

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

**August 10, 2021**

**(meeting held at Supervisor Walkenshaw's Conference Room at Kings Park Library)**

## **Officers present:**

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

## **Committee Chairs Present:**

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

**Officers Absent:** None

## **Committee Chairs Absent:**

Adele Neuberg, Membership Committee

## **Committees Needing a Chairperson:**

Social Committee

## **Agenda Items:**

**Suggested Change to GR Constitution and By-Laws:** It was shared that GR has only 12-13 members who are rated below the 3.5 rating level, and that it was difficult to have appropriate venues for them. Of those 12-13 members, 9 are currently rated at the 3.4 level. Tom made a motion that "all **new** members joining GR must reach the minimal rating of 3.5," and Dave seconded the motion. Some points of discussion regarding the motion were as follows:

- It was clarified that this would apply only to new members, and that anyone currently rated below a 3.5 would be grandfathered in.
- Current GR members rated below 3.5 may wish to play pickleball vs. tennis.
- The possible creation of an "ad hoc" group for those players was mentioned.
- Unless they have recently been rerated, those 12-13 members could choose to be rerated to see if their rating would increase.
- Any of those 12-13 members who wished to leave GR would be provided with a pro-rated amount of their membership fee.
- Al noted that there is no version of a description of the "rating levels" in the Constitution or By-Laws, so members may be unaware of the expectations of each level.
- Steve shared that rating guidelines had been published in the GR newsletter a few years ago, and that perhaps it could be done again. It was then suggested that the rating guidelines should be added to the Operating Procedures of GR.
- Steve also shared with those present a "Tennis Rating Worksheet" that he designed and that is used when he and his team rate a new member. This worksheet is designed to take much of the subjectivity out of the rating system. (See attached)
- Joe stated that clarity between "GR" ratings and "USTA" ratings should be provided to members as the GR ratings are "adjusted" with considerations of age and physical condition in mind since GR is for "senior" players.

Following the discussion, a vote on the motion was taken, and the motion was passed by the BOD unanimously. This matter will require a vote of the entire membership in order to change the GR Constitution and By-Laws, and will be presented and voted on at the Annual Meeting in October 2021.

**Proof of COVID Vaccination:** Tom received an email from GR member Kim Clarke who requested that the GR BOD discuss a requirement for all GR members playing at an indoor facility to show proof that they have received the COVID vaccination prior to playing tennis beginning in mid-September. Gary

made a motion that GR "adhere to and abide by the COVID regulations established by the indoor clubs, Fairfax County, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and nothing more stringent." Steve seconded the motion. The following discussion points were given:

- It was stated that the indoor clubs dictate their own COVID protocols regarding health and safety, and that historically GR has complied with those guidelines.
- Some BOD members felt that since the vaccine was not required generally -- each person decides whether or not to take the vaccine -- GR should not require it's members to have the vaccination or show proof of being vaccinated.
- Currently, GR members are required to wear a mask upon entering the indoor clubs and at all times while **not** playing tennis. It was suggested that GR could ask members playing at indoor clubs to wear the mask while playing.
- Fairfax County is requiring masks be worn at all indoor government facilities, and recommends masks be work at all indoor gatherings. It was noted that the indoor clubs are private clubs, so would not fall into the "required mask wearing" category.
- It was suggested that perhaps a vote on this matter should be taken at the Annual Meeting in October.

Following the discussion, a vote on the motion was taken, and the motion was passed by the BOD with a vote of 7 "yes", 0 "no", and 1 "abstention."

#### Sign-Ups for Next Season:

- Joe provided a detailed report showing the current status of the venue sign-ups for both tennis and pickleball (see attached). The deadline for signing up for a fall/winter venue is August 13, 2021, so there are still a few days remaining before the deadline. However, of the 20 tennis venues planned for the fall/winter season, some locations (i.e., YMCA on Monday and on Wednesday, Skyline on Thursday, Lee District on Friday, and Fairfax on Saturday) have very low sign-up numbers. Joe, Tom, & Al will decide, based on sign-ups by the due date, whether courts need to be cancelled, and if so, how many and where. The last day for dropping courts is August 20, 2021.
- There will be three pickleball venues for the fall/winter season (one indoor and two outdoor), and the sign-ups for those venues are in "okay" shape. The indoor venue at Burke has four people more than needed, but the two outdoor venues (Rolling Valley and Roundtree) each need additional people. Rolling Valley needs four more players and Roundtree needs two more players.
- Tom mentioned that a request had been received from Joanne Hensley and Adele Neuberg to have an ad hoc tennis group on Wednesdays at Mason District Park (agenda item #6). Discussion was held as follows:
  - ✓ It was stated that the reason for GR supporting ad hoc groups was the reluctance of members to play indoors at the beginning of the pandemic, and that outdoor ad hoc groups provided an alternative for those members.
  - ✓ Clubs have reopened and have COVID protocols in place.
  - ✓ It was stated that some people who choose ad hoc over a full-fledged venue did so as a way to avoid a weekly tennis commitment, leaving the captain of that venue to find the necessary number of subs needed to fill a court each week.
  - ✓ Concern that members would leave the current Monday and Thursday ad hoc groups was shared.
  - ✓ A Thursday venue at Mason District was added to the schedule for fall/winter.
  - ✓ There was discussion about the general need for ad hoc groups supported by GR, but it was agreed that no ad hoc groups should be formed until **after** the roster of venues is completed.
  - ✓ The question of whether or not GR should continue to provide tennis balls for the ad hoc groups was raised, and it was decided that GR would no longer provide tennis balls for the ad hoc groups.
  - ✓ Though no motion was made regarding the creation of a Wednesday ad hoc venue at Mason District, it was decided that Joanne and Adele would be granted approval from the

BOD to start this venue, but were asked to be mindful not to "recruit" players away from other ad hoc groups.

Annual GR Picnic: Connie reported that she, Joanne, and Adele were planning the picnic, and shared the following information:

- The date/time/place of the picnic is Friday, August 27, 2021, at 2:30pm, at Roundtree Park, located at 3411 Casilear Rd., Falls Church, VA. (Don't let the address confuse you -- the park is literally just off Annandale Rd. between Gallows Rd. & Graham Rd.)
- In the past, the annual picnic has been for the BOD members and venue captains. This year, members of the rating committee have been invited to attend.
- The menu will include cold cuts, chips, fruit, veggies, cheese, and water/lemonade/tea. These items will be purchased.
- Adele is donating cookies, tablecloths, eating utensils, and paper products for the picnic.
- The decision was made to charge a \$10.00 fee for each guest this year. It was stated that the picnic committee disagreed with this decision.

Annual GR Meeting: With the recent increase in the number of (COVID) Delta Variant cases, it is currently unknown if the annual meeting can be held at an indoor facility. Historically, the annual meeting has been held in October at the P.J. Skidoos Restaurant. Tom will check with them to determine if a meeting there in October this year is feasible. A final decision regarding the annual meeting will be made in September.

Other:

- Bob asked about GR contributions to the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA). It was stated that FCPA does not charge GR for the use of outdoor courts, but that GR makes a yearly contribution to FCPA as an act of good faith and good will. The amount of the yearly contribution is based on the total amount donated throughout the year by GR members, and not on a budgetary line item amount. The amount is different each year.
- Gary agreed to write an article for the next newsletter on the topic of substitutes, covering issues such as the difficulty in obtaining subs, why people sign-up to sub but then do not sub when asked, possible solutions to the sub problem, etc.
- Dave stated that he had reviewed the treasurer's books, and that Al had done an outstanding job.
- Al stated that he had distributed the treasurer's report to all those present (see attached). He also stated that he had made some points (found on the back of the treasurer's report) about a variety of issues facing GR, mainly the difficulty with people "splitting court time." He asked that everyone take some time to read the points.
- Bob gave "kudos" to Al and Joe for the outstanding system they have created to collect money from members who sign-up for venues.

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 11:50am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Dineen  
Recording Secretary