**Iowa Racquetball Association Board Meeting**

**December 14, 2015 from 8:30pm – 9:42pm**

*In attendance: Rob Paulsen, Josh Paul, Dan Horner, Susan Acoymo, Mike Gleason, and Andy Pearson*

*Absent: Jeff Burbank*

* Financial Update—Josh gave a report of our financial standing. Our account balance is now at $5,465.
* 501(c)(3) status—Josh gave the current status of our application to the IRS.
* He sent in the additional information the IRS requested just before our last meeting 6 weeks ago, but he hasn’t heard anything back yet. They had told him 4-6 weeks for an answer.
* This is problematic as a large source of our annual income comes from Don McCormick’s employer Wellmark for his volunteer coaching hours and Wellmark requires that the funds go to a 501(c)(3). Don told Josh that he has to know if we are a 501(c)(3) by December 15 or he will have to designate the money elsewhere. It appears that he will give the $6,000 to the YMCA and maybe we could end up recouping some of the money in discounts, free tournaments, etc from the YMCA accordingly. The last time Josh and Don spoke Don had said we have until December 31 to obtain the status. We aren’t sure what changed, but hopefully we will get an answer in the next few days and we can fix this.

* Speaker system and bleachers reimbursement—
* Dan reported that on November 30th the board voted via e-mail on paying for half the cost of the speaker system owned by the Hinder Club (handball organization). The total cost is $1,161 so it was proposed by Rob that we send them a check for $580.50. Second by Andy. Passed 7-0. The speaker system will be stored at the business of one of the Hinder Club’s members, but we will have free use of it at any time we ask.
* Dan then mentioned that the Hinder Club is now purchasing bleachers and they wanted to know if we would like to do the same type of thing in splitting the cost with them. The bleachers would be kept at the YMCA year round over at the basketball courts so the YMCA would also benefit from this. The total cost is around $1,065 so we would potentially pay half of that to them. Josh asked if the YMCA would chip in a few hundred dollars toward this since they would be gaining from this. A vote on this was tabled until our next meeting in January.
* Winter Classic tournament recap—Rob reported that there were 45 participants and things went well. In the future we want to start planning events more than 30 days in advance to get use of the additional R2 e-mail blast. Rob will try to get Oakmoor’s distribution list from them so we can contact those people also. For future tournaments we need to have a check-in list printed for accounting purposes.
* Winterton Program Survey—Josh reported that he has only received 3 responses yet so far from the 5 kids and their parents with the expectation that both the kids and their parents respond. There is a little time left before their responses are due. Once Josh has received, reviewed, and prepared the responses to share with the board he will e-mail them to us to look at and then after feedback he will design applications that kids can fill out if they are interested in participating. Hopefully most of this process can be done via e-mail so by our January meeting we will know where things are going.
* 2016 Iowa Open—Josh reported that we do have the dates set for March 4-6 and asked for a couple people to step forward to run the tournament. Dan agreed to be the tournament director and Andy will help in an assistant role.
* Reorganization Ideas for the IRA—This was time set aside for ideas that Andy had e-mailed to the board a couple months ago to restructure how the board is run and to make sure it is operating in an optimal fashion. He asked a couple questions, but he really didn’t get into the details or ask for any action to be taken at this time. Rob shared that at a minimum we want to offer 1 tournament per quarter in Iowa and continue to offer junior clinics on a weekly basis. He brought up potentially branching out to arrange working with high schools and/or middle schools in developing a club-type sport. He also mentioned that creating an annual budget would be a great idea. Dan, Rob, and Josh discussed how we want to start holding tournaments in other areas of Iowa.
* Open Discussion—Rob brought up that Bryan Crosser contacted him regarding an opportunity for Cliff Swain to come to town and conduct a clinic in January and that the IRA may want to promote it. Dan asked if this has been approved by Tim Short and Rob said no. Dan then brought up that Tim said we can’t have any organized events in January because of New Year’s resolutions and that month being their busiest of the year. Rob will inform Crosser of this. Dan then brought up that our bylaws posted on our website are out of date. Rob had redone them many months ago so he will send to Josh. Our next meeting will be Monday, January 11, 2016.