

Minutes
Spearfish Tennis Association
October 27, 2022, Thursday
Young Center – Hall of Fame Room – 6:30pm

Present: Joe Doerges, Kent Meyers, Paul Soriano, Doug Stevens, Pat Salcone, Kyle Doerges, Tom Fitch.

Absent: Gerty Wyatt, Colleen Mischke, Doug Dexheimer, Susie Mondloch.

- I. Call to Order: Paul called the meeting to order at 6:36.
- II. Approve Tonight's Agenda: Tom moved and Kyle seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Approve Minutes from Last Meeting: Joe moved and Tom seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Approve Treasurer's Report/Bills
 - Current Income/Bills: Joe has changed the name of our bank accounts. The former School account is now the Court Maintenance account, and the Black Hills Account is now the Winter Clinics Account. This clarifies what the money in those accounts is used for. Current balance in all accounts is \$23,185.88. Year-to-date totals are an income of \$10,572.13 and expenses of \$7160.25. Total bills since last meeting were \$2322.78 and total income was \$6908.38, with \$3000.00 of it coming through a USTA-Northern grant for the backboard and \$2390.00 in donations. Middle School girls tennis had a total income of \$420.00, after expenditures for food and stipends for the instructors. Boys and girls MS tennis together netted around \$116.00, and we have \$770.63 still remaining in that fund from previous donations. Miscellaneous expenses during this time period included the Hall-of-Fame court signs, the HOF meal, and tie wraps for the wind screens. **Motion:** Kyle moved to reimburse Kent \$28.62 for HOF-sign hardware and to pay \$3644.00 (\$3000.00 from USTA-N grant and \$644.00 from our account) to reimburse the school for backboard costs. Pat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - Membership Update: Joe reported that we have 33 active members (16 family, 9 single, 8 student), which is a gain of one from last year.
- V. Other Reports
 - HS/MS Tennis – Paul reported that 18 girls went out for varsity tennis, an increase from last year. It wasn't a winning season, but it was upbeat, and at the state tournament the team did well, placing five girls (out of six), with the team placing ninth overall. Significantly, the team received the Sportsmanship Award. Joe reported that there were about ten girls out for middle-school tennis.
 - SLAM Tournament Update – Joe reported that the July tournament had only 10 participants. Income for the tournament was \$796.98, expenses \$410.94, for a net total of \$377.04. In 2021, there were 20 participants. The main difference seemed to be that in 2021 the tournament was the same weekend as the Festival in the Park. **Motion:** Pat moved to hold the tournament on the Festival weekend this summer, July 15-16. Doug S, seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Doug S. also suggested that we make an attempt to get more Wyoming players from Sheridan, Gillette, and even Casper.
 - June Lessons – Doug reported that he held lessons on Thursdays in June. The groups were small, with the largest being eight participants. He commented that these lessons help keep

the players competitive but that Rapid City players are doing much more during the summer, practicing several times a week and participating in tournaments.

VI. Old Business

- Resurfacing HS Courts Update (City, School District, USTA Grant Funding) – Joe and Kent reported that a grant to the USTA is essentially written and we are waiting for the school to send out bid requests, which should take place in November. The school has committed up to \$30,000.00 and the city \$25,000.00. We will try to cover the rest with the grant. The decision on bids should be made in December.
- MS Coaching Stipend (USTA Funding) – This hasn't been pursued since our last discussion.
- Windscreens at HS Courts Update (SHS Funding) – Paul and Joe reported that the high school paid the whole bill for the new windscreens. We left the old ones that were usable up, but will take them down before winter and roll up the newly installed ones. We decided on a work day for doing this the Sunday after the meeting. We briefly discussed the idea of putting the old ones on the middle-school courts, but this would involve bracing the fence poles. It's a possibility for further consideration.
- Hitting Backboard at HS Courts Update (SHS Boosters, USTA Grant, Donations) – Joe and Paul reported that the Booster club paid \$3000.00, USTA-Northern paid \$3000.00, and we had donations of almost \$2400.00, for a total of \$8400.00. The total cost of the board is \$6644.00, so that we have about \$1700.00 left over. Of that, Joe has permission from donors to apply \$700.00 to the resurfacing project, still leaving \$1046.00. The estimated cost to complete the project with bracing is \$500.00. USTA-Northern has asked us to return money we don't use for the backboard, and we discussed how to interpret this directive. Though no formal action was taken, the consensus seemed to be that we should wait for the final tally, then give the remainder to the shop class for their labor, but make sure that what we do is completely transparent to all parties, including individual donors and USTA-Northern.
- Landscaping/Covering Options at HS Courts (Wait till courts resurfaced?) – Nothing has happened with this, but Paul reported that Parkview courts in Rapid have a fabric-covered structure that covers the grass area between their courts, and it may be a model for us.
- Court Bench Replacements – Kyle: No progress. Waiting for winter.
- Certificates for Past Board Members - Since several former board members weren't at the HOF banquet, Paul asked current board members to take the certificates of appreciation for those they knew and give them to them.

VII. New Business

- Special Committees – Examples: Adult Activities, Tournaments, Special Events (Block Party, Socials), Maintenance, Youth Tennis Development (PreK-HS), etc. – Paul suggested that we consider a reorganization that allows us to assign more of our work to special committees consisting of people outside the board itself, which is allowed by our bylaws. Possible committees are those listed above, but there could be others. Each committee would have to include at least one board member, but other than that could consist of people outside the organization. Kyle suggested that if we go ahead with this, we designate committee members as “STA Volunteers” and perhaps hold an annual appreciation get-together. Joe agreed to send out a letter to possible volunteers to see what kind of response we get.
- As part of the discussion on committees, Paul reported on his exploration into the state high-school activities guidelines for coaches' involvement with their players during the off-season. Coaches can instruct players as long as they are employees (not independent contractors) of a non-profit, so it would be possible for the STA to make a coach or coaches employees to allow this. Participants would pay the STA, but the money would flow to the coach. Paul thought the arrangement might contribute to player development. Doug S. questioned whether there are

enough interested players to accommodate this, since he offers similar lessons, has never refused a request for lessons, yet has never been overbooked. He offers both winter and summer programs, and Susie offers the same for the younger ones. A long discussion followed, with the following ideas being the most significant: Paul's idea is interesting enough to remain under consideration; Doug's concerns about diluting the instruction are valid and important; our current format is working quite well, and both individual players and overall programs are improving; we have developed multiple college players, and two state champions who went to other schools before they became champions; the deeper issue is that Spearfish players don't have a lot of motivation and drive, and we may have to address the reasons for this if we intend to offer more programming.

- Winter Clinic – Doug reviewed his plans to pick 4 to 6 Sundays in January and February for the winter clinics. Tom suggested we might reach out to Belle Fourche and Sturgis players.
- Christmas Tournament – Joe reported on the possibility of using the DYC fieldhouse for a tournament during the university's Christmas break, Dec. 14-Jan. 18. He suggested a format of two divisions with six doubles teams in each. With fieldhouse rent, he thinks we could net a couple hundred dollars. Joe, Doug, Tom, and Kyle agreed to look into it.
- Other: USTA-Northern has a conference coming up, Nov. 11-12 in Eagan, MN. If anyone is interested, we can send them.

VIII. Next Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 6:30, DYC.

IX. Adjourn: 8:26.