
Ad Hoc Tennis Committee Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021 DRAFT

Call to order

A meeting of the Ad Hoc Tennis Committee was called to order online on Monday, March 8 at 6:04 pm by Fred Phelps, Chairman. Members in attendance included: Paul Zinewicz, Martha Healy, Fred Phelps, Cheryl Hancin Preston (ex-officio), Roy Wentworth and Erin Challinor.

Citizen Comments

No other members of the community were present online or attempting to enter the meeting.

Old Business

Minutes for meeting February 8 were reviewed and accepted as written unanimously.
(Wentworth/Healy)

New Business

Fundraising.

Some members have been making calls, others waited to hear that an email was sent out prior to commencing their calls. However, the emails were sent out two weeks ago. The rest of the committee will start making calls.

Committee members wondered if the fundraising letters were going into spam mailboxes as some of the committee did not receive it.

Roy has a draft email that he is planning to send to all names on the goggle doc that do not have a name attached to them.

Fred reached out to but has not heard from Ivan Lendl.

Paul tried to get in touch with the organizer of the past Pilot Pen for contacts of those that might be able to provide us with funds, but his contact email was no longer active. He also contacted the Tennis Hall of Fame who does not give out funds and in fact asked him for a donation.

In 2018 work on the tennis courts at the Community Center in Stonington was accomplished with funds from 250 people. No foundations were used and \$250,00 was raised. Committee should make inquiries into how that money was raised.

Erin discussed the Gala at the Wauregan to fundraise for the parades etc. in Norwich and whether this type of thing would work for a tennis fundraiser. The cost was \$100/couple. The room was decorated and the food catered by committee members which decreased the costs. Therefore, this would probably

not be a good type of fundraiser for the tennis courts as the money generated would not be much more than the outlay.

Erin has discussed a donation with friends, the Capanos who own ShopRite, and they are awaiting a letter after they return from vacation.

Fred inquired as to how the committee felt about changing the plans if in a few months if we have not raised a substantial sum. The city's funds are good until July 2023 yet they can be extended. That is three years from when they designated it for the courts. The committee did not want to think of that as inevitable and thought that we could be a bit more patient before we took that step.

We may want to try reaching the community other ways.

* March 27 there is an Easter Egg hunt where we could pass our flyers, sell cookies, etc. to raise funding and awareness.

*Take a picture of the courts to use to show the disrepair.

*Steve Armstrong's 1978 book "The Clay Courts of Norwich" speaks of how they hand dug the clay and built the courts. Many famous people played on these courts. Maybe we could use that as part of the narrative.

Budget Update

Cheryl noted that we now have \$3,676 from 13 donors to add to the city's contribution of \$100,000.

Action Items

Cheryl will talk to the IT person about the potential problem of the emails going to spam boxes.

Cheryl will put the names on the google doc of those who have contributed so we do not ask them again.

Cheryl will put pictures on the recreation website/Facebook/ Spring/Summer book of the courts and to promote the fundraising project in that space and ask for donations.

Erin will talk with Angela Adams about the possible role of the Chamber of Commerce and/or Norwich Rotary

Martha will contact George Strouse and Jerry Albrikes about how Stonington raised their money for the courts.

Fred will contact Chris Portelance to follow up on his discussions with Mohegan Sun

Everyone will make calls for fundraising.

Everyone will look for places to advertise the fundraising.

Next Meeting; April 12 at 6 pm on the internet

Adjournment

6:45 pm Motion made and accepted
unanimously (Wentworth/Phelps)

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Healy
Secretary

Date of approval
