

Washington Park Lawn Bowling Club

Minutes of Annual Meeting

March 27th, 2024



Members Present: John Tanner, President and Treasurer; Stephen Maher, Vice President; Norm Nuwash, Secretary; Mark Newton, Chair of the Green; Members at Large, Mark Thorpe, Travis McComas and Mark Spoo.

1. Approval of March 19th, 2022 meeting minutes.

Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Reports from Officers

- a. John Tanner reported that the Club had total income of \$6,912 for the year 2023. Bank balance as of year-end was \$8,554. The club saw half of the income from membership dues and the other half came from hosting private events and picnics at the Green. Expenses were up on the year for maintenance and the Club funded a major capital improvement with the replacement of our lights for bowling after sunset. The cost of this was split with the Croquet Club and the WPLBC share was about \$3500.
- b. Stephen Maher reported that will be pleased to continue as VP in 2024 and shared with the members that his primary function as VP is to solicit new member interest and all agreed he is very effective in this role.
- c. Norm Nuwash said he is prepared to be an active member of the WPLBC and will work tirelessly in recruiting new members, plus offering support in tournaments and special events to facilitate smooth operations of the Club.
- d. Mark Newton reported that the green is improving. Travis McComas agreed that the surface is much better than it was 2 years ago. Mark shared that we increased the mowing frequency to 3 times per week. Aeration has become an annual activity that is working to improve the surface. It is recommended to do

this every year. Mark shared that this years contract includes mowing the surrounds once per month. The Board would like to have it done twice per month. Mark shared that the shed is now designated an historic landmark. The City may be offering funds and resources to improve the shed. Spring Clean-up is scheduled for April 6 2024 and an email has been sent out soliciting help from the members at large. Mark volunteered that as part of the clean-up activities he would oversee an inventory of the equipment and assist with disposal of the nonfunctioning equipment. Mark Thorpe offered to provide the Club with a working leaf blower to use for the season since all the blowers in the shed do not work. The contract for greens maintenance is increasing for 2024 and the WPLBC portion of the increase is \$1600.

- e. Mark reported that we presently have 2 outside events scheduled for 2024 and last year we hosted 6. Mark agreed to direct our Club tournaments as the Members at large requested that the Club host competitions on the second Saturday of each month. He agreed to assign a date to different Board Members and Club Members and each month would have a different manager of the competition. Each competition will have a \$5 entry fee per player and the fees will be paid out 100% as prizes to the players in the event. The details of each months competition will be at the discretion of the competition manager assigned to that month. The Clubs online calendar should include the details for each date once assigned.
3. The Board agreed that opening day for the 2024 season will be Saturday, April 20, 2024.
 4. The Board agreed that the format for the annual Karlberg championship will remain the same as it has for the previous 2 years and John Tanner will be the Tournament Chair for the Karlberg event.
 5. The Board had discussion about dues increases and hosting a special event as recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Washington Park Lawn Bowling Club. It was acknowledged that Washington Park is celebrating 125 years and records indicate the WPLBC came into being in 1924.
 6. The Board and Members at large agreed the Club should host a Membership Drive in celebration of our anniversary with the goal of increasing membership from the current 32 to 50 members by year end. Details of the Membership drive are as follows.
 - a. The Club will host an open house for the months of April and May 2024 during which all guests will receive complimentary guest fees when they visit and the Club will ask all existing members to participate by inviting friends and prospective members to visit the Club during this time.
 - b. The Board agreed to introduce a new membership fee structure as noted below.

	2023 fees	2024 fees
Single Membership WPLBC	\$105	\$130
Bowls USA Membership (Optional)	\$30	\$30
Couples Membership WPLBC	\$150	\$175
Couples Membership including USA	\$210	\$235

- c. The Board agreed that the new fee structure would take place on June 1, 2024 and that all new and returning members will be given full membership by paying the fees from 2023 before June 1. This amounts to a discount for on time payment of dues by existing and new members.
 - d. The Board agreed that the Club will start enforcing the Guest policy on June 1, 2024 whereby all guests will be charged a \$10 guest fee per player each time they visit and play on the green. Those new players coming out to learn about lawn bowling during the Tuesday lessons will enjoy that one complimentary visit.
7. The Board agreed to changing our online schedule offering more hours of open club bowling to accommodate our membership growth. The new hours published on the calendar for member bowling will be 5PM to 9PM on Tuesday and Thursday, and 10AM to 1PM on Saturdays with the second Saturday of each month designated as a competition day. Free lessons will still be offered to newcomers at 6PM on Tuesdays.
 8. Travis McComas agreed to become the Social Chair of the Club and he will offer a calendar of social events for the membership to enjoy in the near future.
 9. The Board reviewed a proposal from Susan Goddard Photography in which they propose to build a new website for the WPLBC. The cost of the proposal was \$3,200. The Board acknowledged that one of our new members is a capable website designer and asked to obtain a proposal from Geoff Nuwash for fixing our existing website and constructing a new website.
10. New Items for discussion
- Reservations – promote this to the club – form, process? Mark Newton explained that the Club has a joint scheduling with the Croquet Club called Skedda. He shared that members with a Skedda account have the capability to go online and reserve the green for their events. No one is administering this presently except Mark and John. The Skedda program needs to be part of the new website and accounts need to be shared with other Board members.
 - Membership goal. 50

- Landscape contract improvements. Mark Newton will ask the Contractor to increase the frequency of mowing and trimming the surrounds of the green.
 - Landscape equipment inventory. Mark will ask the Contractor to evaluate the equipment inventory and provide recommendations to the Club on when and what types of new equipment may be necessary.
 - Improvements to equipment hut. The City is supposed to communicate their intentions regarding the necessary improvements to the equipment hut.
 - Monthly competition schedule. Mark Newton will assign a member each month to be the manager of competition for their month. Each will be responsible for developing and communicating the format for the event they will be hosting on their respective second Saturday.
 - Extra social events calendar. Travis McComas agreed to develop and communicate a social calendar for the Club that will compliment and support member benefits.
 - Sharing membership contact list with Board. John Tanner agreed to review and update the listing he maintains for the current membership. The new and updated listing will be provided to Travis McComas for delivery of the flyer for the 100th Anniversary Membership Drive.
 - Membership marketing programs. The Board was all supportive of the new marketing plan developed for the 100th Anniversary Membership Drive.
 - Revenue producing events. The Board acknowledged that half our income comes from having private events in which the Club charges \$25 per person with a minimum of \$250. The Board agreed to increase this to \$30 per person and minimum purchase to \$300. We will place a high priority on getting the website fixed such that when a prospective client asks for information on private events, they will get a response from the Board.
11. Guest policy – members can bring a guest but need to limit the visits. The Board seems to support a policy whereby a non-member can only visit the Green 4 times in one season. If anyone plans to use the facility more than that they should become members.
12. Election of officers –
- a. President John Tanner
 - b. Vice President Steve Maher
 - c. Treasurer John Tanner

- d. Secretary Norm Nuwash
 - e. Chair of the Green Mark Newton
 - f. Members at Large, Travis McComas, Mark Thorpe and Mark Spoo
13. Mark Thorpe advised the Board that he would like to donate new mats to replace the older mats presently used while bowling. The Board thanks Mark for his generous offer.
14. The Board and members discussed merchandise for the Club. There was overwhelming support for having an inventory of Polo Shirts with the WPLBC Logo on the back of the shirt. It is recommended that we place an order for this inventory this spring so they can be available for sale to members and guest during this next season.

Meeting adjourned.