

EAGLE RIVER PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING - Saturday, August 9, 2025 - Location - First Congregational United Church of Christ

1. President Randy Harbath called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Thanks to Tom and Barb Helmick for getting a location for us on a rainy day.
2. Denny Erardi moved to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes from 2024. Neil Burghard seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous approval.
3. Calendar Year 2025 Financial Statement as of July 31, 2025. Patty Akerlund moved to approve the 2025 Financial Statement. Ginny Leith seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

The Proposed CY 2026 Budget was presented. Louie Penpek moved to approve the proposed budget for 2026. Karen Young seconded the motion. It was brought up that the reason that the dues increased for the next fiscal year was because no one stepped up to run the Memorial Day Brat Sale and the board voted on an extra expense of \$450 for liability insurance for the board members. Motion passed with unanimous approval. Scott Strehlow brought up the subject of training for AED machine. He feels that members should get renewed training in case of an event.

4. Vote on Bylaws Amendments - Sue Behrens and Karl Athow made some changes to the Bylaws. The signed bylaws will be posted on our website. Ron Hagen moved to approve the changes to the bylaws and Denny Erardi seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. New Courts Ad Hoc Committee Update. Randy gave a brief history of the new court project. In November there was a meeting of the City Council regarding the City Hall site. Jerry Burkett was the only one on the board who was in favor of the courts. Jerry scheduled a public meeting without consulting the ERPA Board. It came to our attention that there were a lot of people on Facebook who were opposed to the pickleball courts at this site, due to noise and traffic. We backed out of that meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee also looked into the Fairgrounds and Oldenburg. Both sites deal with the county. It was felt that the Fairgrounds would be very difficult to deal with and the soccer and baseball people do not want us at Oldenburg.

Denny gave her presentation as the chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. Oldenburg, the Fairgrounds, City Hall, Northland Pines High School and four other sites were considered. The committee, consisting of Chair Denny Erardi, Dennis Ragan, and Jane Jones have worked on a design preview, a simulated drone flyover, and have consulted with an attorney and private consultants. There is \$2,000 in the proposed 2026 budget for Ad Hoc Committee Expenses. This has not been touched as of this point. Comparative sites have been looked at, 6 to 16 courts, with a cost ranging from

\$180,000 to 6- or \$700,000. Factors include quality of courts, shade, lighting, fencing, bathroom.

The School will donate the land to us. They would lease it for \$1. ERPA would maintain control over assets and usage. Usage would pretty much stay intact, as it is now. The fact that we are considering a school site will be beneficial in terms of fundraising, donations, and grants. People may tend to give more when there are students and the community involved. Karen Margelofsky (Executive Director for Revitalization of Eagle River) has offered to help us in terms of grants.

We are reaching out to the members for any contacts that you have in regard to fundraising. We will need your help.

ERPA has exclusivity. Kids can use the courts. Don't know who would teach kids pickleball. The school has been very cooperative with us in the winter months, as far as storing our nets.

Plug in different scenarios. Basic courts, shading of six areas, four out of the ten courts would be lit. Fund 80 money may be available for maintenance, renovations. We will have access to parking, which the school will maintain. We can use the concession area bathroom until we can build our own. We are talking about a 50-year lease. There will be milestones to make adjustments. Our taxes will not go up. The land will still belong to the school. They are leasing it to us. We have met with the school many times. Scott Foster is retiring in June of 2026. There are two possible candidates to replace him. Both of them are on board with our plan.

We have been meeting with Scott Foster; Dave Bohnen, the building and grounds supervisor; and AJ Zayia, the activities director.

Terms and conditions: We have an unsigned Memo of Understanding which Denny drafted. They have their version prepared by their attorney. We will have counsel. We will make sure ERPA is protected. Denny has talked to counsel at Ruder Ware in Wausau. We are trying to conserve money, as far as legal fees. Meeting again with Scott Foster next week. Eventually, the School Board and ERPA Board will need to approve.

There will be proposed RFP's, fundraising, grants, construction project manager.

We have two members who have volunteered to help with fundraising; Dawn Chalanick and Doug Pierce.

Karen and Bob Weight have volunteered their help in other areas.

Committee has investigated and researched into different types of courts. Multiple types of surfaces; asphalt, and post-tension concrete, which has a much longer lifespan.

The school is in the City of Eagle River. Neither the city nor the county want to give money to the school. They think the school can make money through their referendum. The most recent three-year referendum has been passed by the voters earlier this year, and there was no line item for pickleball courts. School will help with an in-house grant person.

Thanks to Louie for sending in his questions so we know what his concerns were and could address them.

Survey sent out early in the year shows that 83% of our members want new courts.

We feel comfortable with the venture. 96% of the members were in favor of new courts if their dues did not go up. The majority wanted ten courts.

We will sell naming rights to the courts.

Dennis Ragan presented our vision of the courts. Dennis has contributed beautiful drawings. Talked about the shortcomings of our present courts. Talked about how much pickleball is growing.

New courts will be fenced and individually gated. 5-foot walkway between six inner courts. No more balls on courts. Windscreens. Courts lit. 10-foot distance between baseline and fences. USPA sanctioned. A viewing area. Different surfaces. Post-tension concrete, which has a 50-year life expectancy, compared to asphalt, which is much less. Would look into applying cushion surface for the players' joints.

High school has some challenges. Need to create a level surface. 4 1/2 to 4-foot grade. Need retaining wall. Some tree removal. Will add to cost. Challenges and opportunities. Opportunity to collaborate with the school. Youth development programs. Benefit to kids, as well as to ERPA, the community, and Eagle River.

Ten courts is the capacity. No room for additional courts.

Present courts at the park. The City owns the courts. They may decide to keep them. If the courts stay, we would leave the nets. At the new courts, we would have permanent posts for the nets. Shading is very expensive. Need to establish priority of items before we bid. We have no idea what the city wants to do with the present courts. We also have no contract with the City at the present time.

The Ad Hoc Committee welcomes questions, comments, suggestions, or experiences. Eagle River does not have much money. The Town of Washington, Town of Cloverland, and Town of Lincoln give no money.

If the city takes over our present courts, they will not spend money on painting or fixing cracks. The last time the City gave us money, they told us there would be no more money from them.

End of Ad Hoc Committee Report.

6. Election of Board Members and Officers. The term was up for our president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. The following people agreed to be nominated for the following positions: President - Jane Jones; Vice President - Denny Erardi and Karl Athow; Treasurer - Julie Babcock; Secretary - Nancy Townsend. Karl Athow and Denny Erardi both spoke for a short time. Unanimous approval in favor of the nominations of Jane Jones, Julie Babcock, and Nancy Townsend. There was a vote by ballot for the position of Vice President. The votes were tabulated and Denny Erardi was declared the new Vice President. Tom Helmick, Greg Laatsch, and Patty Akerlund will remain on the board.

7. Discussion of 2026 Schedule. If we want any changes to the schedule, we need to submit a request to the City. Question was brought up about playing at 7:00 or 7:30 a.m. We are presently next to homes and there is a noise factor. It's okay to start playing early, but we cannot charge non-members if they play during those times. We do want to be careful of irritating the neighbors. Question was brought up about playing one or two nights a week, possibly a league night or a ladder program. Volunteers can start something like this. Denny said she can help with info as to leagues, challenge courts, if someone wants to lead this project. If we get a volunteer who wants to run it, then we can submit a request to the city in early Spring.

8. Member Appreciation - Sue.

Specials thanks to:

Officers on the ERPA Board: Randy Harbath, Bob Radzis, Sue Behrens, and Jane Jones. Bob Radzis for serving as vice president for six years.

Marita Schwartz for coordinating Winter Play and Team Reach.

Perry Pokrandt and Tom Helmick for getting the high school to give us space for a storage locker for our winter equipment.

Barb and Tom Helmick for maintaining our nets.

Dennis Ragan for purchasing the locker and putting it together.

Al Geiger for all of his work with Cranberry Fest and donating the brats and buns for the annual picnic

The crew who put up our outdoors nets and taking them down in the Fall.

ATP Camp - Lauri Gerlach and Karl Athow, Marita Schwartz, and Ken Waggoner.

Weekly Drills - Jane Jones, Mary Ehle, Nancy and Rick Townsend, Fred Young, Steve Friebert, Lauri Gerlach, and Denny Erardi.

Carol Suriano - Our queen who coordinates Monday Ladies Night.

Lenora - Maintains our website and handles the buying and selling of t-shirts.

Bob Radzis, Dennis Ragan, Mary and Bob Ehle, and Tom Helmick for help with court maintenance.

Ad Hoc Committee - Chair Denny Erardi, Jane Jones, and Dennis Ragan.

Special thanks to Randy Harbath for his time and effort as ERPA president!

9. Additional Items. Chris Spring requested a sign for the Light court, to have it designated as it once was. Board will look into getting hard signs that will stay up.

10. Adjournment. Neil Burghard made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by everyone with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane M. Jones, Secretary