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President's Report - July 2024

Nolan Ahn, PAK President



WHERE THE FUGAWI?

As far as I know, we do not have a following with people under age 18 on this website. So, I feel okay in quoting the punchline in an ancient joke about an explorer searching for a tribe called the Fugawi. When all his efforts failed, he used the words in my title above. For the younger set, they may relate to the phrase "Where my minions?", but for the "chronologically gifted" (like me), its Fugawi when we are lost.

After going live with the PAK website in December of 2021, where have we been and where are we going? Perhaps its best to look at our 7 Objectives to achieving our Mission, as declared in my February 2022 report. They are:

1. ORGANIZATION
2. COMMUNICATION
3. REPRESENTATION
4. IDENTIFICATION

5. MONETIZATION

6. OPERATION

7. REPETITION

To date, we have obtained and maintained all legal requirements to be a 501(c)(3) non-profit ORGANIZATION. We have fulfilled our promise to COMMUNICATE by posting more than 30 President's Reports, Player Profiles, and From the Picklehood articles and sharing all our board minutes and treasurer's reports. In my opinion, we have earned the right to REPRESENT our 500+ members by providing clinics, membership appreciation days, tournaments and lobbying with governmental and private agencies in matters pertaining to pickleball. We continue to be "lost" in phase IV of our objectives, the IDENTIFICATION of a potential site for our facility. We have come a far way in clarifying why we need our own site. Of course, we would like the County or State to build suitable courts for play, but their budgets and policies are theirs to manage, and their timetable does not match ours (which is we need courts yesterday and "in our lifetimes"). We know what we need, where we need it, and how much it would cost. We also know that our reach exceeds our grasp, as obtaining land, and building a facility on Kauai is prohibitively expensive for even the wealthiest entrepreneur. But the need is great. Our willingness is great. And when willingness is great, obstacles become low. We must find the way to make the impossible possible.

We know we can OPERATE (Objective VI) a facility in a self-sustaining way if either the land is provided, or the facility cost is provided, but not both. We need an angel, a miracle, or a governmental agency to step in with the help needed to make our dream a reality. We are getting close. Persistence will pay off. In the meantime, we continue to take it day by day, fighting the good fight with faith and hope. Skeptics tell us "Hope is not a plan", but if the alternative is hopelessness, we will choose hope.

I must admit that I have a more human desire for this project. After the numerous doors that have been shut on our endeavors, after the naysayers telling us it can't be done, after coming up empty with our appeals to the County and State for assistance, the thing that keeps me going is that one day, we will prevail and I will get to think, "We told you it could be done". I just hope my body is alive when I think it.

Don't forget to sign up for the PAK 2024 Open in August! ABSOLUTE DEADLINE IS JULY 28, 2024! It's going to be the best one yet!

Until next month,

Nolan

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