

**Minutes of the GLCA Meeting
May 11, 2019**

Location: Bowling Green Curling Club, Black Swamp Curling Center

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 1:00 p.m.

The Attendees were:

Detroit: Ben Levy, Paul Badgero,
Columbus: Stephen Imes, Mikel Coulter
Bowling Green: Scott Piroth, Phil Gohr
Fort Wayne: Kerry Sharpe, Martha Lemert
Great Smoky Mountains: Sandra Takata

Attending via phone: Bret Jackson, Detroit; Michael Graves, Midland; Matt Whaley, Midland as proxy for Fred Trautman; Michael Moore, Mayfield; Robert Handler, Copper Country; Aaron Carlson, proxy for Mark McElwee, Lansing; Kara Girvin, Cleveland Skate Club; Jeff Michael, Lewiston; Laurie Rentschler for Marcus Gleaton, Kalamazoo.

Proxies: Debra Horn proxy to Michael Moore; Fred Strautman proxy to Matt Whaley; Mark McElwee proxy to Aaron Carlson; Marcus Gleaton proxy to Laurie Rentschler; Tammy Hoffman, Circle City proxy to Sandra Takata.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting on September 29, 2018, at the Cleveland Skate Club were approved with a spelling correction on a name.

3. USCA Update from Courtney Schmidt

Ben Levy provided this update to the Board in lieu of Courtney because of the concurrently occurring USCA Board meeting. The initiative of the USCA Board is to go to a much smaller Board, 20+ Board members to around 14. Consequently, discussions at the USCA are underway to eliminate the extra directors from big regions, such as Wisconsin, the GNCC, Minnesota. The GLCA and the Midwest Region (i.e., Illinois) would combine to one director for those two regions. These changes will be taken to a full vote at the members' meeting assembly in Milwaukee in the Fall. The date of the members' meeting has not yet been established on the calendar.

Following much discussion regarding these upcoming national changes, Ben Levy will circulate the summary information he received from Courtney to the Board following the meeting. The

purpose of this move by the USCA is to try and streamline the Board making it more of a working Board holding Board members more accountable.

4. Regional Updates and Club Updates/Commentary

Regional:

Ben thanked John Zimmerman for his long service on the Board and on the Executive Committee. Alexis Schroeder is moving to Wisconsin and therefore the website responsibilities for the GLCA have been transitioned to Aaron Carlson who has volunteered to serve as website Webmaster.

Discussion was held regarding Arena Nationals teams currently playing on behalf of the Region and congratulations to the women from Cleveland Skate winning silver and to the Cincinnati men on winning bronze.

Club:

a. Bowling Green

Bowling Green successfully hosted the mixed playdowns this last year and has increased its membership to 250 members. It hosted Tyler George and has seen growth in its junior program. It plans another full schedule of bonspiels next year.

b. Cincinnati

Its official – Cincinnati has made the decision to move to dedicated ice and is working on renovating warehouse space for three sheets in the fall.

c. Circle City

No official report, but it is continuing in its fundraising and efforts to make the jump to dedicated ice. Its teams were representing the region at arena nationals.

d. Cleveland Skate Club

Cleveland Skate Club reported a successful curling season with purchase of lots of new equipment. Its members attended at least ten different GLCA events over the course of the season and its women's team won silver at arena nationals after winning gold the prior year.

e. Columbus

Columbus Curling Club reports over 250 members. After much discussion, it was decided to stay in its current space and it has successfully renegotiated a lease for five

years. It has \$175,000 in seed money to move to new space or expand when the time is appropriate.

f. Copper Country

Copper Country reports that it had a successful season in its recently renovated space. It has around 65 members and will be planning to host a bonspiel in this upcoming season.

g. Curl Troy

No official report. It is conducting a Super Friendly the weekend of Memorial Day and there are only about three spots left available for that event.

h. Delta Rocks

Delta Rocks has no report.

i. Detroit

Detroit has roughly 315 members, 60 of which are new. It also lost about 50 members to job transitions and for other reasons. Detroit has hosted a full bonspiel schedule and is engaged in strategic planning to determine whether it should expand at the current space or elsewhere. Detroit will be the location for the Regional men's and women's playdowns in the upcoming season.

j. Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne has finished its five year lease in its current space and is moving to a new space it purchased and will be expanding to four sheets of ice. It currently has 91 full members, around 70 rookies and 82 special needs curlers. We believe this is the largest special needs program currently in the nation made possible through grants from a local foundation. Fort Wayne is planning a full schedule of bonspiels, including its End of Summer Spiel scheduled for September 20-22nd.

k. Great Smoky Mountains

Sandra Takata reports that the Rocky Top Bonspiel is full and is scheduled to occur the weekend of June 7th. They are currently on arena ice, curling two nights per week, and recently received an inquiry from Nashville Predators on the potential of coordinating on some curling for that organization.

l. Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo reported on the USCA Nationals it hosted which had great attendance and that the athletes were very happy with the event this winter. They had approximately 99

volunteers, including many from other clubs within the GLCA, and may end up hosting the nationals again at some point in the future.

m. Lansing

Lansing reports it is curling one night per week on arena ice using two sheets and that summer leagues will be starting soon.

n. Lewiston

Lewiston reports it put in new concrete and insulation, as opposed to sand flooring, which has reduced the amount of heaving and other ice issues. It also takes much less time to get their ice in. They had a successful international event last February with a full set of teams. They also assisted Alpena in a Learn to Curl event on arena ice and are establishing a doubles league.

o. Mayfield

Mayfield reports that it will hold a full schedule of bonspiels this upcoming year, including the Men's International, during the weekend of November 15-16-17th. But the big issue is the club is attached to a country club which was purchased by an investor who will be rendering curling unaffordable at the location in the year following this next season. As such, Mayfield has a core group of curling members who are working towards alternative locations, setting up a new entity to continue curling on dedicated ice in the Cleveland region for the fall of 2020.

p. Midland

Midland reports that its membership is up, it is going to hold its traditional Open Spiel in mid-October. They congratulated Delaney and Sam Strouse, who were named to the Junior high performance program and Aaron Carlson for successfully competing at nationals. Midland will be hosting a qualifier for the U-21 in November 8-10th.

q. Petoskey

There is no report from a club rep, but Petoskey is looking to increase the number of sheets upon which they curl, and they have moved indoors onto arena ice.

r. South Bend

e

South Bend has no report, but information is that they have pulled curling out from under the Notre Dame umbrella and are trying to find ice time elsewhere.

s. Traverse City

Traverse City recently hosted its fifth Cherry Bonspiel very successfully and is working on partnering with an investment firm to create a dedicated ice facility of anywhere between four to eight sheets as part of a community center. There was also discussion regarding a Leelenauw dedicated curling facility being built attached to a restaurant called “Broomstackers” that will be operating year round.

5. AUDIT FINANCE REPORT

a. Financial Update. The spring income statement was circulated showing a net income of over \$7,100 and that the final stone payment had been made on the new stones purchased through the USCA program. Our expenses were shown to be approximately \$4,500 and income received was over \$11,600. Discussion was held regarding whether there were any arrears from any cubs, and it was indicated Traverse City had not yet paid either their stone rental or their dues. A question was asked regarding the travel stipend reimbursement and how much was used for director travel versus team travel for juniors. Motion was made to approve the financial report. Motion passed.

b. 501(c)(3) Update

Ben Levy indicated that the last piece for applying for the 501(c)(3) status was getting two years of financials prior to Tammy Hoffman taking over the financial treasurer obligations. Also, discussion was held regarding bonding for the treasurer position.

6. IV. Membership

a. New Clubs.

i. Louisville has applied to the USCA to be an at-large club and has been selling out their Learn to Curls.

ii. Alpena currently has three sets of GLCA rocks, one of which is a new set and two sets are very old ones previously used by Petoskey. They are conducting arena curling, and we will reach out to them to see if they need to continue to use those rocks for rental purposes in the upcoming year.

iii. Ludington. Discussion was held regarding the Learn to Curls happening in Ludington with one sheet and one set of rocks owned by a former Circle Club member. There is no word on Ludington wanting to join the GLCA at this time.

iv. Marquette. They are borrowing rocks from Delta Rocks, which is no longer actively curling, and they are starting to set up some Learn to Curl events.

v. Ann Arbor. Ben Levy was contacted by someone in the Ann Arbor area trying to set up a curling club.

b. Stone Rental Update

- i. Review of current inventory and locations. The stone report was available for members to review. Discussion was held regarding Traverse City's one set of new rocks and whether they wanted to continue to rent them and pay rental fees in order to continue with that. The Board will reach out to Alpena to determine whether they wanted to continue to use the three sets they currently have. Discussion was held regarding trying to set up starter kits for new clubs.
 - ii. Potential purchase of more sets of stones. Discussion was held regarding purchasing Fort Wayne's three sets of used rocks for \$5,000. A motion was made and passed to spend this money, but the sale was revoked when it was discovered Fort Wayne was looking for \$5,000 per set, rather than \$5,000 total for the used rocks.
- c. Bonspiel promotion/pin program. Scott Piroth reported on the success of our curlers attending bonspiels within the GLCA and issuing pins for that. A decision was held to continue with that program and clubs are encouraged to get Scott Piroth dates for various spiels for inclusion on the flyer.

7. Championship/Rules

a. Review of extra region-based eligibility requirements for events.

Discussion was held regarding the mixed event and the eligibility requirements for those. Because it goes to worlds, these eligibility requirements are dictated by the USCA and GLCA has very little leeway in determining eligibility requirements. Eligibility is determined for the event by state of residence, and at least two members need to be residents of the region in which they are competing.

b. Hosting rotation reminder.

- i. Men's/Women's Clubs – December 13-15. The rotation schedule was passed out, noting the change with the Detroit Curling Club and Mayfield. Discussion was held regarding whether Mayfield could host in 2021 the men's and women's and perhaps to check with Midland on whether they would be willing to move up in that rotation to allow Mayfield more opportunity to find new space. Men's and women's to be held in Detroit on December 13-15th.
- ii. Mixed. Dates to be determined by the Columbus Curling Club. The tentative dates of February 6-9, 2020, conflict with other national events, including nationals. Columbus is to reassess dates for mixed playdowns in 2019/20 season. Update: Columbus has moved the Mixed Playdown to 1/30/20 – 2/2/20.

- iii. Men's/Women's U-18. Location to be determined. Discussion was held regarding setting up a rotation schedule, given the number of clubs that will have dedicated space, such that we can appropriately plan the event.

8. Governance

No report, but discussion was held regarding future updates based on the USCA's proposed changes to its Board of Directors and bylaws structure.

9. New Business

- a. SafeSport Compliance. Ben Levy reported that as part of its obligations, all GLCA directors, board members and local club board members need to take the SafeSport training online. It takes about 90 minutes and people are expected to complete that by the next board meeting in the fall.
- b. USCA Region Liaison Position. Discussion was held regarding creating this new committee position in order to be part of a growing the Sport Ad Hoc Committee under the auspices of the USCA. Some of the initiatives for this included the National 5 and Under Bonspiel, successfully held in Duluth, Minnesota, this last year and creating a Regional 5 and Under Bonspiel type event to be part of the regular championship rotation to get younger curlers in our region more involved and invested in the sport. Bret Jackson was nominated to be the coordinator for our region, and to work with others, including the president and the vice president of the GLCA to coordinate inquiries into starting clubs, renting rocks, and getting people trained to teach Learn to Curls and to grow the sport. Bret Jackson was voted in to hold this position.

10. Election of Officers

The slate of officers, other than the at-large position, was approved, so Ben Levy will continue to serve for two years as President. Sandra Takata will serve as Vice President. Martha Lemert will serve as Secretary and Tammy Hoffman will serve as Treasurer. For the at-large position, there were two nominations: Paul Badgero from Detroit and Michael Moore from Mayfield. A vote was held and Michael Moore was elected to the at-large position on the Executive Board.

11. Next Meeting

Next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Fort Wayne on Saturday, September 28, 2019. If the USCA members meeting or other issues require scheduling it earlier, it can be moved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.