Iowa Racquetball Association

Executive Board Meeting Oct. 20, 2014 7:30 – 9:00

* Financial/Organizational Update
  + Accounting.
    - Josh reported that we have roughly $7,000 in the account. This does not include Don’s recent donation via Wellmark of $2,250
    - Josh reported that the QC Open lost about $250 overall. We were charged $10 per non-member and there was some overtime.
      * Next year, Josh will limit the event two 2 days.
      * Eldridge will not be selling the building so we should be able to hold an event there again next year.
  + Status of 501c3 application.
    - Josh put the application together in June and sent to Peggine. He asked for a response a few weeks ago. Rather than wait for additional feedback, Josh will send to IRS this week. He will find out how soon we can expect a reply.
    - Don reported that one co-worker at Wellmark didn’t know he could contribute to the IRA, because our name is still not on the list of charitable organizations. (Don contributes each quarter by selecting “other” and entering our information manually.) Don also reported that parents have looked for the IRA on the list of chartable organizations on their own company’s list, but haven’t been able to find it.
  + Discuss the value of retaining legal council.
    - Rob expressed getting some basic assistance in understanding our rights and responsibilities as a non-profit organization.
      * Rob will look into whether an association of non-profits or other entity offers this type of consulting and report back at the next meeting.
    - Josh added that we may also do well to take out some insurance to protect against liability.
      * Josh will look into the policy details and report back at the next meeting for a vote.
* Oakmoor Fall Classic sponsorship
  + VOTE: whether to contribute $250 to this event in exchange for space to sell concessions.
    - A motion for $200 donation was passed unanimously.
      * Don will follow up with an email to Bryan and Pam, and Josh will send the check this week.
    - A follow-up discussion ensued regarding getting the list of players from the Oakmoor Fall Classic to see how many are members of USA Racquetball/IRA.
      * Susan indicated she could probably get the list from Mike.
* New YMCA
  + Report from Rob and Don regarding their tour.
    - Rob explained how the courts are set up and summarized the options given for refereeing tournaments.
  + VOTE: Denny has been approached for support from the IRA. We have already given $1,000. For an additional $4,000 over the next five years, our name will be listed among the supporters. Such an investment is also likely to work in our favor when requesting the use of the facility for events.
    - Denny explained that the commitment of $1,000 for five years would go toward the courts and nothing else and that we’d get our name on a plaque. They haven’t made the plaques yet; they are waiting for commitments first.
    - There was general agreement that this was a good idea, but that we should be careful to ensure that we have the money on hand, such as putting some funding aside now to prepare for the long-term commitment.
    - Motion proposed: Make the commitment but set aside the funds as quickly as possible.
      * Vote taken and approved in principle unanimously.
        + Denny will follow up to convey our commitment to the YMCA and get the details as to when our 2015 contribution would be due.
* Wrecking Ball 2
  + Confirm date.
    - Denny confirmed through the YMCA the date of December 5th 6th
      * Don will set up the event as-is per last year, only changing the juniors divisions to reflect the standard divisions the board agreed to at the 7-7 meeting.
      * Denny suggested we do something different for the off-site party, but he’ll reach out to Spaghetti Works all the same to check the availability/reservation requirements.
* 2015 YMCA event
  + Don reported that Tim mentioned April might be a possibility.
    - Denny mentioned this to Tim today as well and he seemed amenable to the idea, so long as it didn’t conflict with the Tall Corn handball tournament.
    - There was discussion whether we should just move the Iowa Open to the YMCA, but it was agreed that we owe it to Oakmoor to give them a written proposal before committing to another venue.
* Cedar Rapids event
  + Update from Susan re what it would take to get Johnny to sanction this event.
    - Susan reported that she confirmed from Johnny today that he will not hold the event. He expressed frustration about the YMCA taking one of his courts during the last two tournaments for swim-related activities. It is unlikely that Johnny will want to run this event in future years.
* Iowa State Racquetball Club tournament
  + Student-run event, March 27-29.
    - Don proposed that we cover the $75 fee to set up the event in R2. Don will help with the flyer and R2.
    - For support prior to and during the event, Susan offered to help, provided this does not cut into Spring Break (March 16-20)
    - There was lots of excitement about doing some creative things with collegiate players, such as team awards, etc.
* Iowa Senior Olympics
  + Susan reported that she was approached to be the event director, but she also provided feedback about improving the event, including increasing the number of participants.
    - Anyone 50+ can play. It doesn’t have to be sanctioned at the state level but it is at the regional level.
    - The event is June 10-15, but they typically get racquetball done in just a few hours on that Saturday.
* Scholarship program
  + Review application distribution strategy.
    - Don summarized plans for getting the fillable PDF to the board and asked for cooperation in promoting the scholarships, especially for the Challenge Scholarships.
  + Discuss who will serve on the subcommittee and schedule review.
    - Josh and Brian will form the subcommittee, with Susan to break a tie if necessary.
    - Input from coaches will be acceptable, but these people should not have any sort of vote in determining who is awarded scholarships.
* Member survey
  + Discuss Brian’s draft.
    - Brian walked the board through the questions.
    - There was a discussion around what the purpose of the survey is. I.e., Is it about events? Is it about juniors?
      * The board agreed that the focus of this first survey should be on tournaments.
      * Brian will have ten questions, all pertaining to events, drafted by this Friday and asked the board for feedback by the following Monday.
* Bidding for national events
  + Update from Rob and Don regarding their recent meeting with the Des Moines Sports Commission.
    - Rob summarized the meeting, highlighting that the Commission was very interested in working with us to bring Junior Nationals back to Des Moines and other events. They offered to help us write proposals and other services such as working with hotels, discounts for things to do in town, fundraising.
    - Don followed up in an email to Steve Czarnecki about when he’ll start accepting bids for 2016 Junior Nationals. He’ll update at the next meeting.
    - Other ideas discussed included National Doubles and Collegiate Nationals.
    - We should also consider working with the commission on some of our local (non-national) event as well.
* Discuss regular meeting schedule
  + VOTE: whether to schedule meetings every third Monday, canceling only when there are no agenda items that need attention.
    - Passed unanimously.
* Discuss creating online ladder
  + Ryan Rodgers from R2 says we can set one up for free at <http://www.challengeladders.com/free-challenge-ladder.asp>. There is no charge to us, but players pay a yearly membership fee of $7.95.They activate our ladder, we will have an event website, similar to a tournament website.
    - The idea seemed to have merit, but we would have to consider logistics and ideally find a way that this would be entirely free. This discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
* Next meeting:
  + Confirmed for Nov 17.