

Minutes of the 2020 PSC Membership Meeting

Held November 12, 2020, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Dick Gann

Dick Gann welcomed the members and thanked them for their participation. There was a total of 26 attendees.

Tim Bartol reviewed the format for the Zoom meeting.

Steve Weber presented an overview of the Club's finances and the changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Upon closing the Club in March 2020, per Executive Order of the Montgomery County Executive, we had informed the membership that we would be refunding dues for the current quarter. We later refunded dues for each quarter through December 31, 2020. Steve had reviewed our monthly and annual operating costs and proposed to the Board a list of cost-cutting measures. These have reduced our average monthly burn rate to approximately \$5 k, down from our typical \$7+ k. We have \$146 k in on hand, most of which had been intended for renovation of our courts. Steve's full accounting is attached.

Robert Weinstock then presented information regarding our membership. We have 137 total members, of which 72 have signed waivers to be able to play, and half of these have actually reserved court time. Inquiries regarding membership have, not surprisingly, dwindled to a trickle. However, we have accepted five new members, two of whom are spouses of current members. When we re-institute dues payment, there is uncertainty as to how many members will depart.

Bob Stillman presented an overview of the provisions we instituted to reduce the risk of playing squash in an environment of a highly contagious disease and directives from both the State and County in which we operate. These provisions are described in the attached document. They addressed reducing the risk of spread of the virus by large aerosols, fine aerosols, and contact. Compliance with these rules and instructions has been exceptional, and the responses to alerts of the infrequent violations have garnered positive responses. The full overview is attached.

The Club's projects focused on hardware modifications to reduce the risk of transmission of the SARS-COV-2 virus. Bob and Charlie Gunn noted that we have improved our air filtration, increased the fan speeds in our HVAC system, and installed ionizers that render the virus impotent. Steve mentioned that we have applied for, and are optimistic about receiving, a reimbursement grant from National Capital Squash for the ionizers. We are in the process of replacing the ceiling fans above the courts to improve air circulation. Dick mentioned that we took advantage of the opportunity to install new day lockers on the mezzanine level. Once we resume full operation, some will be reserved for our women players who outnumber the lockers in their locker room and some will become day lockers for guests and members who bring their gear to the Club. The lockers are wide enough to accommodate large squash bags, freeing up the floor space by Court 3 for stretching.

Dick reported that our agreement with Play Squash is suspended. We helped bridge their financial gap by paying them during the first several months of Club closure. The Club has received conflicting reports regarding the safety precautions at the Play Squash facilities. We will consider resuming joint activities when the number of COVID-19 cases abates significantly.

Dick presented a prognosis for the Club's future that is characterized by uncertainty. So far, we haven't had any case of a player being sick or anyone bringing the disease into the Club. This is a testament to the safety measures taken by all of us every day, both in and out of the Club. However, the numbers of reported COVID-19 cases in Montgomery County and the surrounding jurisdictions is

rising sharply. Thus, we will not be relaxing our precautions and are open to any suggestions for improving them. The disease is clearly still active in our communities, and the transmission rate is high. The State and County have re-imposed some previously relaxed restrictions, but none of these have yet affected us. We've had an encouraging first report about an effective vaccine, but the developer projects wide availability no sooner than the middle of 2021. This is likely to be the prime determinant of when we can expand our operation.

Basil Herzstein asked whether the County might reduce the property taxes of the Club (as a 501.c.7 entity) in light of the pandemic. He also asked if we might switch our internet service from Comcast to a possibly lower cost Verizon account. He was asked to check on these.

Bob then asked the participants for their thoughts regarding dues for the coming months in light of the ongoing depletion of our reserves resulting from no income. Steve noted that a few members had offered to contribute their dues to help with the Club finances. Eleven members made suggestions. The general theme was for a two-tier dues system (not unlike the Club format prior to the pandemic): one level for those who play and a lower level, or no dues, for those who choose not to play. There was sentiment to accept any voluntary contributions. There was also a suggestion that the Board conduct a survey of the full membership for further input.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attachments

- Financial statement
- Summary of risk reduction actions