**Iowa Racquetball Association Board Meeting**

**August 9, 2016 from 8:45pm – 10:02pm**

*In attendance: Josh Paul, Dan Horner, Susan Acoymo, Jeff Burbank, Mike Gleason, and Dennis Chandler*

*Absent: Rob Paulsen*

* Welcome—The IRA welcomed Dennis Chandler to the board. This is his first meeting.
* Bid for 2017 Junior Olympic National Championships—Mike gave a report on what has occurred over the last month.
* Dan, Mike, and Don McCormick have had a few meetings with the YMCA and Catch Des Moines to work out the details.
* Potential locations—It was determined that the Downtown YMCA and Ankeny YMCA would serve as the locations for this tournament if we are selected. Drake University was unavailable and Oakmoor was unwilling to open its doors for us.
* Bid Packet submitted—The bid packet was submitted in late July and we hope to hear back by the end of August.
* The YMCA initially asked for $7,000 to use the downtown branch, but by the end of the process they had come down to $5,000. In addition to this they were asking for another approximately $2,000 for the Ankeny branch as a second facility, which is necessary due to the number of courts required by USAR.
* The USAR wants to make National tournaments like this an event so that is what we attempted to create with many fun activities during the off hours.
* Other states that are in the running are MN, CA, TX, and CO.
* The IRA has put up $6,000, Catch Des Moines has put up $5,000, and the IRA guaranteed we would seek out another $5,000 in other donations for a total of $16,000.
* Financial Update—Josh gave a report of our financial standing. Our account balance is now at approximately $6,500 with another Wellmark check coming soon and all expenses paid in full.
* Blind Draw—Josh announced his upcoming blind draw doubles planned for September 24 in the Quad Cities. Last year maxed out at 32 participants and this year should also. The cost is $15 for non-members and $10 for members with 100% of the entry cost being paid out to the winners.
* Marigold Resources Quad Cities Open—Josh announced his upcoming 3-day Tier IV tournament set for October 21-23 with prize payouts of at least $1,000 for first place in the Men’s IRT division. Last year there were some good high Open players that attended from around the Midwest. Hopefully this year we can draw a pro or two since there are no Tier I tourneys occurring that weekend. Josh asked the board to approve a sponsorship from the IRA of $300. Mike motioned and Dan seconded and the motion passed 5-0 with Josh abstaining.
* Fall Classic tournament in Des Moines—Josh and Dan brought up the need for a Fall Classic tournament to occur the weekend that Oakmoor always held theirs and asked for a volunteer to run this tourney. Last year we didn’t have enough time to plan a tourney for this weekend after learning of Oakmoor’s closing in mid-August. Dennis accepted this invitation and will be the tournament director. He will try to find some volunteers to assist.
* Facility rental rates—Dan will work with the downtown YMCA to secure a meeting if necessary to discuss facility rental costs for the 16/17 season.
* Tournament Calendar—Dan will prepare a tournament calendar that can be posted both on-line as well as at facilities in the area.
* Other potential sites for tournaments—Josh mentioned that Burlington may be a potential location for a 1 day shootout in the near future. They hosted a blind draw doubles earlier this year similar to Josh’s.
* Fundraising for Junior Worlds—Josh brought up the subject of raising funds to send Benjamin to the Junior Worlds Racquetball Championships. He qualified at Junior Nationals back in June and the trip is uncompensated by USAR so it would be nice for the IRA to help send him on his way. Dan has apparel sales that were provided by USAR to sell where all the profits will go to fund Benjamin’s trip. He will send those out to some people and also make them available at the next couple of tournaments around Iowa. Dennis mentioned a 1 day fun racquetball event where proceeds would assist.
* The next meeting is planned for September 6, 2016.