

Minutes of the Meeting of the Golden Racquets
Board of Directors
November 13, 2018
King's Park Library, Springfield, VA

Present:

Laura Riesenber, VP
Bob Dineen, CIO
Joe Wittling, CIO
CJ Dieteman, Past Pres.
Tom Burroughs, Rating

Connie Dineen, Newsletter
Adele Neuberg, Membership
Claudia Steichen, Secretary
Steve Mateo, Rating
Joseph Caruth, Pres. Elect

Bala Balakrishnan, Caring
Leigh Albert, Sec'y Elect
Howard Ho, Social
Fred Hart, Ops & Planning

Absent:

Ed Grose, President

Lindsay Wozniak, Website Mgr.

Al McFarland, Treasurer

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes from the last Board meeting of August 14, 2018 and the Annual Meeting of October 16, 2018 were approved.

Treasurers Report: Al was not present, but he emailed a report to Board members. The balance as of 11/13/18 was \$21,057.23 and the balance reconciles with BB&T. All winter payments have been made to the clubs and all winter court time payments have been received from members. Outstanding obligations include the Fairfax County Parks donation, operating expenses, Annual Meeting raffle prizes, and credits for Burke power outage. The total of these unpaid claims is \$1,837.75. Al will pay the \$25 fee and fill out an annual report which must be filed with the Virginia Corporation Commission by 12/31/18.

Vice-President's Report: Laura facilitated this meeting as the president was absent. She complemented the Social Chair and assistants for organizing the successful, smoothly running Annual Meeting.

The power outage at Burke Racquet Club was the next item discussed. Joseph Caruth was able to get a refund check for the day the Golden Racquets venue couldn't play at Burke due to the outage. About 20 people were affected, and the refunded money will be distributed to those players. Joseph, upcoming president, who is also a venue Captain at Burke Racquet reported that he had talked to one of the owners of that club regarding a couple concerns. These included Golden Racquets not being able to get on the courts to play on time due to other players still playing and a concern regarding an interaction with a Burke employee. The meeting was congenial and the manager expressed both a desire to work with Golden Racquets and to keep Golden Racquets' venues at the Burke Racquet Club.

Laura also said there was some uncertainty at the YMCA about whether Golden Racquets' members who play in venues at that facility are paying the Special Activities Membership fees that the Y requires. Apparently, Golden Racquets' members playing at the YMCA have not been getting renewal notices from the YMCA. Tom Burroughs indicated that the Captains may send out a general reminder regarding renewal, but the collection of membership fees is ultimately a YMCA responsibility. The YMCA plans for renovation are currently uncertain.

Caring Chair Report: Bala reported that the health of the members is strong. Only six members have had any injury or health-related problems since the August meeting. Three of the injuries were court-related and minor. All received "Get Well" cards on behalf of Golden Racquets.

Social Chair Report: Howard has reserved four courts for the New Years Day Party at Fairfax Racquet Club. Usually the players gather after the party at Skidoos, which plans for a specific number. Last year forty people indicated they would attend the after party and twenty showed up. Steve suggested that perhaps as an alternative, the party could be catered and held at Fairfax, Racquet.

CIO Report: Joe Wittling indicated that he is looking for a Golden Racquets member with specific technical skills to be a back-up for Bob Dineen. Currently, Bob is the only member who completely understands the system. Joe suggested sending a letter out to all members to recruit someone.

Bob Dineen asked the Board members what they thought about picking raffle numbers electronically at the Annual Luncheon next year rather than picking numbers out of a hat. No objections were voiced although there was some question about cell service in the location where the luncheon is held.

Membership Chair Report: Adele had no particular report. She has about six people on the waiting list. There was some discussion about allowing the six on the waiting list to sub only. One venue has some difficulty finding subs but others do not. No decision was made to do this.

Website Manager Report: Lindsay was absent and has asked to be relieved of her position. Howard will try to find out what specific programs/skills are needed to fill this job.

Rating Committee Chair: Tom and Steve have added 7 new members to the rating committee. Joseph Caruth explained the Universal Tennis Rating System and this was discussed. This seemed too involved for Golden Racquets and would mandate a ladder system.

Ops and Planning: Fred is leaving Ops & Planning and Dave Fleming is taking over. They have been working together toward a smooth transition. No letters have been sent to members since the last meeting.

Newsletter Report: Connie says the next newsletter will be coming out before the end of December. She has some material but would welcome other articles if submitted by the 15th of December. Connie was complemented for her excellent job.

Old Business: Some of these issues/ideas were brought up at the annual meeting. One was regarding finding funding from various agencies to off-set expenses. Mel Kollander has volunteered to do this.

Playing at courts in Maryland was mentioned, but no plan of action was established. The costs and availability of these may be more favorable in the summer than during the Fall/Winter season. Jim Morrow would like to be the contact person on this.

The idea of having a venue at Westwood Country Club at 7:30a.m. was also raised.

New Business:

Laura said this is the time to start talking about the Spring/Summer session

Incoming President, Joseph Caruth, had some ideas about new directions the Golden Racquets organization could take. He described his vision of Golden Racquets becoming involved in incorporating tennis in local elementary schools. He envisioned being able to pay dues and court fees on a website. He explained the positives of using a program like Yammer to communicate more effectively among board members. These ideas will continue to be discussed in the next year.

Next Board Meeting is January 22, 2019.

Respectfully,

Claudia Steichen
Secretary