

Minutes of Aldershot Tennis Club Annual General Meeting

Monday, October 23, 2017

ATC Clubhouse

- **Present:** All Board members, except for Gerry Blake) plus approximately 60 members. A sign-in sheet was placed on the table so we know who attended the meeting. The list is attached here. If you attended the meeting but didn't sign-in, please email: sknight81@cogeco.ca to have your name added. Thanks.

- The meeting was called to order by President, John Korosi who introduced the members of the current Board:
 - **President:** **John Korosi**
 - Vice president: Oliver Barkovic
 - **Past president:** **Steve Gray**
 - Assistant Treasurer: Jeannie Woodcroft
 - **Secretary:** **Dot Knight**
 - Tennis Programmes Director: Malcolm Harris
 - **Membership Director:** **Christopher Duque**
 - Marketing and Communications Director: Vacant
 - **Social Director:** **Hilda Cirotto**
 - Maintenance Director: Gerry Blake (absent)

- John thanked those Board members who were stepping down. The members applauded.

- John also introduced Peter Buckley as our Head Pro.

- **Approval of 2016 AGM minutes**
 - Unanimous agreement to accept 2016 AGM minutes.

- **Presidents report**
 - The renovation project is finally in a good position.
 - The City (COB) is ready to approve our building permit and go to tendering process.
 - We are looking to start process after Christmas.
 - We were forced to pull the Clubhouse away from the Bubble due to a change in the building code. This means that the walkway will be taken down permanently and there will be a gap of 10 feet. (No sports bubble in Ontario is connected to its clubhouse.)
 - Our waitlist currently holds 170 people. Chris finds it a challenge contacting people on the list. It is a lot of work and time. Only 20 out of 30 people want to join.

- **Question from the floor:**
 - With the building being pulled apart from the bubble, will this affect our reno budget?
 - **Answer:** The budget has completely changed since it has been more than 2 years since we began the project. We won't be able to tell until the bids are in. If we see we are over budget then, we will come back to the membership.

- **Statement from the President about volunteering**
 - We are a volunteered-based club and everyone who joins is expected to volunteer at some point. We are only able to operate our inexpensive membership fee based on volunteering. However, there is a new trend happening where we are not able to get as many volunteers as we need and we can't operate the Board with so few people.

- **Treasurers report & financial statements**
 - The financial reports have recently been prepared by a non-member volunteer since Jackie Smalec, our former Treasurer moved away. We have not had the time to review the financials and don't feel comfortable accepting them. The Board will review them at their next meeting and post on-line.
 - We are in a very good financial position and will soon have \$500,000.
 - We currently have:
 - \$300,000 in Savings (1.6%)
 - \$157,000 in Chequing
 - Some maturities coming up in Wood Gundy \$247,000 of which we will move \$200,000 into Savings.
 - \$90,000 in GIC's: \$39,000 mature November 20th and \$55,000 mature April 2018.
 - We bank with FirstOntario Credit Union who do not charge us any fees.
 - We have a debit machine which costs 5cents per transaction.
 - We will need to take money out to give to the Reno contractor in the new year, as required.
 - Heating costs rose from \$12,000 to \$14 or \$15,000, partially due to the increase in gas costs.

- **JV Policy update**
 - ATC is in a 'Joint Venture' agreement with COB as are all City owned tennis clubs in Burlington. We use the facility for free but are responsible 100% of the capital cost. Here is the link to the Agreement: https://www.burlington.ca/en/live-and-play/resources/Facilities/Rentals/Joint_Venture_Policy.pdf

- This policy has caused problems with the COB with items such as building permits, Project Managers, etc. - we were told we also needed to pay for these services. City staff realize this is a toxic situation and they have gone to City Council to make them understand that we need to change this policy.
- Our City Councillor for Aldershot (Rick Craven) is on board with this change in policy.
- Another councillor, John Taylor, called us a 'Special Interest Group'.
- Lasalle Club is in the same situation as us. Hilda suggested we use them as allies.
- John encouraged all members to write a letter to your COB Councillor and ask that they remove the '100% responsibility for the capital cost' clause from our JV Agreement. Please word the letter well without any negativity. ***Below is a draft letter you may use or change at your discretion:***

"Joint Venture (JV) Agreement with the City Of Burlington (COB)"

I am a proud member of Aldershot Tennis Club. I volunteer regularly doing _____.

Currently, under the "Roles and responsibilities of the Joint Venture (JV), section 4, the

*"Organization" will **self-fund 100 percent (100%) of capital infrastructure and renewal.***

This precludes the COB from financial assistance to the JV organization.

It becomes an issue when the COB recognizes the benefits of assisting the JV group to provide recreational opportunities e.g. that are **accessible**.

Aldershot Tennis Club (ATC) is endeavouring to upgrade the facility to provide **accessible** washrooms and tennis for the community.

ATC provides leisure services to the community, operates according to the current terms of the JV agreement and self-funds 100% of the costs to operate the facility. However, ATC provides much more than just tennis to the community.

* ATC helps to create new friendships and a sense of community.

* ATC allows people to join together through volunteering.

* ATC generates business opportunities for businesses like "Just Tennis" and local restaurants.

* By staying active, we improve our mental and physical health thus lowering the strain on the health care system.

* ATC models and promotes healthy life styles for our youth.

It is to the City of Burlington's advantage to have the option to provide meaningful assistance to clubs like ours. ATC is a recognized asset for Burlington."

▪ **LED Lighting savings presentation**

- We were paying \$40,000 per year in hydro using the old metal lights. Since the installation of the new LED lights, we have reduced the hydro costs to under \$20,000 per year. This resulted in a huge savings to ATC and will help us build up the reserves once the reno costs start kicking in.
- We received a rebate of \$19,000.
- Burlington Hydro have placed ATC in their Conservation Hall of Fame.
- OTA placed an article on lighting savings on their website and other clubs are now converting to LED.
- There is not a considerable increase in our heating costs due to less heat from the LED lights versus the metal lights.

▪ **Membership views on Assistant Pro's**

- We are looking for input from our members re adding another Pro:
- Kyle Martin is helping out when needed. He has been a pro for 5 years, is good with juniors and works with Paula. He is an OTA Instructor, has taken courses at Niagara for sports management. He is currently not a member of ATC.
 - **Question:** Does Kyle receive a free membership if he is hired a Pro?
 - **Answer:** As a Board, we have to agree on the terms, then present and get the contracts signed before anything dealing with the pros can go forward.
- Craig Lomas is unofficially classified as an Assistant Pro and is limited to 3 clinics per week: 1 Junior; Paula's clinic on Fridays and a group on Wednesdays. Craig also provides private lessons. Craig is currently on rehab for his knee injury and finds his current allotment too much.
- Currently we have 35 hours per week allotted to pro's for clinics and juniors. We are not looking at changing this allotment. All 35 hours are being used up.
- Lessons cannot be booked if the pro's collectively go over their 35 hours – unless the lesson is booked for 7:00 a.m. (non-prime time).
- Peter is working with local schools to take our juniors out of the bubble and having them play at their schools.
- To increase our summer membership, we have reached out to the local condo buildings and offered them a discounted summer membership.

- We have new Code of Conduct and Anti-Harassment policies. They are posted on the website: <http://www.aldershottennis.ca/tennis-court-conduct.htm> and <http://www.aldershottennis.ca/docs/Anti-Harassment-Policy.pdf> These policies have been included into each Pro's contract.
- Pro's are currently on a 2-year contract which the Board handles.
- Peter shares the amount of court time with the Pro's. If we run programs out of the bubble, Peter will need pro's to help out.
- Peter has a new model of 2 kids per court – sometimes 4 per court. This minimizes court usage.
- Peter runs Junior tournaments and programs, looks after the Pro's budget, etc.
- Pro's are not permitted to book courts side-by-side – unless a court is available on the final hour of play.
- All lessons at ATC must be performed by one of our contracted Pro's.
- If members see any untoward bookings, etc. they should bring it to the Board's attention immediately.
- Current Pro fees are \$40 which is less than most clubs (\$60).
- Comments from the floor:
 - If a pro such as Craig, has invested part of his life (25 years) with ATC, he/she should not be jeopardized
 - Paula should not be jeopardized.
- **Nomination & selection for vacant board positions**
 - **Vice president:**
 - Ron Tansley nominated Paul Martin; seconded by Ken Burlock; unanimously approved; carried.
 - **Secretary:**
 - Rosemary Ward nominated Pauline Dotchin; seconded by Pat Ormerod; majority approved; carried.
 - **Treasurer:**
 - We need an accountant. Benjamin Van Der Putte applied in writing (not present at meeting). He is currently 170th on the waiting list and we are willing to take him off the waiting list, however, upon checking, Benjamin is not qualified as a treasurer and so will remain on the wait list. We continue to investigate our options for the Treasurer role.

- Jeannie is not a qualified accountant and has volunteered to continue to do the cheques and deposits.
- **Maintenance Director:**
 - Jesse Vermeer applied in person and attended the meeting. He is a summer member and not on the waiting list. He was a former junior but when he attended University, he cancelled his membership. Gerry Blake has been volunteering as our Maintenance Director for 20 years and wants someone else to cover this role. The Board decided to take this discussion off-line and make a decision at their next Board meeting.
- **Social Director:**
 - Hilda nominated Anne Luxon; seconded by Peggy Tomlinson; unanimously approved; carried.
- **Tennis Programmes Director:**
 - Malcolm nominated Ron Tansley; seconded by Ralph; unanimously approved; carried.
- **Marketing and Communications Director:**
 - Dot wants to move from Secretary to Marketing and Communications Director. Jeannie nominated Dot; seconded by Kathy Gibb; unanimously approved; carried.
- **President:**
 - Since Oliver was previously our Vice President he was unanimously approved; carried.
- All other positions stay as-is, except for John who now becomes Past President.
- **New business:**
 - Request to add another light inside the bubble.
 - John agreed to talk with Tony and ask for one more light.
- **Open questions received by the Board - Questions (Q) and responses (A):**
 1. Q. What is the status of the heater in the bubble?
 - A. It has been fixed.
 - Q. It is still often quite cold – do we need a bigger furnace?
 - A. We will look into that.
 2. Q. What is the password for the ATC internet?

A. aldershot15

- **Discussion about wheelchair tennis at ATC:**
 - Motion to change the current 'Student' membership to 'Special' membership to allow Gillian Cruz to join ATC and play Wheelchair Tennis. Steve Gray seconded and all were in favour.
 - John asked Ron Mauro to look into any liability requirements and if we need to create a special waiver for Wheelchair tennis.
 - We currently have 10 'Special' (previously student) spots.
 - We will visit the safety concerns and policy re Wheelchair tennis as required.
 - We will post an explanation on our website.
 - The Board will vote on any other applications for 'Student' membership.
- **Remarks from new President, Oliver Barkovic:**
 - Social media presence needs to increase – Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. This will help with any Trillium Grant applications.
- The meeting was adjourned.