

Minutes of the GLCA Meeting

April 28, 2018

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 by Ben Levy.

The Attendees were:

Bowling Green: Scott Piroth

Circle City: Tammy Hoffman

Detroit: Ben Levy, Josh Lopez, Jay Clark, Paul Badgero, Bret Jackson

Fort Wayne: Kerry Sharpe

Mayfield: Courtney Schmidt

Midland: John Zimmerman, Mike Graves

Attending via phone: Phil Gohr, Bowling Green; Jonathan Penney, Cincinnati; Claire Wegel, Circle City; Kara Girvin, Cleveland Skating; Steve Imes, Columbus; Mike Coulter, Columbus; Paul Eisenman, Copper Country; Marty Lemert, Fort Wayne; Jeff Michael, Lewiston; Kory VanHorn, Petoskey

Proxies: Ben Levy held for Sandra Takata, Great Smokey Mountains; Ben Levy held for Mark McElwee, Lansing; Courtney Schmidt held for Mike Moore, Mayfield; Paul Badgero held for Adam Rivera, Detroit.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Fall 2017 meeting at the Fort Wayne Curling Club were approved with no changes.

3. Regional Updates

a. Regional

Twenty-four bonspiels in series and the region continues to be active with participation in all USCA events.

b. Bowling Green

Bowling Green had a successful season and celebrated their 50th anniversary. Filled seven beginners leagues and 212 people have signed up for next season or placed a deposit. This growth would double the size of the club.

c. Cincinnati

Cincinnati reports having a good season. Ran four leagues, used an outdoor rink for part of the season, and continues to build their relationship with Miami University. Had over 400 clinic attendees and continue working toward fundraising for dedicated ice.

d. Circle City

Circle City was not able to capitalize on interest generated from the Olympics due to issues with the arena. Ice was back up April 27th and for the third year co-hosted the Man of the Year fundraiser which doubled to 19 teams and helped raise \$10k for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Fundraising for dedicated ice continues to be strong.

e. Cleveland Skating Club

Cleveland Skating Club had a good season and membership numbers are growing. The club has approved a new 1-year membership so people can join just for curling. Looking to have more ice time available next season.

f. Columbus

Columbus will be voting at their annual meeting on the future growth of the club. Three options will be to leave the club as is; expand the current facility, or move/build a new building. They will be hosting the women's 5 and under this year. Nine hundred people went through clinics and still has a waiting list of 800 people.

g. Copper Country

Membership stable and will be curling up to mid-April. School groups from middle and high schools brought in 150 students. Lots of interest from outside groups, but since the groups are not local, increasing membership numbers is difficult.

h. Curl Troy

No report

i. Delta Rocks

No report

j. Detroit

Detroit hosted Junior Nationals and extended their season. In the fall they will host the 100th year of exchange with Kitchener-Waterloo in Canada.

k. Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne reported they had over six hundred people come in for clinics and was able to fill three rookie leagues.

l. Great Smokey Mountains

Rocky Top spiel is coming up and sold out this year.

m. Kalamazoo

No report

n. Lansing

Lansing has a new arena and will be running a summer League at Suburban Ice Arena in Lansing. No commitment yet for the fall.

o. Lewiston

Lewiston has 55 members and curled four nights and held a Friday morning Seniors league. International spiel filled up and has a waiting list. Facility updates in the off-season include installing concrete and plumbing.

p. Mayfield

Mayfield was able to sell out all clinics including next November.

q. Midland

Midland hosted seven teams for the GLCA mixed championships. New event for next year will be a mixed doubles cash spiel. Four friendlies scheduled for the coming season. The juniors program in the GLCA continues to grow and be successful. U18 took bronze. Midland will be putting on a skills and strategy clinic November 10-11. Contact Mike Graves for further details.

r. Petoskey

First year curling indoors and sharing with an arena. Currently at 30-40 members.

s. South Bend

No report

t. Traverse City

Traverse City wrapped up with Cherry Bombspiel with 32 teams. Early discussions are under way for land for a dedicated facility.

4. Audit Finance Report

a. Financial Update

Treasurer Tammy Hoffman gave an update on the finances and indicated that the net total that we have in the account is \$18,019. Need to invoice Traverse City \$500 for the rental of stones based on the stone rental program. Dues from all clubs have been received along with payment from USCA for club playdowns. Ben and Tammy will work with Petoskey on open stone payment and membership.

b. 501(c)(3) Update

The Finance/Audit Committee continues to work on this. Tammy has asked Ben and Mark to update her on the details and status.

5. Membership

a. Stone Rental Update

Stone rental program is \$300 first year, \$400 second year, and \$500 third year.

Traverse City kept one set of stones. Treasurer to send invoice.

Petoskey has possession of two old sets, and one new set of GLCA stones. They do not want to continue using the two old sets of stones next season. Ben to work with Petoskey and figure out when the second set was transferred from Traverse City. Discuss pro-rating the fee for the 2017-18 season.

By the fall meeting will need to determine who will be using the two sets of stones for next season. Will Traverse City and Petoskey continue to use the stones or will they be available for other clubs?

Since the two older sets of stones are no longer being used, discussion as to what to do with them. Store, sell, or can another club use them? In the past old stones were stored at a club that had extra space.

b. Bonspiel Promotion/Pin Program

Karen Hamilton from Columbus was heading the pin portion of the program and has stepped down from the GLCA to assist Gordon. Karen has the inventory of pins and we are looking for a volunteer to head up this program. Scott Piroth will work with Karen to retrieve the inventory of pins and will bring them to the fall meeting for distribution. Club reps should collect the forms and contact Scott regarding how many they will need for the fall meeting.

c. New Clubs

Inquiries from three new areas within the region

1. Derby City Curling Club – Louisville, KY. Jonathan Penney has been in discussions with Bethany Curry regarding starting a club. Six people attended their founders meeting including Josh Scott, former member of Circle City.
2. Commonwealth Curling Club – Lexington, KY. Received inquiries from them, but no further information.

3. Alpena, MI attended the Traverse City bonspiel and asked several questions.

The USCA is putting the finishing touches on a new Arena How-To blueprint that helps start up arena clubs. Discusses how to talk with the arena, where and how to get equipment, etc. Courtney Schmidt will forward the blueprint to the interested clubs.

6. Championship/Rules

- a. World Curling Federation and USCA rule changes

WCF and USCA will be using the five-rock free guard rule. Clubs are open to adopt the rule or not, but championships and national events will follow the new rule.

- b. Regional championship guidelines have not been fully updated in several years. Project to cleanup and make available for everyone.
- c. Regional playdown fee and host club contribution

Discussion to have a guarantee minimum for hosting clubs. This would come through the registration process. Men/Women club nationals would be considered one event. Ben Levy made a motion that will guarantee clubs \$500 when they host a national event effective with the 2017-18 season. Motion voted on and approved by the board.

- d. Event hosting for 2018-19 season

Event chair should be identified by June 1.

- i. U18 Championship – Midland, MI – Held between Christmas and New Year's, exact dates TBD.
 - ii. Men/Women Club Championship – December 14-16, Fort Wayne, IN
 - iii. Mixed Championship – January 18-20, Bowling Green, OH
- e. Rotation Schedule to add Lewiston for mixed formats for events at a 2-sheet club.

In 2015 Lewiston was scheduled, but one team registered, so event did not take place. GLCA by-laws state a club should not host an event until all other clubs have a chance to host. Lewiston is ok to go into the rotation where the board feels appropriate. Motion by Mike Graves to add Lewiston to mixed rotation in 2022 and 2030. Motion passed with one opposed.

7. Governance

- a. Election of USCA Director

Motion to elect Courtney Schmidt as USCA Director. Motion passed.

- b. Training/Resources for local club governance

Marty Lemert putting together documents on how to run a non-profit for clubs, keeping meeting minutes, etc. This will be distributed to clubs once completed.

8. New Business

a. Eligibility for regional mixed championships

At the last mixed playdowns, only three of the seven teams were fully comprised of GLCA members. The USCA allows for at least two members of the team be from the same region. The GLCA bylaws defines a member as paying membership and plays a minimum of six times per season. How do we verify that GLCA players have met the definition of a member by playing at least six times at their home club?

The USCA rules committee only look at residency regarding membership, but states regions can set the playdown guidelines. Ben, Mike and Paul will be in contact with the USCA rules committee to update the registration policy regarding eligibility requirements

b. Congratulations to Courtney Schmidt for being elected USCA Chairwoman of the Board.

c. New bylaws to USCA and in review period

1. Vacancies on committees will be filled immediately.
2. Flexibility for clubs not paying dues. Handles case by case and if 95% of the clubs are paying dues, the region is in compliance.

d. Business of Curling Symposium – June 2-3, Dakota Curling Club

e. Darwin Curtis grant applications due by June 1

f. Members Assembly – October 18-21, Albany, NY

g. USCA Volunteer of the Year – Due in July based on previous season experiences.

h. Regional officials, please contact Paul Badgero so he has a full list of who is available.

i. Interest in instructor's clinics, contact Mike Graves or Scott Piroth.

Next meeting will be held September 29 at Cleveland Skating Club.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

Draft Minutes submitted by Tammy Hoffman, June 18, 2018.