

## **2023 APTA BOARD MEETING GRANTS & LOANS COMMITTEE**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

One of the major missions of the APTA is to grow the sport of platform tennis. The Grants and Loans Committee works toward this goal by providing loans and financial assistance to paddle enthusiasts in all areas of the country looking to develop platform tennis programs and build courts, particularly public-access facilities.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Grants & Loans Committee meets to review financial assistance proposals two times per year in the Fall and the Spring. The Grants and Loans Committee has member representatives from regions throughout the country. When a grant/loan request is received, it is sent to a committee member assigned to the region. The member takes the lead by thoroughly investigating and vetting the project and grant/loan request. The member then submits a summary of their work and makes a recommendation to the Committee. The Committee discusses the request and votes on the recommendation or revised recommendation. The Committee's recommendations are now submitted to the Board.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

This past year, \$60,000 was awarded in grants (\$50,000) and loans (\$10,000) across 3 projects in support of the construction and rehabilitation of 4 courts and other facility enhancements. The previous year set a record annual award level of \$215,000.

Since 2019, \$540,000 has been awarded across 18 projects in support of the construction and rehabilitation of 32 courts. The award mix comprises \$325,000 in grants and \$215,000 in loans. \$425,000 in funding for these awards has been released to date.

Nearly \$1 million in award funding has been released since the program's inception in 2006.

**Awards approved** during the 2022-23 year included:

- \$25,000 grant and loan combination award to the **Rowayton Platform Tennis Association- Rowayton, CT**
- \$20,000 grant award to the **City of Summit, NJ (Wilson Park)- Summit, NJ**
- \$15,000 grant award to **Park Lakes Tennis & Paddle-Mountain Lakes, NJ**

The Board also invited the City of Summit to submit a proposal defining programming assistance needs to help jump-start participation and play in the initial year following construction. The Board encouraged particular emphasis be placed on the city's youth, citizens with disabilities, and those considered economically disadvantaged.

Eligible programming support items may include but are not limited to instructor costs, clinic participant fees, and equipment (racquets & balls), among other items the City suggests will encourage

participation and play. Upon review of the proposal, the Board will determine the level of financial assistance to be awarded. We will be working within an internal budget framework up to \$10k.

This represents a new approach for the G&L Committee and we hope to learn from our experience working with Summit and that it will inform potential future opportunities.

### **CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Competing priorities limited progress in updating and refreshing resources on our web pages that we leverage in educating potential project sponsors.

A refreshed municipal paddle brochure and “What is Paddle” video offer great brand building potential and should aid in creating interest, driving enthusiasm, and securing support for new projects among stakeholders.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

The committee welcomed the addition of Laura James, (Colorado), and is thrilled to have Laura representing the APTA in the West. Welcome Laura!

Our colleague and friend Joe Russo passed away this year. Joe was a tremendous ambassador for the sport and most of all a genuinely nice man. We will all miss Joe.

The committee thanks Jeff Ward, who resigned at the conclusion of the year, for his collaboration, insights, and many years of outstanding contributions to growing the game in the New England Region.

Submitted by Chair John McElhenny