

Middlesex Club Board Minutes – May 13, 2020
(Zoom Call due to Covid-19)

Directors attending (17): Sean McCarthy; Lisa Cruikshank; Jay Baum; Justin Byczek; Katie Briggs; Rob Steeves; Kim Adams; Rosemary Jordan; Courtney Darby; Alison Firgeleski; Kim O'Brien; Lindsay Warnke; Sallie Schmidt; Thomas Cerussi; Gerrit Veeder; Meghan Muldoon, Shannon Fitzgerald

Directors Not Attending (0)

General Counsel: Andrew Reardon

Management: Tad Keating in attendance

Minutes: Approved the April 15, 2020

Presidents Notes:

- These are unrepresented times- need to figure out best time to open with safety first for families and appreciate all the many hands on deck trying to open.
- In communication with other Darien clubs about their opening procedures which has been helpful with all clubs sharing ideas. Golf was their priority then tennis and agreed in general terms to use the guidelines but ultimately it is the club's responsibility to decide how to open.
- Formed a safety committee that will review plans for Tennis, Pool, Camp and Snack Bar- one group to handle all club safety issues- consists of Justin, Tom, Andrew, Sean, and Kathleen Burke (outside Board). Goal of Safety committee is to review protocols set forth by chairs and going forward under new business they can update Board and will ask to authorize and approve safety updates.
- Lisa is working with Village Table and all other Darien clubs have their own kitchen so it is not a concern using outside vendor.
- Kim Adams will be spearheading opening the pool facility.
- Going forward club is looking at having all touchless in bathrooms.
- Not planning on refunding members due to COVID and will be happy to talk to members with any questions or concerns.
- Organized a lunch for the Darien Police Department from the club and Lisa is working on Post 53 to use pool and have a barbeque as a Thank you for all their help during Covid.

Treasurer's Report:

- Received a lot of questions re: Pandemic. No insurance is offering anything now.
- Pool and Camp are both a big concern and need to be in line with CDC guidelines.
- Staff contracts getting finalized and added language regarding Covid-19 and delayed openings.

- Working with Laura on menu and prices which are almost finalized.
- Toast system is moving forward and have a call next week. Receipt information won't be as detailed on statements but members will get an email after every purchase.
- State of CT put all snack bar permits on hold so don't know when we will be getting a permit to open.
- Numbers are in good shape and not as much for expenses compared to LY.

Manager's Report:

- Tennis courts are ready- club looks great.
- A lot of people are out walking and riding bikes
- Lester is getting everything ready to open when you have a plan.

Legal Council:

- Discussed legally we need to be thinking about what to do once we open the club and if someone gets sick. How do we communicate they are sick? Need to start planning for possible scenarios once we open.

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning Committee

- Given everything going on over the last few months we have tabled any discussions and ideas about potential expansion, budgeting, raising capital etc and are laser focused on the primary tasks at hand, which include establishing healthy and safe protocols as the club examines how and when to open different parts of its operations this season.

House and Grounds

- Tad has done a great job getting the club ready- he coordinated with Lester and Putnam and the tennis courts are ready.
- The screens have been ordered and should arrive around June 18th or 19th.
- The new navy-blue umbrellas arrive this past week.
- The new pool furniture is on target to arrive the first week of June.
- We purchased and received five stand-a-lone hand sanitizer dispensers. Two will be at the Tennis Pavilion, and three will be at the Main Club.
- The bathroom is coming along well. Shiplap and paneling are complete. We should receive the sink this week and then everything will be installed. Kim Adams and Alison Firgeleski have done a great job working with the contractor and the suppliers.
- We will not be purchasing the new tennis bench at this time. Jim said that with the safety protocols, they will not be using the benches.
- Money was already approved for the new tennis poles but waiting to see if we can hold off this summer and make due with what we have.
- Sallie will be researching hands-free bathroom fixtures and would like to discuss any ideas about making the club safer.

IT/Communications

- CMIT updating all hardware and software for the upcoming season. Tennis POS should be up and running today (5/12) or tomorrow (5/13) for when courts open to the membership.
- Toast implementation is underway and progressing nicely under the current conditions. Toast has an internal onboarding that is currently taking place which will give us a definitive timeline for our own implementation. Do not see any delay in being ready for whenever we open.
- Working on e-handbook, should be ready to post in the next week or so.

Membership

- No new applications
- 49 currently on the waitlist
- 7 resignations and possibly 9 for July 1, 2020.
- 11 families have accepted August membership thus far. I have answered questions regarding the uncertainty of the club opening date and have assured August members that they will be fully refunded if we are not open for the month of August.
- About to begin the July 1 membership cycle. We need to discuss how we will proceed with the usual offer for July 1 new members to pay a small extra fee for June 1 start. If we open the club at some point in June, how will we address this with July 1 members? Will there be a prorated charge?

Tennis

- We are eager to open tennis as soon and as safely as possible. We have reviewed local, state and USTA guidelines as well as guidelines from many other clubs in order to create protocols that we feel would be appropriate for MSX.
- When members reserve a court that are agreeing to adhere to the outlined guidelines. Court activity should be in accordance with local, state and federal laws with members practicing social distancing measures (maintaining 6ft apart) and avoiding social interaction and gatherings whenever possible. Please wear a face mask to/from courts, or practice social distancing.
- Middlesex has adopted these guidelines to protect our members' health and safety. We need everyone's cooperation to ensure that we are able to safely play tennis and will continue to update these guidelines as new information becomes available.
- Junior tennis wants to do something with less kids on a court so planning for 4 to a court.
- Will be keeping tennis doors open and tied open, cupholders off the courts so it is less stuff to be cleaned.

Aquatics

- As of yesterday, the state declared that pools will NOT be part of the phase one reopening. As of now, pools will be able to open June 20, at the earliest. Still trying to gather more information but it seems that there may be an issue with Darien obtaining permits from the state which could impact the June 20th date. We are trying to learn more and will share details as they are made clear.
- We will be working with the newly implemented MSX Safety Committee to develop a plan for how to open the pool in a way that is safe for members. We are looking at CDC and USA Swimming guidelines. This will likely include operating at a limited capacity, implementing social distancing guidelines, and a more thorough cleaning/disinfecting regimen. The priority is figuring out a way to allow membership to be able to enjoy the pool in some capacity this summer while providing fair and equal access for everyone.
- The FCSL has officially cancelled the Water Polo season. An official decision has not yet been made about swim/dive. However, it is safe to say we will not be having a “normal” season. They are looking at virtual meets, etc. At this point, MSX will be focusing on salvaging the swim/dive program in some way. We are working with Marj to develop a streamlined practice schedule that will at least give kids the chance to get in the water, be active and provide a little bit of structure. We also need to figure out how this will impact program registration process, pricing and our staff needs.
- All Darien meets (Darien Relays and Championships) are cancelled. Sadly, we will not be able to have our usual Aquatics social events.
- Another area that will be impacted significantly is swimming lessons for young children. We will need to limit lessons to kids unable to swim unattended in the pool and receive instruction from the pool deck. Swim instruction for kids under the age of five is typically very hands on and involves blowing bubbles so they are concerned about saliva being present. This will also impact camp lessons.

Camp

- Summer camps are permitted to open June 29.
- Sarah has ideas on how to operate, but all depends on the state’s guidelines which should be released within one week.
- Need to figure out fees and first 2 weeks of August will need to be reimbursed.
- Need to figure out bathrooms since toddlers will need more help.
- Playground will not be available for camp.
- Some camps are not offering to 3- and 4-year old’s which we may need to consider.

- Owen is returning which is great news- he is a favorite counselor.
- Waiting on check from Marie so I can send paperwork for camp license.

Paddle

- Not much new to update on the paddle front. Fall/
- I am working on creating guidelines for a potential opening of the paddle courts. The safety committee is currently reviewing.

Social

- Nothing to report on the social front. We are still in a holding pattern waiting to see when pool will open and what regulations we will have to follow.

General Information:

Unfinished Business from 2019:

New Business-

- Membership -If we open June 20 July new members will still start July 1, 2020.
- Safety Committee- Board approved the Safety Committee to update Board on any club safety concerns. Motion was made and approved committee which was seconded and approved.
- Tennis- made a motion to open courts tomorrow 5/14/20 and pass guidelines which was seconded and approved to open courts.

Executive Session

Next Board Meeting: June 10, 2020 at 7:30 Zoom Call