

Minutes of the Meeting of the Golden Racquets  
Board of Directors  
January 22, 2019  
King's Park Library, Springfield, VA

**Present:**

Connie Dineen, Newsletter	Bala Balakrishnan, Caring	Joanne Hensley, Webmaster
Bob Dineen, CIO	Leigh Albert, Sec'y	Dave Fleming, Ops & Planning
Joe Wittling, CIO	Claudia Steichen, Past Sec'y	Al McFarland, Treasurer
CJ Dieteman, Past Pres.	Steve Mateo, Rating	Fred Hart, Ops & Planning
Tom Burroughs, Rating and Acting Pres.		Joseph Caruth, Prior Pres.

**Absent:**

Laura Riesenber, VP	Howard Ho, Social	Adele Neuberg, Membership
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**Change of Golden Racquets President:** Joseph Caruth started the meeting by explaining that many of the changes he wanted to make had been discussed with the Board via email and in person. These major changes included the GR automated system, the financial/banking system, and the possibility of commercially hiring a CPA and a lawyer. He found resistance from the Board in making these changes. Since the Board was not ready for these types of changes, he decided to “step down” from the position of President. He left the meeting so the remaining board members could continue with other GR business. Al McFarland thought we should hold a special election by the membership for the vacant position of President. After a discussion, it was decided that the Board could appropriately select an Acting President. Tom Burroughs was selected by the Board to be the Acting President of GR.

The Board selected Joe Whittling to ask Joseph Caruth to continue to serve as captain for the Burke Racquet venue.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes from the last Board meeting of November 13, 2018, were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Al provided the following financial information. The balance as of 1/22/19 was \$21,524.38 and the balance reconciles with BB&T. Outstanding obligations include the Fairfax County Parks donation, court time for New Year’s Eve party, Annual Meeting raffle prizes, and credits for Burke power outage. The total of these unpaid claims is \$1,837.75. 2018 Revenues were \$121,149.59 and 2018 Expenses were \$121,158.05.

Al stated that someone should do a financial audit for the organization. Tom Burroughs will ask Ellen Ferguson.

Al questioned whether membership should be offered to new participants and it was agreed that this subject will be discussed by the Board via email or in person at the next Board meeting. Al also asked about modifying the membership application form to accommodate issues such as how to reimburse individuals if scheduled games are delayed or cancelled. Al will send refunds to compensate for the power outage at Burke Racquet Club, which affected about 20 players.

**President's Report:** Tom Burroughs, Acting President, facilitated the meeting.

Joanne Hensley expressed concern about Golden Racquets publishing member phone numbers, email addresses and home addresses in the GR Roster, which is sent to all player participants. Connie Dineen will include a reminder in the next Newsletter, stating that the Roster is to be used only for contacting members regarding tennis matters such as requesting substitutes.

**Vice-President's Report:** Not applicable - Laura was not in attendance at the meeting.

**Caring Chair Report:** Bala reported that one member has been diagnosed with a serious illness. There have been no injury-related problems since the November meeting. Golden Racquets collected 50 used tennis balls for use with walkers at an elder care facility.

**Social Chair Report:** Howard raised the number of courts from four to five for the New Year's Day Party at Fairfax Racquet Club, accommodating a total of 40 people. Fred and Linda Temple brought food for all and those who attended expressed much gratitude. Howard suggested that they be added to the Social Committee. All who had attended the party agreed that the event went very well and the spread of food was impressive.

**CIO Report:** Joe Wittling previously indicated that he would look for a Golden Racquets' member with specific technical skills to be a back-up for Bob Dineen. Joanne Hensley has volunteered to assist in updating the Golden Racquets website and is currently working on updates with Joe, as well as Bob Dineen.

**Membership Chair Report:** Not applicable - Adele was not in attendance at the meeting.

**Website Manager Report:** Joanne Hensley has taken on the Webmaster responsibilities. Joanne discussed the possibility of automating certain aspects of the website, such as online registration and payments. No decisions on these changes were made at the meeting.

**Rating Committee Chair:** The Rating Committee and the captains held their meeting and rerated a number of individuals. The ratings were raised for 19 people and lowered for 17 people. Four individuals have appealed.

**Ops and Planning:** Dave mentioned that there are 31 cans of new balls left over from previous sessions that will be used for future games. Dave volunteered to review membership forms to ensure members are required to agree to liability waiver language. If not, this requirement should be added to future paperwork.

**Newsletter Report:** Connie asked that any relevant material for the next newsletter be provided to her by the end of March. Connie asked Tom Burroughs to write an article for the newsletter as the Acting President.

**Old Business:** An issue that was brought up at the annual meeting was finding funding from various agencies to off-set expenses. Mel Kollander has volunteered to do this. No update on this issue.

The need to find additional venues for Golden Racquets play continues to be an issue. Renovation of the Arlington YMCA will cause additional loss of available courts, but the timetable for this is unknown. Possible locations would be Maryland courts/clubs, Springfield Golf and Country Club, Nottaway, and others. GR will investigate these, in addition to other, venues. Future contracts with Burke Racquet Club should stipulate that the court time specified for play start times with Golden Racquets must be honored and players from previous games must vacate the courts at the agreed-upon times. Venues for conducting rating reviews must also be located and contracted.

Playing at courts in Maryland was previously 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. Leigh Albert contacted tennis clubs and courts that were within a reasonable distance for Virginia residents, but none had enough court availability to accommodate Golden Racquet needs at this time. This may change in the future.

The idea of having a venue at Westwood Country Club at 7:30 a.m. was previously mentioned by Joseph Caruth and might be an option.

**New Business:**

Joe Wittling discussed when sign-up requests should be sent out for the summer session. Tom Burroughs and others will contact the various clubs and the Park Authority to complete Memorandums of Understanding/Contracts for the summer season.

Bob Dineen suggested that old documents currently on the Golden Racquets website be moved to Dropbox. Future decisions on this subject are anticipated.

Next Board Meeting is April 9, 2019.

Respectfully,

Leigh Albert  
Secretary