

**SOUTH HAVEN PICKLEBALL CLUB
ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 25, 2025**

LOCATION: Van Buren County Senior Services Building, South Haven, Michigan

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mike Sawyer, President
Jim Slattery, Vice President
Mike Marcus, Treasurer
Nancy Hillegonds, Secretary
Jim Robinson, At Large
Rosemary Fitzer, At Large
Tricia Hudson, At Large

MOTION TO CALL TO ORDER: 6:02 p.m.

Motion: Mike Sawyer, President
Second: Nancy Hillegonds, Secretary

Motion Passed

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion: Nancy Hillegonds, Secretary
Second: Rosemary Fitzer, At Large

Motion Passed

MOTION TO WAIVE READING OF MINUTES FROM 2024 ANNUAL MEETING
(posted on website)

Motion: Mike Sawyer, President
Second: Rosemary Fitzer, At Large

Motion Passed

REPORTS:

President's Report:

* 238 current members—down from a high of approximately 260

- * Had meeting with John and Cathy Duda , Mike Sawyer and school administrators (Kevin Schooley) regarding striping two additional tennis courts for pickleball— request was denied
- * Banners for the courts and parades have been purchased and are being utilized
- * Sun umbrellas have been installed—-Club purchased two umbrellas and two were donated by Steve Premo—-

Treasurer's Report:

See Annual Meeting Financial Report (June 25, 2024) submitted by Mike Marcus (8-1-23 to 6-30-24) (posted to website)

Motion to accept: Edna Kent
Second: Jim Robinson, At Large

Motion Passed

Director's Report:

Rosemary Fitzer:

- * **Picnic Reminder:** August 19 at Stanley Johnson Park—Evite has been sent out
- * Club will provide hot dogs, buns, condiments, soft drinks and water—no alcohol allowed in park
- * Time is 4:30—8:00
- * Anyone with banquet tables they can loan club for evening to serve food, would be appreciated
- * Also looking for volunteers to help with set up and breakdown
- * **Christmas Party**—December 10 at the Senior Center
- * Similar format as last year
- * Details to follow
- * Will be setting up committees to coordinate activities

Tricia Hudson:

- * Four tournaments were held this past year
- * 24 participants per tournament
- * Fun and friendly competition
- * Prizes were small gift cards supporting local businesses
- * Nothing planned for the summer but will be developing new format and games as we head into the fall and winter seasons

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Guest Speaker: Diane Rigozzi, Senior Services of Van Buren County

- * Doors to the pickleball courts will be installed as a way to keep noise down
- * Van Buren County Senior Services has purchased land adjacent to its existing footprint for senior housing (54 proposed units and four stories high)—may have room for courts
- * Diane reported Senior Services still needs to pay off existing building so as a 501(c)(3) they can accept almost any kind of charitable donation—ie., cash, stocks, etc.

Guest Speaker: Scott Reinert—

Riverwoods

- * Scott's presentation centered on the proposed Riverwoods Project and upcoming Recreation millage to be voted on August 6, 2024
- * Outlined history of the parcel of land (first housing development , then purchased by DNR in 2012 with possible campground)
- * Property sat there for many years
- * South Haven approached DNR about selling the land to the SHARA after the controversy over the replacement of the covered bridge on the Kal-Haven Trail
- * DNR agreed (Land Transfer Program)
- * In June, 2024 DNR officially approved sale of Riverwoods to SHARA
- * DNR and SHARA will be working out funding strategy
- * Riverwoods comes with a number of specific encumbrances which affect its value:
 - * a. Must remain public use
 - * b. City/SHARA must agree to maintain the property
 - * c. Property to remain recreation in perpetuity
- * Before DNR moved their equipment from the property this spring they leveled/graded some of the land in anticipation of pickleball courts going there (though court location is yet to be determined)
- * Master plan for park being developed: some items to be included would consist of dog park, parking, pickleball courts, mountain biking trails, pavilion, and possibly reconstruction of the covered bridge
- * The application for grant money will be filed in April, 2025 with any approved funds disbursed in 2026
- * However, that doesn't mean it precludes the City or, any other entity, from raising funds to develop the area—money can be raised and spent while public funding grants for development are pursued
- * Goal is to get things moving by 2025 by raising money while DNR grant applications are being considered
- * More to follow in the coming months—development will have to be done in phases in line with funding

Millage

- * Council approved adding language for recreation millage on the August 6, 2024 ballot
- * Under Michigan law, certain Tax Increment Financing Authorities, are allowed to capture a portion of those funds raised by millage
- * Meetings have been held and all existing City of South Haven TIFs have agreed to opt out and waive their portion of revenue captured if the recreation millage passes **EXCEPT** for the Brownfield District
- * Under law the Brownfield TIF capture cannot be waived—-meaning approximately \$12,000 will be remitted to that authority should the millage pass
- * \$282,184 will be raised should millage pass
- * 96% of those funds will be used for recreation
- * Allocation:
 - * 1/3 to City for parks and recreation
 - * 1/3 to develop a Community Recreation Director to coordinate adult and youth programming
 - * 1/3 to SHARA for continued acquisition and development of park land

NEW BUSINESS

501(c)(3) and Bylaw Change: Mike Marcus, Treasurer

- * The club is in the process of applying for 501(c)(3) status
- * The club is working with Bobbi Otto, CPA to get charitable status approved by IRS
- * Articles of Incorporation for Michigan Non-profit has been approved by State of Michigan on April 16, 2024
- * See summary of changes to bylaws submitted by Mike Marcus (posted to website)

Motion to Approve Changes to Bylaws as submitted: Nancy Hillemonds

Second: Margaret Freeman

Motion Passed

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Nominations are as follows:

Mike Sawyer, President (inc)
Nancy Hillemonds, Secretary (inc)
Rosemary Fitzer, At Large (inc)
Jim Robinson, At Large (inc)
Tricia Hudson, At Large (inc)

No other nominations submitted for consideration

Motion to Accept nominations as Presented: Jeff Myers

Second: Tammy VanderMolen

Motion Passed

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * Edna Kent asked for volunteers for the Blueberry Festival Parade
- * Bill Atkins asked if Board Members had Liability Insurance—-Mike Sawyer indicated that issue will be discussed at a later date
- * Tony Martorano asked if there was some other school administrator we could approach about additional courts—-the schools won't be interested in adding courts until pickleball becomes recognized as a "sport" by Michigan High School Athletic Association
- * Mike Sawyer thanked all of the volunteers and players who have participated the past year

Motion to Adjourn: Rosemary Fitzer

Second: Tricia Hudson

Motion Passed

Adjourn: 7:15 p.m.

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