

Lincoln Hills Water Volleyball Steering Committee Minutes

March 17, 2022 | 3:00 PM

Orchard Creek Media Room

Steering Committee Board Members Present:

- Chairperson ~ Cindi Underwood
- Communications Coordinator ~ Diane Ferrari
- Competitive Play Coordinator ~ Eric Crisp
- Equipment Manager ~ Tom Jasper
- Mentor/Member Coordinator ~ Carol Critch
- Social Activities Coordinator ~ Terri Vallis
- Training Administrator ~ Mel Switzer
- Treasurer/Membership Chairperson ~ Chip Hill
- Webmaster ~ Ross Underwood
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Steering Committee Board Members Absent:

- Email Coordinator ~ Doug Blanchard
- Recreational Play Coordinator ~ Vacant
- Secretary ~ Sidne George

Guests: Andee Lund, Michael Esterbrook, Kim Bovee

Amendment:

This amendment is to make clear that Claudia Bernt is no longer the Chairperson or a member of the Steering Committee. Her name is to be removed from all banking documents. All other Steering Committee members are as stated as in these minutes as of March 17, 2022.

At 3:00 PM, Cindi Underwood, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Cindi welcomed everyone to the Steering Committee meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Cindi explained that Linda Swinton had resigned her position as Recreational Play Coordinator due to nagging injuries that kept her from playing on a regular basis. Linda believes that this position requires someone who can play more often. Cindi thanked Linda for her many years of service to the club, especially given that the 15-month break in play due to COVID-19 restrictions at the indoor pools extended Linda's term in office by a year.

Cindi told the group that Andee Lund was highly recommended by club members to fill the vacancy caused by Linda Swinton's resignation. Cindi then asked Andee Lund to

introduce herself and give her background information to those present. **Andee** recently moved to Sun City Lincoln Hills from Southern California. **Andee's** sister lives here and family is important to **Andee**. **Andee** teaches Pilates at the Orchard Creek Fitness Center, and she loves working with others on their fitness goals. An exercise enthusiast, **Andee** loves the water and movement involved in water volleyball. She is often amazed at the athletic abilities of our club members.

Resolution:

Terri Vallis moved, and Mel Switzer seconded, that Andee Lund be appointed to fill the balance of Linda Swinton's term ending on December 31, 2023. The motion was unanimously approved (9 ayes, 0 nays). **Andee** became a voting member of the Steering Committee at the meeting from this point forward.

Chip Hill reported there were no financial transactions since the last Steering Committee meeting in February. Therefore, the financial reports for the club remained the same as submitted at the time of the last meeting. The club bank balance is \$5,350.18.

Chip provided the club membership report which consisted of 124 members in the following categories: 23 Level Six, 22 Level Five, 25 Level 4, 15 CRB, 36 Recreational, 3 New, and 0 Inactive members.

Chip reported that the Membership Application on the club website needs to be updated with his contact information. **Chip** explained that the club officers are now able to schedule a visit to our bank (Umpqua) to provide details about the financial team running the club. The bank road trip will include **Mike Mosca (Prior Club Treasurer), Cindi Underwood (Chair), Chip Hill (Treasurer), and Sidne George (Secretary)**. The bank requires copies of the minutes from our first meeting of the year, which have been signed by the club officers.

Andee Lund was asked to participate in a round table discussion of the status of Recreational Play, which is trying to fill their nets with players. **Andee** believes that a strong base of recreational players leads to a strong base of competitive players and the overall health of the club is improved. **Andee** points out that learning the fundamentals of play leads to a deeper level of satisfaction for new players, and so she is an advocate for Skills and Drills sessions specifically designed for recreational players. **Carol Critch** mentioned that recent changes to consolidate Levels 1-2-3 into a single category of play titled "Recreational Player" has eliminated the mentorship of new players, potentially leading to less training for new players. There was a suggestion to create a "buddy program" so upper-level players could assist in the growth of new players. Overall, the club needs upper-level players to show up and play Recreational games. Something as simple as experienced players helping with setting up the nets can lead to better play experience for new players. There was a suggestion that SC members help call recreational players to encourage them to play during upcoming days. It was also suggested to dedicate one Skills & Drills session a month to the Recreational Level. **Eric**

Crisp mentioned the Recreational Play Tournament in May as an opportunity to enhance the play experience for Recreational Players. **Andee** and the team of club officers are excited about the energy and look forward to working on filling the nets for Recreational Players.

Eric Crisp reported on the status of Competitive Play. The Gene LaFaunce Memorial Tournament was a success on many levels. **Eric** thanked **Bruce Decker** and **Mel Switzer** for their effort on the tournament. **Eric** asked **Ross Underwood** to share a recent idea about a potential new level for competitive ball players. **Ross** explained that more players are expressing an interest in playing with the competitive ball, but there is almost no additional capacity on the rosters for Levels 4-6. Wanting to meet the needs of the club members who wish to play with the competitive ball, if the club created a "Competitive Play" category, these players could play with the competitive ball on certain days of the week (e.g., Tuesday, Saturday). There was consensus that creating a new category of play needed more definition and details about implementing the change prior to consideration by the Steering Committee.

Carol Critch reported that **Dash Duncan** has agreed to help meet with potential members. **Carol** invited **Andee** to attend new member orientations as a great way to meet new members of the club who will start playing Recreationally.

Terri Vallis reported that a recent "Save the Date" message to all club members had a typo in a couple of dates and that the club members would receive a message about the correct dates soon. **Terri** and **June Born** were working on the budget for several upcoming social events and would present these budget requests at the next Steering Committee meeting in April. **Terri** reported that the club "Corn Hole" social event needs a director. **Mel** volunteer to ask **Bruce Decker**. The Corn Hole Tournament will feature a \$5 entry fee to pay for tournament prizes, a Bring Your Own format for food, drinks, chairs, and essentially anything a member might need for the tournament. McBean Park has been selected as the venue for the event because the park offers better parking and a wider variety of amenities (e.g., space, shade, tables). **Terri** reported that the Fall Festival planning is well underway, and that the target price for the event remains \$25. However, as details emerge, and planning continues there may be a need to increase the fee. **Terri** mentioned that Duane Kakanui, a new member of our club, has a band. The band will perform at our May 6 potluck and may play a street concert soon. The club's next social event is at the Goathouse Brewery on a Saturday in April after play. More details to follow!

Diane Ferrari reported that volunteers were needed for the "It's the Lifestyle Expo" at the Orchard Creek Ballroom on March 29, 2022. The expo runs from 10AM to 1PM. **Diane** passed around a sign-up sheet and recruited several volunteers to staff our table. Our table will feature candy including a one-of-a-kind volleyball sticker, Free Saturday handouts, volleyball paraphernalia, and posters. **Diane** requested the use of a free window display at the Orchard Creek Lodge for the month of April, but she has received no acknowledgement from the appropriate staff. **Diane** will follow-up on the club's request.

Tom Jasper reported that he has been closely monitoring the air pressure in the Volleyballs used by the club, and he has discovered that the correct air pressure measurement is 2 – 3 pounds. **Tom** has found that sometimes the ball is overinflated to 5 pounds, which can lead to a false impression that a ball is underinflated even when it is properly inflated. **Tom** cleverly lets the air out of these overinflated volleyballs. **Tom** recently rebuilt the scoring abacus units at the Kilaga Springs indoor pool. Steering Committee members were astonished to learn that **Tom** hand painted the toy wooden wheels and removed the rust from the metal guide rails that are foundational to our scoring systems. Atta-boy Tom!

Ross Underwood reported that the club has recently been updated to accept a near live feed from the club's Facebook page. The informative posts appear on the "What's Happening?" website page within six hours of the Facebook Post so that our club members who are non-users of Facebook can learn about club information and events. **Ross** reported that upcoming changes could feature a near-live update to the Club Membership Directory, an updated New Member Application Form, the elimination of confusion over the club documents link to the Level 3 or 4 Evaluation Sheet, and a complete display of photos for the Steering Committee members.

Mel Switzer reported that he has had recent discussions with a contact at the beautiful Lincoln Crossing Recreational Center located at 830 Groveland Lane in Lincoln (near In-and-Out Burger). The recreational center features an indoor pool which might be conducive to water volleyball, and **Mel** believes this would be an excellent opportunity for outreach and further building of the sport. **Mel** requested Steering Committee permission to take club nets to the LC Pool as a one-time thing to play demonstration games on a Friday night. Mel will coordinate the demonstration.

Resolution:

Eric Crisp moved, and Carol Critch seconded, that permission was granted to Mel to coordinate a one-time demonstration of water volleyball, including the use of club nets at the Lincoln Crossing Recreational Center, to the indoor pool users at the recreational center on a Friday night sometime soon. The motion was unanimously approved (10 ayes, 0 nays).

Mel reported on the successful conduct of the Gene LaFaunce Memorial Tournament. Steering Committee members noted that the tournament featured **Gene's** family who attended the playoffs and championship games on Thursday Night. **Cindi** thanked **Mel** for providing the family with a signed volleyball as a token of the club's affection for **Gene & Bobbi LaFaunce**. It was mentioned that having the assistance of the William Jessup University Women's Volleyball Team players, who were paid to be tournament referees, was much appreciated. While it was fun to see the college players assist at the tournament, future tournaments are likely to be conducted without paid referees. **Mel** reaffirmed his commitment to focus Skills & Drills dedicated to recreational ball players once per month in the future.

New Business:

Kim Bovee presented a proposal to potentially increase player participation for both the Competitive Recreation Ball (CRB) and Level 4 players. **Kim** reported that Level 4 players have lost play time opportunities on Thursday Team Night, and CRB players have lost play time opportunities on Wednesday nights during the early session due to low turnout. **Kim** suggested that if the CRB and Level 4 play time slots were swapped one for the other, there might be a benefit to both groups of players. Potentially the CRB players might benefit because Thursday night at Orchard Creek offers warmer water than the Wednesday night session held at Kilaga Springs. Potentially Level 4 players might benefit because the early session at Kilaga Springs might receive the benefit of Level 5/6 players who could play with Level 4 prior to their Team Night play in the late session. A survey of Level 4 players indicated that 56% of the L4 players were in favor of the change in the schedule, 28% were opposed, and 16% did not care if the schedule was changed.

Ross was not in favor of the change because recently the Level 4 roster has been increased, and L4 player participation has increased sufficiently on Team Night. **Ross** added that long time members of the club have cautioned against placing Recreational and Competitive nets opposite one another during the same time slot. **Ross** also mentioned that it was more fitting to pour effort into recruiting players to attend Recreation Play timeslots instead of changing the schedule.

Eric was in favor of making the schedule change for a period to see if the change produced benefits to both groups of players. It was mentioned that if we make the schedule change, it would be important to measure participation on both the CRB and Level 4 nets. It was mentioned that measuring CRB participation could be difficult because that play slot does not feature sign-ups, whereas L4 players sign-up to play on Team Night.

Terri asked if **Andee** had any thoughts on the impact of the change on CRB players. **Andee** preferred to spend effort on recruiting Recreational Players to play during the currently allotted play time slots rather than change the schedule at this time. It was mentioned that **Andee** does not have the benefit of a formed Recreational Play Sub Committee (RPSC) to act as a sounding board on the proposed schedule change.

Cindi was in favor of the proposed schedule change if the one-month trial resulted in a full report back to the Steering Committee at our next meeting on April 21, 2022.

Resolution:

Terri Vallis moved, and Carol Critch seconded, that a one-month trial schedule change be enacted, exchanging CRB Wednesday Night early session and Level 4 Thursday Night late session play times, and that the attendance on both nets be measured and documented so the Steering Committee could evaluate the effect of the change at our next steering committee meeting on April 21, 2022. The motion was approved (8 ayes, 2 nays). Ayes – Cindi Underwood, Diane Ferrari, Eric Crisp, Tom

Jasper, Carol Critch, Terri Vallis, Mel Switzer, Chip Hill. Nays – Ross Underwood, Andee Lund.

The meeting was adjourned by Cindi at 5:07 PM.