

GOLDEN RACQUETS
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes – March 19, 2024
Braddock Hall, Burke, Virginia

PRESENT:

Doug White	President
Immediate Past President	Tom Burroughs
Catherine Wilde	Chief Information Officer
Al McFarland	Treasurer
Suzanne White	Secretary
Art Politano	Ratings Chair
Joanne Hensley	Website and Caring Committee Chair
Liz Walker	Newsletter Chair
Ed Falkowitz	Deputy Information Officer
Al Bready	Membership Chair
Karla Vernon	Pickleball Operations Chair
Mike McGurrian	Deputy Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

President Doug White called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM and welcomed those present.

REPORTS

President

President Doug White noted the expansion of pickleball within the organization, which now has its own Operations Chair. He also referenced a number of vacancies for which volunteers are needed. And lastly, commented on a number of upcoming changes.

Chief Information Officer

Chief Information Officer Catherine Wilde reported that spring/summer season signups would be available by the end of March, after costs have been finalized. Members will be able to access the signup forms on the members only tab on the website. Additionally, it would appear that Down The Line (DTL) is not going to be a viable pickleball venue this coming season due to the cost. Open season has yielded 16 new pickleball members and 28 new tennis players. She raised the issue of provisional ratings unrated members already playing in tennis venues can receive a tennis sign-up form. Doug White suggested that people who are allowed into membership outside of open season to fill a vacancy be given a rating review soon thereafter. Lastly, she wished to thank Alan Negin for continuing to program new functions in GRcentral database and make technical improvements in other areas of GR.

Treasurer

Treasurer Al McFarland presented the Board with a written report providing an overview of the Golden Racquets current financial position, indicating that the amount available for the summer supplement is \$2,000.

Ratings Chair

Ratings Chair Art Politano reported on that rating of new members is underway. He suggested that there be an "Rating Level Unknown" option available for member venue signups. Catherine Wilde said that would be confusing and contrary to how GR operates because people could then apply for any tennis venue regardless of their playing ability. She clarified that unrated members receive pickleball only sign-up form which does not require a rating. He also recommended that

members be advised to check their spam folders for Golden Racquets email communications. He presented the Board with a written report recommending a more data driven approach to the member periodic ratings review process.

Membership Chair

Membership Chair Al Bready inquired as to whether welcome letters should be sent to new pickleball members as well as new tennis members, and whether to include the member roster and venue eligibility for the sub list as well. The consensus of the Board is to send the welcome letter to new pickleball members and include the roster and sub list eligibility information as well.

Tennis Operations

In the absence of Tennis Operations Chair Fred King, Doug White reported that permit applications for outdoor venues have been submitted to Fairfax County and that venue captains had been secured for all spring/summer season venues.

Pickleball Operations

Chair Karla Vernon reported on the results of the recent member pickleball survey. She noted the success of the pickleball party held in January and wished to thank Joanne Hensley for her help with that endeavor. Permit applications for outdoor venues have been submitted to Fairfax County. Lastly, she had a question regarding venue selection seniority for captains and co- captains. Catherine Wilde clarified that a "0" seniority is valid for one year following resignation for officers or venue end date for captains, and 6 months following venue end date for co-captains.

MATTERS FOR BOARD DECISION

New Chief Information Officer

As there were no candidates to consider, the Board agreed to table the matter.

Financial Review

At the request of the Board, member Mike McGurrian reviewed the Golden Racquets 2023 financial records and provided a report on his findings for Board review. As there were no irregularities identified, Doug White **MOVED** to accept the report as presented, which was approved by unanimous consent.

Given that current Treasurer Al McFarland intends to resign at the end of 2024, Doug White **MOVED** to nominate Ed Falkowitz as Treasurer and Alan Negin as Deputy Treasurer for 2025. He also **MOVED** to approve the purchase and implementation of a QuickBooks subscription to manage Golden Racquets financial transactions and recordkeeping. These motions were **APPROVED** by unanimous consent.

Non-Member Player Policy

The Board review a proposed to policy to address a lack of subs and accept new members outside of the normal process. The policy allows for a member to invite an acquaintance to sub, who is to have commensurate skills to play at the venue. After subbing one time, the non-member should be invited to join Golden Racquets and get rated. Doug White **MOVED** to accept the proposed policy. The motion **PASSED** with Al McFarland **OPPOSED** and Catherine Wilde **ABSTAINING**.

Ratings Changes Process

Ratings Chair Art Politano proposed moving towards a more data driven rather than subjective process for periodic member ratings reviews. He recommended the implementation of a pilot program that would collect data, including the percentage of games won over the past one to three months to serve as the basis of rating changes. Participation in the pilot program would be entirely voluntary on both the venue captains' and players' parts. Doug White **MOVED** to implement the pilot

program as presented with Mr. Politano to report back to the Board in August 2024. The motion **PASSED**.

Member Communications

The Board discussed what information should be communicated to members and how that information should be delivered. Mr. Burroughs stated that there is no existing Golden Racquets policy regarding the dissemination of information to the membership. It was the general consensus of the Board not to promote or endorse products or services in any Golden Racquets communications and that only Golden Racquets related information on events or outings would be provided to the membership.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. White thanked those present for attending and **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting by unanimous consent at 11:33 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Suzanne White, Board Secretary

Date