

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

July 21, 2022

(Meeting held at Burke Library in Supervisor Walkenshaw's conference room)

## **Officers present:**

Tom Burroughs, President &  
Acting Ratings Committee Chair  
Gary Hinson, Vice President  
Al McFarland, Treasurer  
Connie Dineen, Recording Secretary  
& Newsletter Editor

## **Committee Chairs Present:**

Bob Dineen, Special Assistant  
Dave Fleming, Operations & Planning Committee  
Joanne Hensley, Webmaster  
Joe Wittling, Chief Information Officer (CIO)  
Catherine Ngo-Wilde, Deputy CIO

## **Officers Absent:** None

## **Committee Chairs Absent:**

Adele Neuberg, Membership Committee

## **Board Vacancies:**

Vice President (in September)  
Operations and Planning (in November)  
Social Committee Chair  
Ratings Committee Chair

- Connie Dineen gave a brief summary report of the recent BOD & Venue Captains picnic held on Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 4:00pm at Roundtree Park in Falls Church. According to the comments that were received from those in attendance, the catered picnic was a success. Approximately 35-40 people were in attendance, and following introductions and completion of dinner, those interested adjourned to the pickleball court for informal instruction by Gary Hinson and play. Total reimbursement to the Planning Committee was totaled \$532.96. There was another approximately \$50.00 worth of donations from the Planning Committee for items not charged to GR, such as table decorations, trash bags, aluminum foil, containers and tongs for serving, etc.
- Joanne Hensley shared that member Mel Kolander would like for GR to begin using an internet platform similar to "Next Door" to share information, to advertise for membership, and to provide another way for members to socialize. Included in the discussion was the fact that someone would need to be responsible for the information put on this platform, what information to put on the platform, and how often the information would be updated. Joanne, the current GR Webmaster, stated that she was not interested in taking on the role of being responsible for and monitoring this platform. At the conclusion of the discussion, Gary Hinson made a motion that GR would not create an on-line forum beyond our current website, and Joe Wittling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Tom stated that he would inform Mel of the BOD's decision.
- Catherine Ngo-Wilde shared copies of charts she developed, using current information about membership. The tables and figures focused on the areas: (1) cities in which members live, (2) age groups of members, and (3) ratings of members. Those present discussed the information in terms of relevance to the organization, such as how many members are actively playing tennis or pickleball and how many members retained their membership when the lowest rating allowed for tennis venues was raised to 3.5.
- Joe Wittling reported on the status of sign-ups for the fall season. He stated that negotiations with Fairfax Racquet Club (FRC) and Burke Racquet Club (BRC) were "solid," but negotiations with the Arlington YMCA (the "Y") were still on-going. The biggest issue seems to be the amount the "Y"

desire to restructure their fees, so Joe and Tom will work with the "Y" to get the best possible financial deal for GR members.

Joe stated that the outdoor venues being used by GR all "look good" at this time. There has been a change in the format of the permit issued by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and there is concern this may cause a problem for some locations. Outdoor play will be concluded in November 2022.

- Al McFarland shared the treasurer's report and answered any questions. He stated that the name of GR's bank is now "Truist" following the merging of the previous bank with another bank.

Al suggested that the VP monitor the status of all venues as the assignments from member requests are completed and open slots are filled. With the need to send the bills before the start of the season, and the desire to proceed with the fewest open slots in mind, the VP should declare the venue assignments frozen for purposes of generating bills and sending venue lists to members. The VP should announce this decision to all those involved in the next steps of the process. Joe said we should not say that the assignment list is frozen, because there are usually open slots at the time, and GRSys needs to be updated with the names for the open slots before the season roster can be produced. "

Al offers to generate a copy of all the venue lists using the feature of GRSys that generates 'Files with Regular and Subs' Email Addresses' as soon as he has received the notification from the VP. He will place these in a folder named 'Dropbox\golden racquets (1)\Winter2022BaselineAssignments' at the top level of the GR Dropbox. GRSys can then be updated with names to fill open slots without affecting these files. These files contain most of the basic data needed to generate bills and venue lists for members. This process will ensure that members will receive bills that are consistent with the venue lists they receive."

Al suggests that language be added to the emails to members, to say that bills have been generated based on the venue lists members receive. If a member, before or after the start of the season, makes any change such that the member does not play as indicated in the bill or the venue list, the member is responsible for settling payments directly with another member.

- Gary Hinson presented the BOD with a letter of resignation. Gary & his wife will be moving to Richmond in the fall to be closer to his daughter and her family. Gary wanted the BOD to know of his plans so there would be time for his replacement to become familiar with the inner workings of GR, especially the level of participation required necessary from the Vice President in the venue selection process. Gary stated that he would assist in the selection of a person to be the interim vice president. He recommended Kevin Connor, whom both Joe & Al endorsed. Any other recommendations for interim vice president should be sent to Tom. (NOTE: Following the meeting, Tom notified the BOD that he contacted Kevin to determine his level of interest in this temporary position. Due to some travel plans already in place for the late summer-early fall, Kevin decided he must decline the appointment.)

#### Pickleball:

- ✓ Stating that the FCPS-provided pickleball nets at Roundtree Park are in very bad condition, Bob Dineen asked Gary about the pickleball nets purchased by GR. Gary responded that the GR nets were in the possession of Chip & Karla Vernon (because of his impending move). He stated that GR purchased the nets without knowing that each FCPA pickleball location would be supplied with nets, so the GR nets had never been used. They could be used at Roundtree or any other GR pickleball venue, but a GR member would be responsible to set them up and take them down after each and for transporting them to and from the venues. They are heavy, but they do come in a handy carrying container.

- ✓ There continues to be difficulty in some GR venues getting subs for pickleball, and as mentioned previously, obtaining FCPA permits for pickleball may become a problem due to the explosive growth and popularity of pickleball. Bob Dineen suggested that no GR pickleball venues be considered "filled" unless there are 10 people signed up to play, vs. the current number of 8. He stated that this would provide players an opportunity to take a break if they wished, play with a wider variety of players, and ease the burden of getting subs since there would always be two additional people at each venue. Gary suggested that future sign-up forms include a way for members to indicate their preference of venues/days for pickleball, similar to that used for tennis sign-up.
- ✓ Gary stated that he would like for GR to consider allowing members to join GR as pickleball members only, and that he would make a motion to allow discussion of this. Tom stated that because GR was established as a tennis club, this would require much discussion, a vote of the membership, and a change to the GR constitution. Gary did not make a motion regarding this topic.
- Tom reported that Steve Mateo has resigned as captain of the ratings committee due to continued problems with his hip. Until a new captain can be appointed, Tom, former captain of the ratings committee, will be the acting captain. He stated that there was no current member of the ratings committee interested in taking on the role of captain, and asked for recommendations to fill this position. He stated it should be someone who can "work with people" as the person being rated often disagrees with the rating they are given.
- Announcements:
  - ✓ Joanne shared that there is a member in her FRC venue with whom other members in that venue do not want to play. The reason for this is that it is known that the player is unvaccinated (from COVID) and there are health and safety concerns from the others. Joanne has so far resolved the issue by placing the unvaccinated player on one side of the building (with those who are not concerned about playing with the unvaccinated player) and those who are concerned on the other side of the building. Tom stated that GR "does not discriminate" and does not check the vaccination status of members. No further discussion was held.
  - ✓ Dave announced that he will be leaving the area in the later in the fall, so will be stepping down as the Chair of the Operations and Planning Committee when a replacement can be found.
  - ✓ Connie introduced her brother Jerry, who now lives with her and Bob and will be attending future meetings, to the BOD. She also thanked everyone for serenading her with a rendition of "Happy Birthday":-)

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

**Adjournment:** Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Bob seconded the motion. It was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Dineen  
Recording Secretary