select a design and place the order
 - Discussion about including "Tropicurl Island" now that we are not on Neville Island
 - o 5 and 10 year patches each say Island
 - O Trophy also has Island
- Question as to whether we plan to order event t-shirts to sell
 - Decision that this can be handled by the event committee
- Bucks County fundraiser:
 - O Reciprocal members from Pittsburgh/Bucks were made aware of the clubs financial situation due to the email sent out regarding our membership meeting
 - Bucks curling board approved a one day fundraising spiel, set for 5/13
 - Bucks volunteered to host the event and provide the food
 - Bucks proposed that registration for the event be run through PCC website
 - Up to 64 participants, \$100/person
 - Have already had participants begin to register

•	Link to donately page included for individuals who cannot make the event but
	wish to make a donation

•	Discussion regarding adding this to website, potentially revamping donation
	tah

CONCLUSIONS

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Order Tropicurl pins	Buffington	

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion to adjourn: Walton/Buffington; carried unanimously	
NEXT BOARD MEETING	May 9th, 2023 at PCC	

EMAIL VOTES ALL

DISCUSSION			
CONCLUSIONS			
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ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE