

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of Tecumseh Tennis Club (“the Club”) held on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Toronto time via videoconference.

**Members present**

Russ Ford (Chair)  
Gordon King  
Nicole Baryla  
Joanne DeVoe  
Claudine Quinn  
Evelyn Borys  
Carol Salisbury  
Michelle Albanese  
Larry Boldt  
Brian Weir  
Stephanie Hansuld  
Aalia Parker  
Sarosh Bhumgara  
Reno Capano  
Angela Chimienti  
Mike Robinson  
Patricia Kajda  
Yvonne Mellows  
Caron Allen  
Sue Adjoran  
Aaron Jolly  
Masoud Poorrashidi  
Shayan Poorrashidi

**Guests present**

Steve Theodoropoulos

**Constitution of Meeting**

Russ Ford chaired the meeting, and Nicole Baryla served as Secretary of the meeting.

Russ stated that a quorum of the Members was present (>15 Members), and all the Members had received notice of the meeting. The meeting was declared to be regularly constituted for the transaction of business.

**1. Opening Comments of the Chair**

Russ welcomed the Members and called the meeting to order.

**2. Review and Approval of Agenda and Previous AGM Minutes**

The Chair requested approval of the agenda of November 29, 2021 and the minutes from the previous AGM held on March 11, 2021.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the Tecumseh Tennis Club Membership approved the agenda of November 29, 2021 and minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on March 11, 2021, as circulated prior to the November 29, 2021 Annual General Meeting.

### **3. Report of the Executive Board**

Russ referred to the Board Report that was provided to the Members ahead of the AGM and indicated that he would provide a high-level overview of the key information.

Russ talked about the importance of hiring head staff for an organization. He commented that engaging Steve T. and Damaris A. has been a huge asset to the Club. Russ thanked Steve and Damaris for their involvement in the Club and a job well done this season.

Russ commented there were 3 new Board Members in 2021 and that the operations of the Club was a true team effort. He thanked the Board for their efforts.

Russ informed Members that the Board assessed several possible options for booking courts at the Club. After considering feedback from Members, reviewing policies of other community tennis clubs, and considering the pros and cons of various options, the Club implemented a hybrid approach to court booking. Based on positive feedback, the Members seem to like this option and it will continue next season.

Russ highlighted the need for the courts need to be resurfaced. Conversations are underway with the Ward 2 City Councillor and there is a possibility that the courts can be resurfaced next spring. The City indicated they will allow the Club to run the tendering process and manage the project. Court contractors will need to be secured to resurface in spring 2022. The worst-case scenario is the courts are resurfaced in spring 2023.

Russ stated that replacement of the overhead lights is the City's responsibility, and this should occur in the next couple of years. It will be necessary to manage this process properly so that any newly surfaced courts are not damaged by light replacement.

Russ reported that a lot of new equipment was purchased and installed this season including a court divider, new signage, and new nets. He also thanked Birdseye Solutions for providing the Club security cameras.

The Membership doubled to 520 this year after a steady decline over last several years. Included in the totals are 60-70 new Members that joined the Club for the sole purpose of taking lessons from the Tennis Director, which also highlights the value Steve has brought to the Club.

Russ stated that the Board implemented several tennis programs this season to provide Members more opportunities to play at the Club and meet new Members:

- Tuesday and Thursday evening Round Robins were divided by skill level, with advanced sign up required. Monday and Wednesday morning Round Robins were established.
- Tennis Ladders were administered online by volunteer Member, Heath Allen.
- A New Member Orientation session was held.
- Organized the first "Vintage Tournament" (age 60+). The Club will try to attract more senior Members next season.
- Hosted a successful Annual Club Tournament with prizes for winners of the main draws.

Russ indicated that next year the Board hopes to implement even more tennis programming, as well as resume regular social events, depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. This may include a doubles ladder, and more tournaments throughout the season.

Communications and marketing were also elevated this season with the design and launch of a new website, distribution of Member surveys, and circulation of regular email updates.

Russ encouraged Members to reach out with any ideas for how the Board can continue improving the tennis experience at the Club.

#### **4. Matters arising from the Report of the Executive Board**

There were no questions from the Members.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Gordon walked through the operating statement and cash statement that were provided as part of the AGM materials.

Gordon stated that revenues were much higher in 2021 compared to 2020 due to the large increase in Membership fees received. Other revenues were from the Tennis Director's court fees and Club-branded t-shirt sales.

Major expenses included tennis balls for round robins and clinics, new nets, installation of the court divider, ball hoppers, and design and launch of the new Club website. The electricity and water were never billed for 2020 and Gordon indicated that the charges will be waived by City. At the time of the report, Gordon said that he had not yet received the invoice for the toilet rental, which is expected to be in the range of \$800.

Overall, the Club had a surplus of \$22k for the year, which is the most that Gordon has seen in recent history. The Club has \$57k in the bank. Russ commented that the strong financial position will allow the Club to resurface the courts as soon as spring 2022.

There were no questions from the Members.

#### **6. Approval of the Treasurer's Report**

Russ put forward the proposed resolution that the Tecumseh Tennis Club Membership approve the 2021 financial report as circulated prior to the November 29, 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the Tecumseh Tennis Club Membership approve the 2021 financial report as circulated prior to the November 29, 2021 Annual General Meeting.

#### **7. Tennis Director's Report on Activities**

Steve commented that he was happy to be part of the Club this season and thought everything ran smoothly. He indicated that he is already getting requests for lessons and clinics for the 2022 season.

There were no questions from the Members.

## **8. One-year Objectives and Strategic Plan**

### *One Year Objectives*

Nicole indicated that the Directors had a discussion last month about what worked well and what did not work well in the 2021 season (tennis programs, tournament, court booking, marketing), as well as brainstormed ideas for next season. An end-of-year Member survey was sent to Members to also gather feedback. The Member response rate was 34%, which indicates a high level of Member engagement, and the results were overwhelmingly positive.

Nicole indicated that all comments and feedback received over the course of this year will be considered when planning further improvements and programs for the 2022 season.

Based on the survey results, Nicole shared a few high-level conclusions noted by the Directors:

- Members like the current booking system
- The biggest issues relate to the facilities – improvements needed to lights and court surface
- The format for the evening round robins should not be changed
- Members want more tournaments
- Members want singles and doubles ladders
- Even though our lowest usage times are weekend evenings, Members did not express enough interest to move forward with a Sunday evening house league
- There is interest for a seniors (55+) league team on Thursday mornings
- Steve has made an enormous impact on the Club as Tennis Director

### *Strategic Planning*

Nicole stated that the Directors plan to have strategic planning discussions during the off season so that the Board can formulate strategic objectives for the Club. Included in these discussions will be the long-term vision for the Club. As a first step, Nicole reported that the Directors have completed a SWOT analysis of the Club's internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as external opportunities and threats that have and will impact the future success of the Club. This analysis will help provide a basis for selecting strategic objectives that are most likely to lead to growth in the Club over the next five years.

Nicole indicated that a strategic planning committee will be formed and that the Board will reach out to Members to determine if there is interest to join the committee.

## **9. Election & Announcement of 2022 Executive Board Members**

Michelle Albanese, a non-Board Club Member, facilitated the election of the Board. She indicated that there are several Board Members that are interested in returning to their roles in 2022 (for re-election), a couple of returning Board Members that will be filling new roles in 2022 (for election), and two new Members that are interested in joining the Board for 2022 (for election).

The proposed changes from 2021 to 2022 are as follows:

- Nicole Baryla - Vice President (will also continue as Secretary)
- Evelyn Borys - Member at Large (change from Vice President)
- Sarosh Bhumgara - Tournament Director (new role)
- Reno Capano - Member at Large

Michelle asked Members if they had any questions. There were no questions.

Michelle put forward the proposed resolution to elect the Board for the 2022 season.

**President:** Russ Ford (for re-election)

**Vice President:** Nicole Baryla (for election)

**Treasurer:** Gordon King (for re-election)

**Secretary:** Nicole Baryla (for re-election)

**Property Director:** Carol Salisbury (for re-election)

**Membership Director:** Claudine Quinn (for re-election)

**Social Director:** Joanne DeVoe (for re-election)

**Tournament Director:** Sarosh Bhungara (for election)

**Member-at-Large:** Evelyn Borys (for election)

**Member-at-Large:** Reno Capano (for election)

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the Tecumseh Tennis Club Membership elect the 2022 Executive Board Members as outlined above.

#### **10. Other Business/Meeting Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.

---

Russ Ford, Chair

---

Nicole Baryla, Secretary