PICKLEBALL CLUB AT KEOWEE KEY – MEETING MINUTES <u>> FINAL <</u>

4:30pm – 5:50pm, Monday, August 3rd 2026

Lakeview Room at KK North Marina

Present: Charlie Beagan, Tom Donegan, Deb Higdon, Chuck Howard, Dave Higdon, Larry VanderRoest, John Walker, Leslie Walker, Jon Goyert, Karen Daniels, Kim Shoulars, Daniel Shidler, Susan Brennan

Attending via Phone: Jim Weinstein

Not in attendance: Tom Beck, Vicki Enos, Samantha Holt, Jaye Melanson, Tony Bonitati

Guest attendance: John Keller – his 3rd guest appearance - > future board member!

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order and the previous meeting minutes were approved.

Social:

Charlie led a discussion regarding the Fall Social Oct 31st Breakfast event. It will be scheduled for 9am to Noon. The event will be a fun, social gathering with a college football theme. Group discussed ideas such as football-themed skills challenges and game format. College GameDay to be broadcast on TV. Encourage football team attire.

- Charlie asked committee members to generate ideas for event activities. Submit ideas to him prior to the next board meeting or bring the ideas to the meeting. Charlie will compile ideas into a single proposal.

Club Website Update:

The committee reaffirmed its decision to maintain an independent Pickleball Club website rather than merge with the KKPOA website, preserving flexibility while continuing to coordinate communications.

Susan reported an opportunity to reduce website costs from $900 to $200 every two years through via verification of the club's non-profit status. An official IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter is required to qualify the discount. Susan will be following up with Cindy Fisher who may have historical information regarding the issue.

If the documentation is not completed before the current website subscription expires, the website may temporarily go offline until the nonprofit subscription can be activated.

Player Development:

Daniel updated the committee on discussions with administration regarding liability protection for volunteer instructors. Administration will continue to review insurance coverage and volunteer protection. Committee discussed past practices regarding club coverage of insurance premiums.

Equipment Storage:

Chuck thanked Samantha and Jay for their help with organizing the equipment storage area. Improvements included labeling of shelves, removal of unused equipment, and improved accessibility. Members were encouraged to keep the area organized.

Annual Fall Classic Tournament – October 9th & 10th

Chuck reported that approximately 198 players have registered for the tournament. Participation is intentionally lower than last year to improve tournament management. Planned format changes include round-robin pool play followed by single-elimination playoffs, guaranteeing participants multiple matches. Additional updates included:

- Approximately $3,000 in direct cash sponsorship commitments, including a $1,000 contribution from Ortho Regenerate. And another $2000 in “in-kind” sponsorship for the tournament
- Volunteer activities sign-up will begin August 15th.
- Tournament shirts, trophies, balls, raffle prizes, vendors, and event logistics are being finalized.

Equipment and Facilities

- Jim reported that the new court divider nets are performing well, although additional improvements are needed to improve usability. Dan and Jim will be following up.
- The committee discussed requests for additional shade near the dual-line courts. Due to budget limitations, permanent structures are not planned this year, but temporary tents may be considered.
- Pickleball Selection – Discussion regarding the performance of Franklin and Lifetime pickleballs.
    - Franklin: Familiar tournament ball but less durable in extreme temperatures.
    - Lifetime: Longer-lasting, more consistent bounce, although some players find them more lively.
    - The committee agreed to continue providing both ball types while monitoring player feedback.
- Camera Administration
    - Jim, Tom B. & Charlie will document security camera administration procedures, including account access, permissions & backup administration, and store the documentation in the club's Google

Membership and Financial Reports

- John reported current club membership stands at 325 members, with several new members joining during July. Approximately 110 prior members have not renewed. The committee remains optimistic that membership will approach the budgeted goal of approximately 400 members by year-end.
- Tom D. discussed the financial statement for the first month of the fiscal year. Everything's on track.

Open Play and Interclub Programs

- Daniel reported that weekly alternating of Open Court reservations (Upper & Lower courts) will continue until end of September.
- The committee discussed concerns that open play has become less welcoming due to increased wait times, greater reliance on Spond groups, and reduced opportunities for newer players.
- Daniel outlined ongoing efforts to better balance beginner, intermediate, and advanced play by organizing Spond groups, refining player ratings, and creating clearer development pathways. No immediate changes were identified.
- Daniel also reviewed revised Interclub registration procedures designed to improve transparency, equal access to registration, scheduling coordination, and participation opportunities. Members expressed concerns that some league rosters appeared predetermined; Daniel indicated future registrations will emphasize broader member access and improved communication.

Mtg Adjourned

Next Meeting: September 8th **(Tuesday),** 2026, 4:30 Lakeview Room

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Higdon, Secretary