

Golden Racquets (GR) Board of Director's (BOD) Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2020 (meeting held via Zoom)

Officers present:

Tom Burroughs, President
Gary Hinson, Vice President
Al McFarland, Treasurer
Connie Dineen, Recording Secretary

Officers Absent: None

Committee Chairs Present:

Bob Dineen, Special Assistant
Connie Dineen, Newsletter Editor
Dave Fleming, Operations & Planning Committee
Joanne Hensley, Web Master
Steve Mateo, Ratings Committee
Adele Neuberg, Membership Committee
Joe Wittling, Chief Information Officer

Committees Needing a Chairperson:

Caring Committee
Social Committee

Agenda Items:

- **Good News:** Tom began the meeting by sharing the good news that Carlo from the Arlington YMCA (the "Y") has notified GR that play can begin at the "Y" during the first week of December. Tom, Joe, & Gary will work together with Carlo to sort out the details of hourly rate, number of courts, and start/end/no-play dates. Some tentative dates and times for beginning play are Monday, November 30th for a 3.5+ group, and Wednesday, December 2nd for a 3.8+ group. Tom stated that Carlo assured him that the "Y" is making a huge effort to ensure quality air circulation throughout the building.
- **Treasurer's Report:**
 - ✓ Al stated that he had sent each member of the BOD a copy of the treasurer's report prior to the meeting. He shared that the current balance \$21,525.35 is approximately \$2,000.00 greater than anticipated. All financial obligations have been paid.
 - ✓ Al will work with Joe to make sure that their records match regarding the number of members who have paid their dues and the number of members over the age of 90.
 - ✓ During an Annual Meeting, a financial report is prepared and presented to the membership. Since no Annual Meeting was held in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, Al will send that financial report to the membership via email.
 - ✓ Bob & Joe complimented Al on the "outstanding job" he did with regards to all matters financial during the past many months of the pandemic. Chief among the financial tasks was the reimbursement of funds to the many members who were impacted when the tennis venues at which they were playing closed in March 2020. The complexity of this task was compounded because the tennis venues closed mid-season with the venues closing at different times, resulting in the refund amounts being different for each venue. Al thanked both the CIO and Operations & Planning Chair for the good records they kept, which greatly aided in the success of this endeavor.
- **Venue Sign-Up Process:**
 - ✓ Joe explained the difference in the two processes that GR has used for venue sign-ups. Prior to the pandemic, applications for venues were sent to members via email and members returned their completed applications to the CIO with a check for payment of their chosen tennis venue via US mail. This process sometimes took 2-3 months if there was a refund necessary because a member did not get the venue of their choice. With the onset of the pandemic, the applications were sent to members via email. The member completed the application and returned it to the CIO via email only. Payment was sent in by the members after they were notified of which venue they had received.

Discussion was held regarding which would be the preferred process for future use, but no decision was reached at this time. Joe shared that there were pros & cons to each process, and that a decision would be determined after thoughtful consideration could be given. Due to time constraints, the email process will be used for the coming season (beginning in December) at the "Y".

- ✓ Joe will work with Tom, Gary, & Dave on the details of registration for the "Y". Joe recommended that this group meet as soon as possible as the first week in December is only about a month away.
- ✓ It was clarified that even though there are \$929.00 outstanding in fees for the winter venues, this amount is representative of only 3-4 members. Those members have been contacted regarding this matter.
- ✓ The question of whether or not there are currently members playing tennis outdoors (due to COVID-19 related concerns of playing indoors this winter) who might reconsider playing indoors at the "Y". Based on some conversations that both Tom and Joe have had with a few members, it was felt that this may be a possibility, though no one knows for sure at this point.
- Face-to-Face Gatherings:
 - ✓ JoAnne explained that her idea of having members the BOD (or groups of members) meet together in a face-to-face format was meant to be an option to meeting via Zoom since there was no Annual Meeting when the weather was nice. All agreed that this was something to consider for meetings in late spring 2021, but felt it may be difficult in the near future because the weather is becoming more winter-like.
 - ✓ Bob shared that Roundtree Park on Annandale Rd. had recently been refurbished and renovated and can be reserved for individual functions. He said there are tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball courts, a walking path, a covered eating area with grills and tables socially distanced from one another that would accommodate 20-ish people, and bathroom facilities. Bob recommended that this may be a place to hold an outdoor gathering in spring 2021.
- Newsletter: Tom remarked that he felt that since so much had been changed during the pandemic, there were members who were unsure about how GR was functioning. He stated that they should be informed about GR's current operations, and recommended that this be done by committee chairs writing articles about their area of expertise for the upcoming newsletter. All agreed, and the following articles will be submitted, with a submission deadline date of November 11, 2021. Connie asked that all articles be accompanied by a picture, if possible.
 - ✓ Tom: president's report and an article on the popularity of pickleball and the increased number of members playing pickleball (Tom will confer with Karla Vernon on this article, as she is the captain of the outdoor pickleball venue at Wakefield Park)
 - ✓ Dave: article on how things are going at each venue from the captain's perspective
 - ✓ Al: provide a copy of the financial report
 - ✓ Joe: article on sign-ups for venues
 - ✓ Bob: write-up of statistical information
 - ✓ Gary: article to introduce himself as the new vice president to the membership
- Ad-hoc Groups: It was reported that the introduction of several ad-hoc groups (for both tennis & pickleball) have been very positively received. GR is supporting the ad-hoc groups by providing balls, and congratulates and thanks all those who are heading up the groups for their success. A brief discussion about whether or not to continue the ad-hoc groups was held, and the consensus was that as long as the pandemic is present, the ad-hoc groups should continue. These groups provide some flexibility to those members who are reluctant to return to playing tennis and pickleball indoors. Currently, there are six tennis ad-hoc groups and one pickleball ad-hoc group operating, and they are as follows:
 - ✓ Tennis:

- Wakefield Park, 2 courts, lead by Kesh Prasad
 - Mason District Park, 4 courts, lead by Tom Burroughs
 - Chantilly Area, 2 courts, lead by Joe Wittling
 - Edison High School, 2-4 courts, lead by Jay Jupiter
 - Lake Braddock Secondary School, 3-5 courts, lead by Steve Mateo
 - Lake Braddock Secondary School, number of courts unknown, lead by Art Politano
- ✓ Pickleball:
- South Run District Park, 1-2 courts, lead by Kelly McCaffery
- **Outstanding Dues:** Gary reported that there had been a total of 65 members who had not paid their summer dues. Each member was contacted individually, and checks were received from 21 members. Some of those contacted had decided not to continue their membership. It was stated those members who had not paid their dues by of September were dropped from the GR membership rolls.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- Gary stated that he did not believe the ventilation and air flow at Burke Racquet Club and at Fairfax Racquet Club was sufficient. He would like to have this brought to the attention of the clubs' management. Joe shared that several members had spoken to him about the excessive heat at Burke.
- Tom suggested that GR provide each club with a formal statement regarding this matter. Joe suggested that the statement include GR's thanks for the work those club's have done to get reopened, incorporation of safety procedures for members, etc. Tom asked Gary and Joe to work with him to draft this letter to the clubs.

Next Meeting: No date was set for the next meeting. Tom will inform board members of a selected date.

Adjournment: Tom adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Dineen
Recording Secretary