Minutes of the Meeting of the Golden Racquets

Board of Directors

November 14, 2017

King's Park Library, Springfield, VA

**Present:**

Ed Grose, President Fred Hart, Ops & Planning Howard Ho, Social Chair Ed Byrne, Liaison to YMCA Bob Dineen, CIO Tom Burroughs, Rating

CJ Dieteman, Past Pres. Alle & Jack Cogdell, Caring Connie Dineen, Newsletter

Laura Riesenberg, VP Al McFarland, Treasurer Ellen Johnson, Membership

Claudia Steichen, Sec'y

**Absent:**

Lindsay Wozniak, Website Mgr.

President, Ed Grose, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting minutes from the August 8, 2017 Board Meeting and the Annual Meeting minutes of October 17, 2017 were approved by the attending Board members.

**Treasurer's Report:**  The checkbook balance as of 11/14/2017 is $20,487.11. The court time for all winter venues has been paid. Claims on the balance include YMCA membership fees, Fairfax County Parks donations, and Operating expenses. The State Corporation Commission Registration fee has been paid and the State Corporation Commission Annual Report has been filed. An audit for 2017 finances is needed mid-January and several names of members were mentioned who might do this. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by all present Board members.

A Getting to Know you question was posed to all members present.

**President's Report:** Ed Grose expressed his gratitude to those members who have stepped up as first time Captains this fall: Dan Levitan, Jim Parks, Laura Riesenberg and Joseph Caruth. He will send a note of thanks to them.

**Vice-President's Report:**  Laura reported that the relationship between the Arlington YMCA and Golden Racquets is on solid ground. There is now a good sub list for those venues at the Y, and education continues to be given to the Y members about the benefits of playing with Golden Racquets. The YMCA asked Laura to speak about the demand for indoor courts at the Arlington County Planning Commission, and she did this.

**Caring Committee Report:** Jack and Alle have sent 5 cards since the last board meeting. This is fewer than usual. Jack said there was no correlation between the cards sent and the player's skill level. Jack and Alle are looking for a replacement Board Member for the Caring Committee.

**CIO Report:**  Bob suggested that Board Members let him know if they are going to miss a meeting. A written report to the Board members gave statistics which indicated that this fall/winter season, 80 members did not play or sub, and 76 applied only to sub. That left 190 who applied for one or more indoor venues. Golden Racquets provided 200 slots for play.

**Membership Chair Report:** Ellen reported on the history of Golden Racquets' closing and re-opening membership. The first closing was from May 7, 2016 to September 12, 2016. During that time, Golden Racquets was faced with the anticipated closing of 4 Seasons by the Spring of 2018.

September 12, 2016 membership was re-opened due to expected agreement with the Arlington Y. Golden Racquets accepted 32 members until membership was again closed on February 4, 2017.

The second closing of membership began February 4, 2017 and lasted until September 1, 2017 when it was re-opened.

From September to November 10, Golden Racquet's has accepted 52 new members, seven of whom have yet to be rated. Ellen expressed concern about Golden Racquet's ability to place so many new members.

**Ops and Planning Chair Report:**  Fred has been busy with the change in rosters and managing the sub lists. He sent a letter to a member informing him that he is being removed from the the sub list of a venue due to disruptive behavior.

**Rating Chair Report:**  Tom reports that Steve Mateo has been helping him with the ratings. They have been busy rating the Arlington Y players and the many other new members. The Board voted to make Steve Mateo a co-chair with the benefits a Board Member.

**Social Chair Report:**  Zdenek Denemark responded to a posting in the Newsletter looking for assistance with the Social duties and Howard appreciates the help he is providing. Howard has already reserved 3 courts for New Years' Day party. The necessity of making an absolute cut-off date for registration at this party was expressed as the pairings and other considerations are difficult with last-minute responses. Howard was complimented on the well-run and enjoyable Annual Meeting in October.

**Liaison to the Y Report:** Ed Byrne reported that Jim Parks has taken over as Captain of his group at the YMCA. Ed expressed his satisfaction with the relationship between Golden Racquets and the Y. An obstacle for the summer play at the YMCA is the lack of air-conditioning for all of the courts. Ed floated the idea of Golden Racquet members donating to the Y on the sign-up form and funds collected be set aside for air-conditioning.

**Webmaster's Report:** Lindsay was absent. Lindsay has some Golden Racquet's merchandise for sale on the website and these items might be good prizes for the next Annual Meeting.

**Newsletter Report:** Next newsletter comes out in February. Connie asked for news items.

**Old Business:**  Laura, Ed Grose, and Ed Byrne will begin to negotiate with Carlo at the Arlington YMCA for the venues coming up in summer 2017.

Member, Jim Morrow, presented a proposal to the board to add a facility in Montgomery County, MD to our playing venues. This is the Pauline Betz Addie Tennis Center in Bethesda, MD. It is owned by the Maryland National Park and Planning commission and has 6 air-conditioned courts. Mr. Morrow says it is not heavily used. He passed out pictures and a map. At the present time, Golden Racquets has half-a-dozen players from Maryland.

Many questions arose and were discussed. Could GR get a venue of 4 courts? What kind of venue would be most appropriate? How many players personally would want to play there? Would this work as a sister organization? This proposal will be explored and members may be polled to fetter out the committed interest.

**New Business:** Bob Dineen distributed a handout of statistics about the number of members and the availability of tennis courts for the summer. One of his concerns is that Golden Racquets may not be able to play at the YMCA due to the air-conditioning problems. Thus, there would be many players who could not be accommodated. Bob's numbers indicate that the usual 92 indoor slots would diminish to 40 if the YMCA were eliminated. Bob recommended that Golden Racquets try to secure more outdoor courts. There was general agreement to this. He also proposed that the $20 dues be refunded if there is no court time available for a member. This was debated, but the Board voted against the refund.

The membership of Golden Racquets stands at 346. A proposal to close membership due to the uncertainty of court time for the summer was made. The Board voted to close the membership to all except YMCA members effective after November 30, 2017. Under the present contract with the YMCA, those members can join Golden Racquets until the end of this year.

Donations to the YMCA in lieu of Fairfax County Park Authority were discussed again. Also, the idea of sponsoring and contributing to a charitable fund established for a future Fairfax County indoor tennis facility was mentioned. Both ideas will be explored and brought up at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Claudia Steichen