

Middlesex Club Board Minutes –September 14, 2021

7:33-8:37pm EST in person at the MSX Club and via Zoom Call

Directors Attending (14)

1. Sean McCarthy
2. Lisa Cruikshank
3. Jason Perez
4. Ruby Huang
5. Gerrit Veeder
6. Brian O’Hagan
7. Robert Steeves
8. Sallie Schmidt
9. Thomas Benevento
10. Lindsay Warnke
11. Katie Briggs
12. Courtney Darby
13. Bea Repking
14. Kim O’Brien

Directors Not Attending (1)

1. Joan Carlo

Non-Board Officers Attending (1)

1. Aquatics-Jodie Scozzafava

Non-Board Officers Not Attending (2)

1. Tennis-Shannon Fitzgerald
2. Camp-Rachel Constas

General Counsel (“GC”): Mike Murray in attendance

Management: Tad Keating in attendance

Minutes: Grounds Chair motioned for the club to ratify August 4, 2021 Special Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by the Safety Committee Chair and unanimously approved. The minutes were ratified. Treasurer motioned for the club to ratify August 17, 2021 board call minutes. The motion was seconded by the Vice President and unanimously approved. The minutes were ratified.

President’s Notes

- Thanked everyone for a great summer season
- Recognized Manager and his staff for their efforts to address damage from Hurricane Ida
- Asked Vice President to spearhead property damage recovery efforts through property insurance / FEMA.

Treasurer’s Report:

- No A/R issues to note.
- Balance Sheet and P&L circulated to the board (long and short form). Bank balance continues to be healthy.
- Finalizing dues/facilities increase. (working with accountants on tax implications)
- Meeting with the accountants early next week to run through a number of technical questions including questions on revenue recognition, balance sheet classification / size of the rainy day fund, any provisioning required for out of pocket storm damage costs.
- Continued statement correction issues.

Manager's Report:

- Winding down for club closing
- Parking lot being professionally swept 8-11am Friday September 17
- Fixing parking lot lights
- Propane heaters to be repaired
- Pool to be closed and covered this weekend
- President indicated clubhouse may not be rented until the pool be closed

General Counsel:

- N/A

Committee Reports:

House and Grounds

- Repairs/Maintenance:
 - Clean back paddle stairs (remove debris)
 - Clean/sweep parking lot (a lot of tennis court dust remains)
 - Have heaters checked by propane company
 - Clean pool furniture
 - Repair railing on Clubhouse deck
 - Power wash Paddle Courts
 - Discuss solution for Echo Drive runoff
- Major Maintenance:
 - Tennis Courts - Putnam - Tennis Chairs
 - Paddle Courts -Reilly/Court Pro, Paddle Chairs
- Wish List:
 - New Picnic Tables
 - Display case for Paddle Pro
 - Work area for Paddle Pro

Communications/IT

- Reminder - program surveys should begin to go out soon. Happy to help structure

- Nominating Committee: Volunteers for committee is now closed. Scheduling time to meet with Sally and Joan to review candidates, select and begin process for nominating for next year's slate.
- Reminder- please use your @middlesexclub.org emails where appropriate.

Membership

- Current Waitlist : 70, In 30 Day Wait Period: 7, total: 77
- There were 7 resignations for October 1st.

Tennis

- All courts are closed due to the storm, working on repairing and having courts ready by Spring 2022.
- We should explore finding a long-term solution for the Echo Drive runoff.
- We met with Putnam and are waiting for a proposal from them.
- Jim found alternative locations for the Men's singles championship and Women's doubles championship.
- Great end to tennis season despite tennis court damage.

Aquatics

- Start working on Marj Trifones contract. She is interested in running swim program camp
- Posting for Water Polo Director on the FCSL website
- Start working on the Aquatics Survey
- Once nominating committee is formed, will nominate Bea Repking and Jodie Scozzafava for Aquatic board positions. Betsy Hendrickson will be non board member working with Aquatics
- Happy to report our Swim Across America event was a huge success. MSX club won the fundraising award for Fairfield County thanks to Jodie for all of her efforts on this amazing day.

Camp

- End-of-season survey drafted; Sending out this week.
- Spoke with a member who is interested in joining the Board as Katie's replacement.

Paddle

- Maintenance on the courts has been postponed (Joan is spearheading this)
- Heaters need to be looked at by the propane company
- Men's kickoff is Saturday September 25th
- Multiple positive meetings with Kyle for scheduling and onboarding
- Captains' meetings were successful, Captains are filling rosters by end of week
- 7 FCPTL men's teams this year, D1-3, D5a, D5b, D6, D7
- Thursday Night Scrambles kickoff Sep 23rd
- As of now 16 interested winter memberships, 5 of which are within the top 25

- 2 clubhouse rentals (Oct 15 & Oct 19). Note: Rental fee structure > \$200 for clubhouse; \$300 for clubhouse and 3 courts

Safety

- There were 4 cases of Member's getting COVID during the Summer Season
- All cases were handled according to the protocol and with no issue from any of the members
- The protocols that the Safety Committee put in place made the logistics relatively smooth and allowed for communication with the Membership overall
 - There was no need to alter the protocols due to the Delta Variant or changing guidance from the CDC or CT Department of Health
- The Safety Committee recommends the following as we move into the Fall/Winter Season at MSX
 - Guests be allowed for Paddle as they were for use of the Club during the Winter Months
 - With no restrictions on the number of people permitted to gather, Social Events should be allowed to go on
 - Club House Use
 - The Club House should remain open
 - The Club House should be available for rent
 - Masks for those congregating indoors should be discussed by the Board
 - As of right now, there is no "Mask Mandate" by the Town of Darien for those indoors, regardless of Vaccination Status
- The following items will become the focus for the Safety Committee as we move into the "Off-Season"
 - Background Checks for all staff
 - Safe Sport Training approach
 - First Aid and CPR Training Course with Post 53 for Members
 - Development of "Missing Child" Protocol

Strategic Planning

- Group reached out to all individuals who expressed interest in volunteering their time with this effort. We received feedback from five individuals who would like to continue to work on this effort. We plan to meet with them in the next few weeks to determine next steps and create subcommittees.

Storm Update

- Have been in contact with and sent pictures to the insurance rep.
- Club does not have flood insurance
- Need multiple quotes from outside vendors related to storm damage
 - Tennis rep was out and said it would take a few weeks before an estimate could be provided; this has been communicated to insurance.
- Need each area to provide a list of items affected by the storm of items that need to go through insurance
 - Looking for lists from:
 - Tad – anything pool related / heaters / filters / lawnmowers / golf cart, etc
 - Courtney/Rob – walkthrough was done with Putnam; they will eye-ball quote once received to confirm everything is captured. (In progress)

- Joan/Brian – please provide a list of items with associated quotes from the vendor & pictures if not included in quotes
- Snack Bar
 - Snack bar is now closed for the season.
 - Planning to get survey out for snack bar and paddle/dive camp in the next week.

General Information:

Unfinished Business

- President discussed forming committee to continue research on Director of Racquets as a possibility for the future
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New Business

- Membership Chair motioned to increase the number of times that a family can “second” an applicant per calendar year from two to four times. This would bring the number in-line with the maximum number of times a family can sponsor (4). The motion was seconded by the Vice President and unanimously approved.
- Men’s Paddle Co-Chair motioned for Rachel Conostas and Tracy McKeone to be Co-Social Chairs as Non-Board Officers, serving through end of calendar year 2021. The motion was seconded by the Vice President and unanimously approved. Rachel and Tracy also volunteered to serve through calendar year 2022. This will be determined by the next board.
- Tennis Co-Chair discussed opportunity to increase membership by five members with proposed changes to the By-Laws on Special and Limited Members. Will work with Communications and Membership Chairs and Jane Yezzi to evaluate.
- Tennis Co-Chair motioned to enter Executive Committee (“EC”) session. The motion was seconded by the Vice President and unanimously approved. General Counsel was asked to participate in the EC session
- Entered Executive Session at approximately 8:27pm. Minutes were not taken during this Executive Session
- Tennis Co-Chair motioned to come out of EC session. The motion was seconded by the House and Grounds Chair and unanimously approved
- EC Session ended approximately 8:37pm

Tennis Co-Chair motioned to adjourn board meeting. The motion was seconded by the House and Grounds Chair and unanimously approved

The board meeting adjourned at 8:37pm EST

Next regular board meeting scheduled for October 5th