**National Capital Squash (NCS)**

**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

**October 11, 2011 (Tuesday)**

**Board Members Attending:** Officers David Keating (President), Andrew Mishkin (President-Elect, by telephone due to illness), Rod Crider (VP-IT), Hunt Richardson (VP-Tournaments), Tyler Stilwell (VP-Membership), Stephen Weber (Treasurer), Malcolm Jensen (VP-Leagues) and Member Directors Page Lansdale, Leslie Connolly, Anne Monahan, Ken Mendez and Schuyler Haynes

**Board Members Absent:** Carole Grunberg (VP-Juniors), Ubu Grace Hoshizaki (Secretary), AJ Copeland (VP-Women), Ghirma Meres (Past President), Mark Lewis, Brad Brigante, Jahangir Naseem.

**Also Attending:** Patrick Harris, Abir Ray and Munish Sikka.

**Call to Order**

David Keating called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 when a quorum of 7 was established.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 8 meeting. *The motion passed unanimously without amendments.*

**Bylaws Adopted.** David Keating reported that the revised bylaws have been adopted. Prior to adoption of the bylaws, NCS had 24 directors, meaning the votes of 16 were required to adopt the revised bylaws. Eight directors were able to attend the September 8 meeting, and all voted for the revision. Another 10 written ballots in favor of the motion to adopt were received by mail, for a total of 18 votes in favor. Ballots were received by mail in favor from: Brad Brigante, Carole Grunberg, Schuyler Haynes, Wendy Lawrence, Kenny Mendez, Ghirma Meres, Rahul Nair, Jahangir Naseem, Bev Supanic and Stephen Weber.

**Board Attendance.** David Keating indicated that, where feasible, directors may join board meetings by telephone only when ill or traveling out of town. Otherwise, directors are expected to attend meetings in person, so as to facilitate discussion.

**WISPA Dread Series.** David reported on efforts to promote the WISPA pro-women’s squash tournament and encouraged all to attend this coming weekend’s WISPA tournament.

**Rules and referee clinic compensation.** After discussion it was agreed that Hunt Richardson should be compensated $175 for the first referee clinic held September 24. A second clinic is planned before the end of the year, for which an additional compensation of $175 is authorized*. [Per Bylaws rules, Hunt Richardson was not present for this discussion and vote.]*

**US SQUASH Annual Assembly**

David Keating attended the **US SQUASH Annual Assembly** October 1-2 in Philadelphia, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open Tournament. He reported getting valuable feedback from other regional squash association presidents. They plan to set up an email list serve to get help in addressing and solving common issues between districts.

**Winter League rules revisions**

Proposed revisions to the Winter League rules were reviewed in some detail. Several issues were raised and resolved. Leslie Connolly suggested that we need a **minimum** cut-off skill rating for each division. After discussion it was agreed that a minimum would be recommended. The other issue was which captain is to be responsible for reporting scores. After much discussion, it was agreed that the home team captain is responsible (and subject to defaulting matches upon failure to do so), although the visiting captain could report them as well. With these changes, the revised leagues rules (dated 10/11/2011) were approved unanimously. The rules as approved appear as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

**Division 6 – League Play**

There was discussion of a new division for league play to accommodate beginner through low intermediate players. Andrew Mishkin reported that he is continuing his efforts on this initiative.

**Howe Cup Team Update**

Schuyler Haynes and Leslie Connelly gave a report on the Howe Cup teams. NCS is supporting entry of eight teams at this US SQUASH National Championship for women’s teams. Schuyler and Leslie both encouraged all to attend since the tournament is in our own backyard (Meadow Mill Athletic Club in Baltimore) this year.

**Support for Local Tournaments**

Financial support for local tournaments was discussed. Unanimously approved, for this coming season, was a $500 NCS sponsorship for up to one (1) tournament per month and up to five (5) tournaments per year, provided that (1) the tournament director (TD) offers at least a $10 discount for NCS members compared to other district members; (2) the TD posts a permanent sign with information on how squash players can join NCS with the NCS website URL displayed permanently in a prominent location in the facility; (3) the TD promotes NCS sponsored events through their email list; (4) the NCS website address is printed on all T-shirts given to players; and (5) the TD coordinates the tournament schedule with the NCS VP for Tournaments.

**Social Events**

Schuyler Haynes and Patrick Harris, who chair the social committee, reported on their plans for events this year. First is a Winter League Opening Happy Hour in November. They are looking to hold the event Nov. 17 (Thursday) at a downtown location. The Board approved financial support for the social of $250. The funds can be used to attract members to the event (e.g., food, door prizes, etc.).

**Consideration of Abir Ray and Munish Sikka as new Member Directors**

Abir presented a considerable list of qualifications to serve on the Board. Several Board Members questioned his behavior at the June meeting, at which he immediately resigned from the Board after a majority vote went against his position. At the time, he indicated that his company would no longer be available to host the NCS website and that it would need to be moved to another server immediately. He later agreed to provide additional time. He was asked what assurances he could give that this type of behavior would not recur if the Board reaches a decision to which he objects, and he stated that he would try not to act in such a manner again. He said he is willing to work hard going forward and to support all actions approved by majority vote of the Board in the future. His membership on the Board was then approved.

Munish Sikka asked to be a Member Director representing Potomac Squash Club (as he had been in the past). A concern was expressed about his failure to attend meetings in the past. He explained that he was under considerable pressure then and that now he is prepared to attend all meetings and to take an active role in supporting NCS. His membership on the Board was then approved.

With the addition of Abir and Munish as Member Directors, the Board now has 21 members (11 officers and 10 Member Directors) requiring seven (7) members attending a meeting to achieve a quorum.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the NCS Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29 at 6:45pm.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Weber, Treasurer

*for* Ubu Grace, Secretary