

Minutes of the Golden Racquets Annual Luncheon and Meeting P J Skidoos - October 16, 2018

Howard Ho, Social Committee Chairperson, and Bob Dineen, CIO, organized this annual luncheon which was held in the banquet room of P J Skidoos. Meal choices were garden pasta, lemon chicken, salmon, or filet mignon which had been previously selected. About 70 people were in attendance.

Guests were introduced by president, Ed Grose. Ed also recognized the following members who were present and had belonged to Golden Racquets the longest: Faith Klein, Cliff Warfield, Ann Gratz, and Larry Hyer.

Minutes from the October 2017 Annual Meeting and the treasurer's report were available on each table. These were both accepted by a voice vote by the members present.

Steve Mateo was presented a plaque and letter as Outstanding member of 2018. In spite of being a relatively new member, Steve has been the Chair of the Social Committee and presently is on the Rating Committee.

The election of officers was held and Joseph Caruth was elected president; Laura Riesenberg, Vice-President; Al McFarland, treasurer; and Leigh Albert secretary.

Instead of having a speaker this year, a discussion was held moderated by president, Ed Grose. The topic was: the past, present, and future of Golden Racquets.

Ed explained that the challenges faced by Golden Racquets are ever changing and quite different from the early days of this group. At the beginning, the club played on 8 outdoor Fairfax County courts and membership was about 135 players. Today Golden Racquets has 330 plus members and plays on indoor courts and some outdoor courts. Finding suitable, affordable indoor courts has become increasingly difficult as the demand seems to out-number the availability in Fairfax County. Fairfax County Recreation itself has no indoor courts as neighboring counties do.

In 2017 and with advance knowledge of the closing of Four Seasons, a transition committee, chaired by Ed Byrne, searched for alternative courts for the 2018 season. Many tennis facilities were contacted by various committee members, but nothing ideal was found in Fairfax County. The facilities contacted may not have had as many courts as Golden Racquets needed, may not have had enough parking, required an expensive membership fee or simply was not interested in hosting Golden Racquets.

The YMCA in Arlington ultimately met the needs of Golden Racquets players for the 2018 season. Vice-President, Laura Riesenber, detailed some of the unexpected road blocks which came about when negotiating for playing time at the Arlington YMCA. Because the YMCA is a national organization, there were national requirements in addition to the local ones. One of these requirements was met by having Golden Racquets players obtain a Special Activities fee of \$45. This was not something Golden Racquets had ever done and it required additional record keeping and extra communication between the two organizations. The Golden Racquets/YMCA arrangement has been mainly successful, but the Y is going to undergo some renovation estimated in 2020. Where this will leave Golden Racquets and for what period of time is unclear.

CJ Dieteman spoke about his negotiations with Skyline which looked promising for awhile, but did not work out in the end and Ed Grose talked about his exploration of the Army-Navy Country Club Courts in Arlington.

Jim Morrow had given a presentation to the Board last year about the Pauline Betz Addie Courts in Maryland and he presented this to the group as a future possibility. This facility has nice, under-used, courts. About 40% of those members present indicated they might play in Maryland.

Mel Kollandar suggested that Golden Racquets contact the USTA for help and perhaps try other organizations to obtain grant money. The majority of those members present approved of doing this.

Other suggestions were made to explore Loudoun County and to keep writing letters to Fairfax County Board of Supervisors urging them to take some action toward providing into County indoor courts.

There was also a show of hands to find out how many people would be willing to play at times other than the usual afternoon time as this could be an issue in the future.

Ed stated that most tennis clubs Golden Racquets uses are now are managed by an outside management company. In the past they were managed locally and were easier to contract with.

At the end of the discussion, door prizes were awarded. These were four \$50 certificates awarded by Golden Racquets to be applied to dues or court fees and a tennis racquet donated by Fairfax Racquet Club.

Meeting was adjourned shortly after 2 p.m.

Respectfully,

Claudia Steichen
Secretary