

**GOLDEN RACQUETS**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Minutes – October 6, 2023**  
**PJ Skidoos, Fairfax, Virginia**

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

President Tom Burroughs called the meeting to order at 1:13 PM and welcomed 27 members of Golden Racquets present. He expressed his thanks to Social Chair Howard Ho for making the arrangements for the meeting. He also thanked Liz Walker for her work on the Golden Racquets newsletter production and indicated that more pictures are needed, encouraging members to submit any to Ms. Walker for publication. The Golden Racquets officer election results were announced as follows: Doug White is President Elect and Suzanne White is Board Secretary. Both will begin their terms of office on January 1, 2024.

**REPORTS**

**Chief Information Officer**

VP and Chief Information Officer Catherine Wilde provided an update on the automated GRcentral database system, which processes member venue requests twice yearly and new member applications. Open membership will occur again around February 2024; new applicants will sign up electronically through [www.goldenracquets.org](http://www.goldenracquets.org). Much progress has been made in streamlining the process, with Ms. Wilde thanking her information team members for their help. She also stated that as Deputy Information Officer Doug White would be assuming the office of President in January, a replacement is needed to fill the vacancy.

**Planning and Operations Chair**

Planning and Operations Chair Fred King thanked all of the venue captains for their work in coordinating play each week at their respective locations and provided an overview of the venue selection, costs and permit process. He spoke briefly about the sub procedure and reminded those present of the player's responsibility to procure subs and to collect the appropriate sub fee.

**Treasurer**

Treasurer Al McFarland distributed a financial report to the members present, indicating net assets in the amount of \$7,102.16. The Fairfax Racquet Club fees will be paid once outstanding member fees have been collected and deposited. GR has begun accepting member payments through Zelle, which has been well received and mostly successful. Mr. McFarland indicated a need for a volunteer to serve as Deputy Treasurer.

**Ratings Chair**

In the absence of Ratings Chair Art Politano, Tom Burroughs delivered a report on his behalf, thanking all of the members of the Ratings Committee for their hard work in evaluating new GR members as well as meeting with venue captains twice a year and handling ratings review requests. Mr. Burroughs stated that Mr. Politano had tendered his resignation as Ratings Chairs, effective as soon as a replacement is appointed or by January 1, 2024 and that a volunteer is needed to fill the vacancy. A member expressed concern that the ratings system used is too subjective, especially when members are being downrated and proposed an alternate method of addressing this situation. In response, Ratings Committee member Steve Matteo provided additional background information on the ratings criteria and process and stated that this information is available on the GR website for review by any member.

**Website and Caring Committee**

Webmaster and Caring Committee Chair Joanne Hensley provided an overview of information included on the GR website. She also explained that when a GR member is injured or ill or is

experiencing family difficulties, she will reach out on behalf of the organization with a gesture of support.

**Pickleball**

Mr. Burroughs reported on the matter of establishing a pickleball ratings system and venues for rated players who wish to play more competitively. He also announced the addition of a Pickball Operations and Planning Chair position to Golden Racquets that comes with the changes to the GR constitution approved by the membership. The member who will fill this position is Karla Vernon.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Burroughs thanked those present for attending, reminding them to stay for the door prize drawings, and adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Suzanne White, Board Secretary

Date \_\_\_\_\_