

MRPC Minutes Summary

Members Present: Reggie Dvorak - President

Kevin Carver - Vice-President

Darlene Roth – Treasurer

Allison Manning - Member-at-Large

Nancy Smith - Secretary

Approval of AGM Minutes: The minutes from the Annual General Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Our current balance is \$14,294.75, which is similar to our financial standing at this time last year. We are in strong financial position as we start our next season.

President's Report

Meeting with Mesa Regal Manager

Court Lighting: New, three-tiered LED lighting panels, similar to those at Val Vista, will replace the current single-head lights. These new panels can be adjusted to provide better coverage. The goal is to resolve night play problems, especially on courts 3-5, which were originally lit for tennis. The board will reevaluate the lighting after installation.

- Maintenance Delays: A concern was raised that Mesa Regal maintenance workers have been sent to California to work on other resorts, potentially delaying the completion of these projects.

Building and Space Issues

- Stairway to the Attic: The problematic stairway to the Palo Verde attic remains a significant safety concern and is slated for repairs. Gloria confirmed the building has not been condemned and recently passed inspection, contrary to rumors.
- Shared Space: The shared space in the Palo Verde building, including half the kitchen, has been largely taken over by the carvers. The President has addressed this issue twice, emphasizing it's a shared space. The board believes Gloria understands our concerns.

Court Maintenance and Future Expansion

- Court Cracks: Work is underway to repair cracks, specifically on Court 4 and potentially Court 1. Court 4's cracking is exacerbated by it being a retention pond, causing rain to seep into the cracks.
- 21 Courts Project: Discussions continue regarding the proposed 21 new courts. Gloria hopes the project will be completed during her tenure, but it's not guaranteed.

New Initiatives and Future Visions

- "Passport for Fun" Brochure: Mesa Regal will launch a "Passport for Fun" brochure every six months. This new publication will consolidate information about various sports and activities, including pickleball, separating it from the monthly messenger.
- Palo Verde Room and Stage Area Improvements: The President is advocating for improvements to the Palo Verde room and stage area, feeling that pickleball facilities are often overlooked compared to tennis. While a "skybox" like tennis courts was deemed infeasible due to infrastructure, interim solutions for the stage space are being explored. The ambitious long-term vision is to open the large wall between the Palo Verde room and the stage to create a continuous, more usable space for socials, accommodating more tables, a coffee bar, or a TV. A concern with this plan is that the area is a retention pond, prone to overflow onto the stage, necessitating solutions like sliders or doors for closure.

Rick Gonzales Celebration of Life

Rick Gonzales recently passed away. Marilyn and the Regie discussed organizing a Celebration of Life for him within the pickleball club this fall. The board's consensus is to keep the event simple, with the Social Committee and Marilyn leading the planning.

Board Member Roles and Committee Updates

All present current board members (Nancy, Allison, Darlene, and Allison) confirmed they are content in their existing roles and do not wish to change.

Committee Chairs for next year are:

- IT: Lawrence Green
- Recycling: Mike Baril

- Tournament: Connie Craig
 - Social Committee: Carol Bowers and Darlene Roth
 - End-of-Season Party: Cindy St. John
 - Coordination of Program Coordinators: Carol Bowers
 - Maintenance: Larry Bowers
 - Photographer: Gail Norland
 - Newsletter: President and Secretary of MRPC
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IT, Website, and Fees Discussion

The board discussed whether to retain the legacy website (MRPC Clubs) in addition to Court Reserve.

Arguments for keeping the legacy website:

- It would operate in the background (not publicly visible) at an annual cost of approximately \$300-\$350.
- It allows the club to maintain existing email domains (e.g., secretary@mrpc.club), which are highly useful.
- It provides storage for photos, minutes, and historical documents, acting as a secure repository for the club's history. Nancy emphasized its value for new members to access past events and pictures.
- Lawrence can set up auto-redirects so content from the legacy site appears on Court Reserve, leveraging his IT expertise.

Arguments against keeping it:

- The annual cost of \$300-\$350.
- Court Reserve's basic subscription is currently paid for by Cal Am.

Lawrence assured the board that if the legacy site were discontinued, data access would be retained and could be transferred to another storage solution like OneDrive, though this might not fully support email domains or the same level of security.

Action: The consensus was strongly in favor of keeping the legacy website due to its value for historical records, email domains, secure storage at a reasonable annual cost, and the new adoption of Court Reserve. This decision will be re-evaluated annually.

Office 365 Subscription Cancellation

The club is currently paying \$150 annually for an Office 365 subscription, providing board members with access to Microsoft Word, Excel, and cloud storage. Most current board members (Reggie, Nancy, Darlene, Allison, and Kevin) confirmed they do not need this subscription, as they have their own.

Larry Bowers is the only individual currently using the club's subscription. Darlene generously offered to add Larry to her personal Office 365 subscription, which has available user slots, eliminating this club expense. If Larry prefers his own subscription, he would need to cover the annual fee himself.

Action: The board agreed to cancel the club's Office 365 subscription.

Court Reserve Registration and Membership Validation

The board discussed the process for member registration and validation within Court Reserve, particularly how to ensure that only Mesa Regal residents are club members, a feature previously handled by the legacy website.

With the current basic Court Reserve membership, the club faces two less-than-ideal options:

- Automatic Renewal: Members from the previous year would automatically retain membership without a validation process, which raised concerns.
- Clean Slate Registration: Everyone would need to re-register annually, an arduous process requiring re-entry of all member data and ratings.

The preferred solution is to upgrade to Court Reserve's second-tier membership, at an additional cost of \$100 per month (\$1,200 annually).

Benefits of the upgraded membership:

- It enables an acknowledgment and validation process similar to the previous system, ensuring members are Mesa Regal residents.
- It avoids the need to wipe and re-enter all member data and ratings annually.

- It offers additional features like push notifications and text alerts (though text messages incur an additional charge).

There was strong sentiment that Cal Am should cover this additional \$1,200 annual cost, as it restores essential functionality the club previously had and ensures proper member validation.

Action: Reggie will formally request Cal Am to cover the full \$1,200 annual cost for this Court Reserve upgrade.

Registration Field Updates

The club plans to modify Court Reserve registration fields to include an option for volunteer sign-ups, a feature previously available on the legacy website. The suggestion of adding a "year of birth" field for age-categorized events was discussed but generally deemed not critical at this time, especially given security concerns with full birthdate information. The existing liability statement will continue to be included as part of the Court Reserve registration process.

Action: Volunteer sign-ups will be added to the registration field.

Newsletter Changes

Nancy and the President proposed shifting from a weekly newsletter to a less frequent "letter from the board/president," likely on a monthly or occasion-based schedule (e.g., welcome, holiday messages).

Rationale for this change:

- **Reduced Redundancy:** Weekly newsletters often contained repetitive information.
- **Real-Time Updates:** Time-sensitive information will now be posted as announcements on Court Reserve, with the first new-format letter directing members to check these regularly.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** The club has sufficient email capacity (up to 5,000 emails per month) for this less frequent communication, avoiding additional fees.

Action: The board agreed to trial this approach, and feedback will be used to make future adjustments.

Scheduling Inter-Park Play

Kevin is working with inter-park coordinators to get their schedule released sooner to avoid conflicts with the club's events. However, it's unlikely the full inter-park schedule will be available before November due to varying paces among parks.

Action: The board will create a fall schedule for the club, based on last year's inter-park schedule, and then adjust it once the new official inter-park schedule becomes available. This aims to minimize conflicts and keep members playing within Mesa Regal. The schedule can be reassessed in December or January, similar to previous years.

Social Events and Programs

The club plans to develop a schedule for social events, working closely with the social committee. The goal is to host at least one event per month, varying in size. Events like "Dinking, Dining, and Drinking" were well-received, and the board will brainstorm new ideas.

Action: The social committee will meet to propose a nine-month plan to the board.

Programs:

- Cal-Am 4.0+ Men's League: A league for Sundays (12:30 PM - 2:00 PM) involving three or four courts at each Cal-Am Park is being planned.
- Skinny Singles and 3.75 Program: Requests for these programs are being considered.

Action: Discussion for these programs is tabled for the July meeting.

- Intercity Program: The Saturday intercity program, involving players from outside the park, was discussed in depth.
 - Concerns: There's debate about the program's balance, as it heavily features out-of-park players and uses all courts on Saturday afternoons. The board questions if this aligns with the club's desire to keep members playing within the park and if it's fair that non-rated outside players participate when Mesa Regal members are required to have ratings.
 - Benefits: Despite concerns, the program offers a valuable opportunity for Mesa Regal members to play against strong, diverse talent, aiding skill improvement.
 - Past Practice: Last year, unrated players participated through invitation or coordinator verification codes.
 - Future Considerations: This program presents a complex issue, especially with the new Cal-Am 4.0+ league. Key questions involve maintaining consistent rating standards across all programs, whether intercity play should continue, and if it

should rotate among Cal-Am parks to spread court usage. The general sentiment is to integrate this "event-like" program while aligning it with the club's overall expectations and rating requirements.

Action: Discussion for the Intercity Program is tabled for the July meeting. The goal is to balance diverse play opportunities with upholding established standards.

Training Program Updates

The club is proud of its comprehensive training options, spanning 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5 levels, demonstrating a strong commitment to member development. No changes to the programs are planned.

APPL (Arizona Pickleball Players League)

The board discussed whether to open APPL registration again this year for teams to host games, particularly during the 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM time slot. A significant update is that new LED lights, similar to those at Val Vista, have been ordered and will replace existing court lights. While this should alleviate previous lighting issues, especially on courts 3-5, the full impact remains to be seen. Poor lighting was a major concern for many players' last season.

Action: Despite some remaining uncertainties, there's a strong consensus to continue sponsoring APPL. Last year, the league successfully fostered a positive community atmosphere. The club plans to maintain the 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM time slot for APPL games and will again cap the number of teams at eight.

Upcoming Meeting Agenda and Scheduling

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 14th at 8:00 AM Arizona time (10:00 AM Central).

It will focus on:

- **Schedule Draft: Presentation and discussion of a preliminary schedule draft.**
- **Program Updates: Updates on various programs.**
- **Ratings Impact: Significant discussion on how ratings will affect program inclusion, especially for intercity players and those not meeting current criteria. The goal is to revisit the playoff program structure.**

- **New Program Ideas: Brainstorming for a mentorship program and how to accommodate short-term visitors (e.g., those here for a week) within playing opportunities.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Smith, Secretary