**Iowa Racquetball Association Board Meeting**

**January 25, 2016 from 8:50pm – 10:09pm**

**Postponed from January 11, 2016**

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

*Absent: Jeff Burbank and Andy Pearson*

* Financial Update—Josh gave a report of our financial standing. Our account balance is now at $13,893.05.
* 501(c)(3) status—Josh reported the great news that we have been approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3)!!! Don McCormick’s was able to still earmark the money for his volunteer coaching hours to the IRA from the last reporting period.
* Bleacher reimbursement—Dan reported that at our last meeting this topic was tabled to a later meeting to decide if we wanted to split the cost of the bleachers that the Hinder Club (handball organization) just paid for. This would give us rights to use the bleachers at all of our tournaments. When they aren’t being used by the IRA or the Hinder Club they will be stored near the basketball courts and we can simply roll them over to the racquetball courts when needed. Rob proposed, Josh second, and passed 5-0—that we do pay $532.50, which is half of the total cost of $1,065. This would be in the form of a check to the Handball Association reimbursing them.
* Junior scholarship finalization/approval and update on weekly lessons—
* Josh reported that he spoke with Don about how the weekly lessons and how the overall state of the junior program is going. Don expressed frustrations that there is no signage informing the members of the weekly lessons/clinics and the fact that they are free. Josh volunteered to create a poster to put up at the YMCA. Don said that the YMCA staff isn’t recruiting kids to participate as they said they would. Don mentioned that it would be great if the IRA could pay for racquets to give to the YMCA for kids to use. Susan proposed that we offer to give racquets directly to kids that are interested in learning the sport. The expectations for high numbers participating haven’t panned out so far. Rob mentioned that the YMCA does a regular (monthly?) flyer and maybe Don could prepare an article for them to post in their next flyer. He also brought up that the YMCA has offered to purchase and install a bulletin board that we can use up by the racquetball courts for many months now, but it doesn’t seem to be happening. Rob proposed that the IRA go ahead and pay for this so we can get it put up sooner. Rob will price out some bulletin boards and get approval from Tim Short. The YMCA did purchase around 12 pairs of goggles for people to use and Denny has donated old racquets. Josh recommended that we offer to reimburse Rod Bergren and Ron Sweeney after they go through the USAR coaching certification. I mentioned that Rod has completed the 3 month trial period that we voted on a few months ago, but Ron was not mentioned in that vote.
* Josh updated us on the junior scholarship program. He explained there will be 3 levels:

1. A beginner level available to all new juniors to apply for where we will offer a starter kit including goggles, racquet, and balls for free. Anyone that applies will be approved.
2. A personal level where for an entire year with no deadline any junior can apply for a $50/month reimbursement for private coaching lessons. This doesn’t just have to be from Don, but any USAR certified coach.
3. A challenge level where for 5 months (February-June) the IRA will offer 5-8 juniors the chance to participate in this program with Coach Winterton. The junior’s family pays Coach Winterton his monthly rate and then the IRA will reimburse them for most of that monthly rate after proving that they have submitted the minimum number of videos required.

He has finished the application and made any changes proposed by board members this last week. If necessary the IRA would form a subcommittee to decide what 8 juniors qualify. This would only occur if over 8 kids apply. Josh proposed, Dan second, passed 5-0 to approve the scholarship program and application for 2016.

* Proposal to add an eighth board member—Josh made a proposal to add Dennis Chandler as an eighth board member as he would be a great asset to our organization. Rob mentioned that we would have to amend the bylaws to allow for this. This proposal was tabled for possible discussion at a future board meeting.
* 2016 Iowa Open tournament planning—We discussed Open division payouts, designing a flyer, meal/snack planning, etc. Rob proposed looking for sponsorships. We want this to be a large draw just like Oakmoor’s tournaments used to be and Dan mentioned that we will be making this as similar in all ways as possible. Dan is the tournament director. We can’t use the company that creates the t-shirts to order as there wouldn’t be a good place to put them and there may be a cost from the YMCA to set them up. Rob will get in touch with the Des Moines Visitors Bureau so we can get local business coupons and hotel blocks set up.
* Junior National fundraising ideas—Josh wanted to discuss setting up another GoFundMe account this year. We will wait to discuss this when we are closer to June.
* Burlington YMCA as a possible venue for tournaments—Josh reported that this is a pretty good venue to hold a small tournament. It has 3 good courts and the set-up is perfect for it. He went there for a blind draw doubles event recently.
* Discussion on adding yearly awards for players—Josh brought up this subject and it would be based on the calendar year 2016 not the season. Some of the awards could be: player of the year, most improved player, junior of the year, contributor of the year, family of the year, or best sportsmanship of the year. Minnesota does a great program every year with a banquet at their Hall of Fame tournament. This will be tabled at this time, but hopefully we can discuss this further.
* Our next board meeting is planned for February 29, 2016.