

Washington Park Lawn Bowling Club  
Annual Meeting Minutes March 7, 2025

Attendees: Mark Newton, Greens Chair; John Tanner, President and Treasurer; Steve Maher, Vice President; Norm Nuwash, Secretary

Members At Large: Travis McComas, Ian Petersen

1. Approve Minutes from Board meeting March 27, 2024: Minutes were approved as presented.
2. Mark Newton shared the Use Chart he maintained from last year. Mark explained the chart reflected more members, groups and events for the year. This information is required for a report to the City of Denver. The Use Chart for 2025 is attached for reference.
3. John Tanner gave a financial summary and statement of goals for 2025: Due to increased activity the bank balance is up from \$8,553.81 to the beginning balance this year of \$11,120.79. Net income for the year is \$2,566.98. The President's 2024 Report is attached for reference.
4. Use Agreement City of Denver. This is a 24 page document from the City of Denver which describes the terms for use by the WPLBC and Denver Croquette Club. Electronic copy of this document is attached for reference.
5. Group Event Contract: The Board elected to keep the fees for group events the same as last year. The Board felt that the low fees should be promoted to last year's groups and to attract new groups.
6. SCD Memorial Fund and Grant Program: This program provides a \$500 grant to applicants for promotion of Lawn Bowling efforts. Travis McComas volunteered to make the application.
7. Lawn Care Plan: Lawn Care plan is expected to remain the same with the replacement of the sprinkler heads for more even irrigation. The Board felt the green was much improved over the past 4 years.
8. Lawn Care Maintenance Contract: The contract for 2025 has not been received as yet. The cost of the Lawn Maintenance in 2024 was \$8,167. Cost for lawn maintenance in 2023 was \$7,192. This contract is paid ½ by WPLBC and ½ by Denver Croquette Club.

9. Historicorps Construction Proposal: This proposal is to refurbish the office on site to its original condition as an historically significant structure. According to the document the value of the improvements is \$61,821.84. The WPLBC would have to find \$44,106.98 to execute the contract. Mark Newton has found a charitable group who offer grants for these type projects. Ian Petersen offered to look at the grant application details to see if the Club can make this application. The Board recognized that we could build a new facility for considerably less than the proposal. Unless we can find other sources for these funds, the WPLBC is most likely to build a new storage facility and abandon the old structure. No decision was made on this contract at this time. The Board will conduct more research on the proposal and replacement storage facilities.

## NEW BUSINESS

10. Mark announced that season clean up date is April 19, 2025. Opening Day will be April 26, 2025. Board approved having an open house Saturday, May 17, 2025.
11. Norm Suggested a new Membership Ambassador program in which all existing members will receive a one-year membership certificate which they may gift to a new bowler or couple. Upon paying their dues for 2025, existing members will be awarded the Lawn Bowling Membership Ambassador Certificate. The certificate is non-transferable and covers the 2025 dues for a single member or a couple's membership. This is a \$130 or \$195 value respectively. Upon gifting the Ambassadors Membership, the member offering the gift is encouraged to act as an Ambassador to the new member and facilitate the new members introduction to the game and showing the new member how to enjoy the facilities and WPLBC. A letter explaining the Ambassador Membership Program will be sent to the full membership from 2025. This added value to membership may encourage returning members to pay their dues for 2025. The Ambassadors Membership Certificate will only be issued after returning members have paid their dues for 2025. The targeted group for the Ambassador Membership certificate is anyone who has never had a membership previously. Persons who have had a WPLBC membership previously are not eligible to exercise the Ambassador Membership Certificate. Norm and Travis will work together to develop the Certificates and communicate the program to the existing membership. Longer term goal for this program is to develop new members who will become dues paying members in 2026.

12. The Board agreed to leave the membership fees the same as last year. The individual membership fee is \$130. The Fee for a couples membership is \$195. The fee to enroll any member in Bowls USA is an additional \$30 per person and is optional.
13. Mark asked the Board about the green schedule. The Board agreed the scheduled hours for the green will be Tuesday and Thursday from 5-9 pm and, Saturday from 10 AM – 1 PM. The Club will continue to offer free lessons at 6 PM on Tuesday and Club Casual Competitions will commence at 7 on Thursday. The Club will continue the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Organized Club Competitions all starting at 10 AM. The Club will also host a monthly Friday Night Lights bowling event which will begin at 8 PM. Mark will schedule these monthly events with the consent of the Denver Croquette Club. The rationale for holding Club play later in the evenings is it may be cooler during the summer and the Club can employ the new lighting system after dark.
14. The Board agreed to have the signs updated at the park. Ian Offered to design new signs. Mark Newton advised that the Club can afford new signs and the Denver Croquette Club may participate in these costs.
15. Board held election of officers. John Tanner will remain President and Treasurer, Steve Maher will continue as Vice President, Norm Nuwash will continue as Club Secretary, and Mark Newton Will be continued as Chairman of the Green
16. John Tanner appointed Mark Newton to lead the Events (Rental) Committee. John appointed Norm Nuwash and Travis McComas as the Membership Committee. John appointed Ian Petersen as Marketing and Publicity Chairman.
17. Ian offered to review the website and see about updating or rebuilding the site.
18. Travis advised that the competition schedule was excellent last year and it added much value to membership. He was very happy with the Club's year end championship.