

River Strand Golf and Country Club
Minutes: Tennis and Pickleball Committee Meeting
Tuesday October 17, 2017 at 5:30 -6:45 PM

River Strand Golf and Country Club Clubhouse 7155 Grand Estuary Trail, Bradenton, FL 34212

Chair Jack Wilson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and took the roll to establish a quorum. Attendees included Jack Wilson, Nancy Finman, Karen Baig, Janice McLeod, Chuck Olsen, Nate Griffin, Deborah Landes, Arletha Blackman, Janet DeCostro, Judy Kersten, and RS Board Liaison Eddie Hicks in the room, along with Jon Greenbank on the phone. Comments from resident members limited to 3 minutes: Guests: Residents Ghingo and Phyllis Brooks, Mark Todd, Phil Lham, Robert Wood, and Soli Dastur were in attendance:

Remarks from the public:

Phyllis Brooks stated that she is very impressed with the tennis program and would like to see more emphasis placed on the pickleball program. She recommended the committee look at fixing the court entry gate, adding more benches, a water fountain, and covered area for waiting players, and increasing the attention paid to the general maintenance of the pickleball facilities. Jack Wilson indicated that some of these items were currently being addressed and under consideration by the board.

Opening comments by the Chair

Chair Jack Wilson previewed the items on the agenda. He indicated that we will strive to keep better track of committee recommendations, perhaps creating a matrix to track progress from submission to board action.

Opening comments by the Liaison from the Board, Eddie Hicks

Eddie Hicks provide an update to the committee regarding the status of previous proposals. His comments are captured below under old business.

Old Business:

Report of any board actions on past proposals (Eddie Hicks)

Update on annual membership proposal and status of implementation. Eddie Hicks reported that the board approved to increase the number of outside tennis memberships to sixty. For 2018, the cost will increase by 10%, which keeps us on par with other similar clubs in the area. Nancy Finman stated that several players are currently on summer memberships which expire on Oct 31. These players are planning to enroll on Jan 1 for annual membership. She wants to clarify if these folks can pay proportionally for Nov and Dec 2017 in conjunction with the 2018 annual membership to avoid a gap in membership. The committee unanimously agreed that it would be counterproductive to effectively kick these members out for two months and would be a win-win to get additional revenue as well as keeping quality players at River Strand. Jack Wilson stated that this arrangement can be managed by our professional tennis staff.

Status of budget requests (most urgently, the strategy of escalating the maintenance shed replacement).

- Eddie Hicks reported that pickleball court fencing and tennis maintenance shed items have been assigned to the board's special projects list, but to date have not been approved. The board needs specifics and cost, but understands that these items are safety issues. Eddie also noted that these items should be addressed in the November Budget Committee meeting to decide where they fall on the list of priorities. Nate Griffin reported that ICON maintenance is going to temporarily repair the shed floor this week, and he will provide the cost estimates for a cement pad and shed repairs to Eddie Hicks for submission to the board.
- Nate Griffin reported that the old windscreens for the pickleball courts will be back up next week on the north and south sides. He also provided the proposals from Burdick Fence as follows:
 - Windscreens - \$2,350.00
 - Bottom rail on fence - \$2,700.00
 - New Opening and Gate 4 ft - \$900.00
- Nate Griffin also provided an update regarding previously discussed pickleball issues including the following:
 - Paddle holders arrived today and will be installed in the next week or so.
 - Two new benches have been delivered. Deborah Landes questioned the status of providing some sort of concrete pad or paver area for waiting outside the court area and if those benches would be affixed in that location. Nate stated that these items are still under review. The discussion also included the need for grounds maintenance to deal with garbage pick-up in a more timely fashion.
 - Water lines for a water fountain are unavailable near the courts and would need to be run from the kitchen. This item is outside of the current budget and would have to be addressed in the future.
 - There is an annual calendar of events and effort would be made to publish information earlier than in the past.
 - Installation of AED machines at the tennis courts and pickleball courts should be referred to the Safety Committee.
- Eddie Hicks also noted that there are some drainage issues at the pickleball courts that were being assessed. He requested that in the future, when our committee makes a motion and passes a resolution to submit to the board, that we include a resolution number for ease of future reference. Jack Wilson suggested that we use the date and item number (ex: 10172017-1, 10172017-2, etc). Eddie concluded his remarks by stating that he's visited the tennis courts and is impressed with our program. He commended Nate for doing a great job.

Any issues for the Board that they would like to request that the Tennis and Pickleball Committee address.

- Eddie Hicks reported that there are no new taskings other than continuing to place more emphasis on communication to the total community, not just the tennis and pickleball community.

Discussion of rules implementation

- Jack Wilson asked about the status of the pickleball rules and where they stand with the board. Chuck Olsen reported that the pickleball subcommittee completed their work and were in agreement on the rules as previously presented via email to the committee. Chuck Olsen made a motion that the pickleball rules be approved by the committee and Deborah Landes seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved and the motion was carried.

RESOLUTION #1017-1 Pickleball Rules to be submitted to the board. (see attach 1: Pickleball Rules)

New Business:

Discussion of a dispute between a member of the tennis community and the staff. Issues raised include:

Rights of members who are renters and those who are owners.

A lively discussion ensued regarding the content of the declaration to transfer documents and the rights of renters to attend committee meetings. It was determined that this is a legal question and Jack Wilson requested that Eddie Hicks take this issue to the board. Eddie stated that the board has been made aware of this issue, the attorney has looked at it, but the issue has not been fully resolved. Nancy asked that Eddie verify that all committees are following the same process for interacting with renters. Jack will provide written request from the committee requesting legal advice from the board attorney.

Under what circumstances may non-members be invited to play on River Strand tennis league teams.

A lengthy discussion regarding the policy in place for using non-members on teams included inputs from residents Robert Wood and Arletha Blackman. Nate Griffin confirmed that the current policy is for team captains to offer River Strand members priority when assembling a team. No outside players will be included on teams unless there are not enough members to field a competitive team. In such circumstances, Nate will make the determination when outside players are warranted. The consensus was that inviting outside players was only appropriate when there were not enough members playing at the particular team level. This is usually confined to the 4.5 level, which few players attain.

Division of roles of staff and committee members and chair.

Jack Wilson stated that we have a professional ICON staff that has authority to make decisions for the good of the entire community. The Tennis and Pickleball Committee provides recommendations to the Board which sets policy, but does not direct our professional staff in the management of these programs.

Next Meeting

Nancy Finman noted that due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, we might look at combining the November and December meetings. It was determined that the next meeting should be held Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 5:30 pm and every third Tuesday thereafter –with the caveat that we would try to avoid Board meeting times.

Adjournment: Nancy Finman made a motion to adjourn and Janice McLeod seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Attachment 1

PICKLEBALL RULES

River Strand Golf and Country Club

October 17, 2017

Members and their guests have the right to use the Pickleball courts at any time the courts are open. The operating hours are daily from 8:00am to 10:00pm.

General:

1. The International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) official rules shall govern play.

Guest Policies:

1. **Outside guests** are guests who are non-resident and must be accompanied by the sponsored member whenever using courts.
2. **Household guests** are those that are staying in a resident member's home and are eligible for unaccompanied play.

Court Reservation Policies:

1. Reservations can be made using the online reservation system or by contacting staff at the tennis pro shop.

2. All pickleball courts are blocked out daily from 8:30am to 10:30am for social/program play exclusively. You do not need to register during this time-period; just show up. Details for social/program play can be found in the River Strand Pickleball Program document.

General Guidelines:

1. During periods of high court usage, be aware of members waiting to play. When transitioning on or off court, please wait until neighboring courts have finished their point before crossing behind them. This is common courtesy and is for your safety.
2. Remember we are all out here to exercise, improve our skills, and enjoy competition with our neighbors. Please behave accordingly.

Court Rules/Etiquette:

1. Athletic shoes and appropriate clothing must be worn (no cut offs; shirts are required).
2. Courts are only to be used for pickleball. No skateboards, bicycles, or in-line skates.
3. Limit play on reserved court times to 90 minutes if others are waiting.
4. Keep court areas free of debris/trash.
5. Ensure lights are off when leaving courts.
6. Exercise caution when playing on wet courts.
7. Eye protection is recommended during play.