

MAPTA PUBLIC PADDLE COMMITTEE
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Inaugural Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 15, 2010, 6:30 pm
Picket Post Paddle Hut

In attendance: Sally Allen, Gwen Carpenter, Chip Morrow, Leila Safford

Interested but not able to attend: Colleen Baker, Patti Burkhart, Laurie Hissey, Kori Lannon, Coeey Lyon, Jeff Lyon, Tim McAvoy, Ron Pinsky, Tom Safford, Keith Studnick

Opening Discussion:

An email from APTA and MAPTA President, Tim McAvoy, was read, addressing four points of reference we agreed to use moving forward. These points are:

1. MAPTA fully supports the initiatives of this committee
2. This committee's focus is on "public" paddle, which Tim defined as any facility where anyone can play, regardless of race, color, religion, or creed, either for free or for an affordable fee.
3. MAPTA will evaluate all public paddle proposals presented by the MAPTA Public Paddle Committee (MPPC) and those selected will be eligible for a donation from MAPTA.
4. APTA also has an initiative to grow the game and would be available to review and approve potential projects to administer grant money.

Review of APTA's Grant Program Guidelines:

MPPC decided to use these guidelines as parameters for the development of our committee's work. Those guidelines are attached in full.

To qualify for APTA grant money, the program:

1. must be available to the general public,
2. likely would not occur without the financial assistance,
3. is shown to already have a significant pool of potential of players,
4. has a strong "sponsor" and committee of participants willing to see the project through to completion, including their own financial participation
5. proposal is based on a three to five year time frame.

Brief overview of on line proposals and task force documents for Hinsdale Parks and Recreation Commission, Racquet Club of the South, Chapel Hill, Lake Bluff, and Peachtree Paddle in Georgia.

Our Committee's Response to the charge we were given:

- **Our Objective is:**

To enable the provision of affordable platform tennis to the general public in MAPTA's geographical area with the intention of ensuring its sustainability over time.

 - Affordable paddle is defined as access for \$1000 or less per year per family or \$500 or less per year per adult.
 - At least two courts and a warming hut would be necessary.
- **We will do this by:**

Identifying areas, businesses, and organizations to investigate as potential program developers. The criteria we will use to determine whether an area is viable for consideration are:

 - There must be a mature and active tennis community present.
 - There must be a local paddle enthusiast willing to play a key role.
 - There must be a geographical connection to other active paddle communities.
 - Economic sustainability must be possible.
 - The location must be appropriate for social gatherings of up to 35 people at a time.
- **The means by which this happens is:**
 - A mass marketing letter will be developed and mailed to targeted potential businesses, clubs, and communities. Leila Safford has volunteered to write this letter and present it at the next meeting.
 - Word of mouth among current paddle players is important. We will ask MAPTA to help with the publicity of making this effort be known, with information available for people to make their own contact with MPPC.
 - As good prospects become known to us, we will initiate personal contacts with interested parties. Chip Morrow and Tim McAvoy will begin the first conversation in Bucks County.

Brainstorming Regions to investigate:

- ACAC (although MPPC does not believe this to qualify as the fees are above our standard.
- Doylestown
- Berwyn Squash – contact person Dominick Hughes
- Pennypacker Swim and Tennis Club in Eagle
- Lancaster – Yacht Club?
- Pottstown Area
- Penn Oaks – contact person Jon Stefanik
- Reading Metro Area
- Reading Country Club – Chip and Sally know contact people

Prospective businesses of interest currently investigating:

1. **Bucks County Racket Club:** Mike Palmer has been in contact with Chip Morrow with a sincere interest in pursuing platform tennis at the Racket Club. The club is located in Washington Crossing. Chip and Tim will be arranging a time to meet in person with the Club owner and Mike Palmer (paddle enthusiast).
2. **Reading Country Club:** Sally and Chip will contact people of interest at this location, as the committee felt like this business in particular would be a perfect fit for a paddle program.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 12, 6:30 pm. Location to be determined.