

**SPEARFISH TENNIS ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING**

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016, 6:30 P.M.

Present: Doug Dexheimer, Joe Doerges, Kyle Doerges, John Roberts, Doug Stevens and Mary Burket.

Association President Joe Doerges called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. in the party room at the Spearfish Recreation & Aquatic Center.

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

MINUTES:

Dexheimer moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2016 STA board meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by K. Doerges and carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

STA Treasurer, Kyle Doerges, reported the following account balance estimates:

Pioneer Bank & Trust Balance: \$682.36

BHSU Foundation: Balance: Approximately \$1,500, pending verification.

Several personal checks have been given to him recently for deposit. At this time, he needs more information as to whether these represent payments for association membership dues, middle school tennis shirts, or contributions to Dick Hicks' memorial fund.

REPLACEMENT FOR DICK HICKS:

Stevens reported having sent a text message to Don Hazledine regarding his interest in serving on the board but no response has been received to date. Dexheimer and J. Doerges will determine the level of interest from among the parents of middle school/high school players. Others named as potentially interested parties include Pat Salcone, Sue Hauff, Tom & Kristin Wheaton, David O'Bryan, and Mary Flesner. Joe Doerges agreed to contact these individuals.

REPORTS:

- Monday Night Tennis @ BHSU
Attendance at Monday night tennis at BHSU has been "fairly sparse". This open opportunity to play tennis will soon switch to Sunday nights at the high school courts, but the board agreed to delay this move until May 1st. The working relationship between STA and the Young Center has been excellent although there is some concern with loss of the "tennis presence at BHSU" with Kent Myers retiring.
- High School Tennis - Dexheimer started the high school tennis season with 22 players and lost one individual to track bringing the number down to 21. He reported that competitive challenge matches show improvement.
- Middle School Tennis - J. Doerges' reported 20 players signed up for middle school tennis with numbers currently at 13. At a recent Saturday Play Day, 12 players showed up. He credits Alex Johnson as the main reason for the heightened interest in tennis at the middle school level. Johnson, a recent graduate of BHSU and PE teacher at the middle school has been helping Joe with middle school tennis program.

USTA GRANTS:

Correspondence has been received from the USTA Facilities Assistance Team indicating we have passed the technical review for the proposed Middle School Courts Resurfacing Project. A funding application will be sent via email in the near future. Heather Blythe is the USTA advocate assigned responsibility for this project; she will

review the application package when completed and submit the application on behalf of STA once satisfied with its content.

Grant funding in the amount of \$3,850 has been awarded from USTA Northern and these funds must be expended by September 2016. A site visit is planned later this month by George Stahlin, representing Evergreen Tennis Courts. He will inspect the middle school tennis court, specifically concerned with the surface delamination.

Joe Doerges stated the work is scheduled to begin on the middle school tennis courts on July 11, 2016. He reported there is \$41,221.33 in the Spearfish School Account toward this project, with the combination of the generous donation from Dick and Rita Hicks, funding allocated by the Spearfish School District and City of Spearfish, Pioneer Bank & Trust and community donations. Dick Hicks was very adamant he sought no recognition for the \$10,000 donation. Stevens said Pioneer Bank & Trust should be acknowledged in some way for the sign.

Dexheimer stated the need to look into competitive bidding practices that might required by the city and/or school district. Joe Doerges will seek additional information on this matter.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES:

- Spring Block Party – Joe Doerges recently looked into the “Rally The Family Initiative”, an USTA Northern sponsored event. Rally the Family focuses on tennis for all ages, ~~using lower compression red, orange, and green balls, shorter courts, shorter racquets and modified scoring,~~ along with a focus on families spending time together in fun, healthy activities. STA was awarded \$75 for prizes available on the USTA Northern website and it was suggested the Rally The Family theme be coordinated in conjunction with the Spring Block Party scheduled for Saturday, June 4th.
- Junior Team Tennis – Dexheimer stated, at this time, he and Joe are assessing the level of interest in local junior team tennis.
- Play Days – Joe Doerges stated he and Susie Monloch are discussing the possibility of having tennis play days for younger players in an effort to foster ownership in the tennis program among families. Stevens offered samples of some plastic incentive cards he was given by one of his representatives, which help motivate young children to play. Dexheimer also has a party interested in donating some rackets and tennis bags.
- Summer Leagues – John Roberts suggested coordinating tennis league night along with open tennis night at the courts on Sunday nights. There was discussion about potentially reserving some courts for doubles matches or scheduling family night activities from 6 pm to 7 pm followed by adult play afterward.

USTA WORKSHOP – May 24:

J. Doerges announced that USTA Northern is hosting a workshop at the Tennis Center of the Black Hills in Rapid City on Tuesday, May 24. It is a Red, Orange, Green Workshop and will provide some valuable training for tennis instructors, coaches, pros, parents and fans. He described it as a rec coach’s clinic. Several locals adult players have expressed interest in attending.

10 & UNDER PATHWAY CHANGES 2017

Stevens recently met with USTA Northern representative Pat Colbert at which time he learned of mandatory pathway changes affecting tournament players between the ages of 7 and 10 years old. The changes require players to progress from orange balls to green balls by earning *stars* and *trophies* upon certain accomplishments. To advance to the next level, all players must earn any combination of 20 stars and/or trophies.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

This year, j. Doerges has created a post card which will be mailed to all STA members for membership renewals. He distributed a sample of the post cards on which he has detailed all the upcoming activities and STA sponsored events.

OTHER BUSINESS

J. Doerges reported that there are 2 grants available through the local Wells Fargo to nonprofit organizations in the community, however, STA is not eligible to apply for the grants because it is not classified exempt as a 501c3 organization, The Board will discuss the matter of a 501c3 with BHSU Accountant, Brandon Bentley.

Doerges reported that he is not officially seeking donations at the present time. Dexheimer suggested the STA website be updated to include the "fundraising meter" to inform the public that additional donations are needed to complete the middle school tennis court improvement project.

Dexheimer needs a replacement banner from USTA before the block party as the current banner is badly worn.

Burket will check the spearfishtennis@gmail account.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the STA Board was scheduled for **Monday, June 13, 2016 at 6:30 at the high school tennis courts.**

There being no further business, motion was made Dexheimer, seconded by K. Doerges and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.