

DRAFT

River Strand Golf and Country Club Tennis and Pickle Ball Committee Meeting

Tuesday April 25, 2017 at 5:30 -6:45 PM

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

Minutes

The first meeting of the Tennis and Pickleball Committee was held on Monday April 25, 2017 at 5:30 PM in the conference room at the River Strand Clubhouse located at 7155 Grand Estuary Trail, Bradenton, FL 34212.

A quorum of the committee was present in person with Jack Wilson, Eddie Hicks, Anne Beaton, Arletha Blackman, Nancy Finman, Judy Kersten, Deborah Landes, Chuck Olsen, and Sylvia Sethares-Heyl. Nate Griffin, Tennis and Pickleball Director was also in attendance. Notice of the meeting was posted on the Tennis Office bulletin board and delivered to the River Strand Office on April 17, 2017. Janet DeCostro, Joanne Tocco, Judi Wilson and Jim Stephenson attended as observers.

Chair, Jack M Wilson, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

The meeting began with self-introductions of each committee member.

Introductions were followed with an opportunity for comments from resident members who were not on the committee and were limited to three minutes each. Comments from both committee members and observers were general in nature and focused on how important the tennis and pickleball programs were to them in their decision to buy their homes and one how important it will be -both for their enjoyment of the community and for the overall property values.

Janet DeCostro and Jim Stephenson indicated that both had submitted materials to Shaun Fitzer volunteering for committee service, but that somehow they had not been forwarded to the board. Discussion ensued over the next steps, and the consensus of the committee was to refer both volunteers to the Board of Directors with encouragement to add the volunteers to the committee. We recognize that this is a function of the board to do the appointments. (The two candidates were added by the BOD after the meeting).

Opening comments were made by the Chair that outlined the general procedure for committees at River Strand and gave a quick overview of the agenda.

The Liaison from the Board, Eddie Hicks, also made some opening comments elaborating on the Board of Directors as we make the transition to community governance. He noted that the role of the liaison to the board is still being defined. Liaisons are asked not to advocate or encourage any committee actions, but instead to provide information and be a communication conduit in both directions between the committee and the Board. If liaisons are to participate in advocacy or leadership on any committee actions, they are then expected to recuse themselves from any Board vote on that particular committee matter. He also noted that no one on the present Board is a tennis or pickleball player so they look to the Tennis and

Pickleball Committee for direction. Eddie mentioned the BOD has no problem with outside memberships as long as current residents are not adversely affected.

We then discussed the potential election of Vice-Chair who would assist the chair and lead meetings in the absence of the chair. We were fortunate to have three volunteers who were willing to assist in this way. After discussion we called for nominations. Only one nomination, Nancy Finman, was made by Sylvia Sethares-Heyl and seconded by Arletha Blackman. Nancy Finman was elected unanimously and will serve as the Vice-Chair.

A discussion ensued over the election of a secretary. Unfortunately, no one was willing to step forward. Chuck Olsen then indicated that his wife, Karla Olsen, would be willing to do it on a volunteer basis -although she is not a member of the committee. The committee enthusiastically supported that approach.

Tennis and Pickleball Director Nate Griffin outlined the current status of the both programs and some future potential issues that the committee may take up at later meetings. The overall feeling was that the two programs are quite good, run well, and we want to keep them that way as a benefit to all homeowners. There are some facilities issues and some issues around the involvement of non-residents in the program that we will begin to take up at this meeting, and we expect to take up other related issues in due course in future committee meetings. There was solid support for involving non-residents in the programs and discussion centered on how we could improve their participation and experience. Nate looked for more feedback for Pickleball and will meet with Deb Landes for discussions and recommendations.

The work of the Transition Committee as expressed in its final report was reviewed by the Committee with discussion over prioritization of issues, budget implications, and scheduling discussion of these issues in future committee meetings. Discussion of both Pickleball and Tennis issues were raised with an effort to prioritize these for committee work going forward.

The committee then turned to a discussion of the role and importance of non-resident members. This issue had been raised in the transition report and in earlier comments. The committee decided that we would begin by affirming our support for the inclusion of non-resident members in our programs. Nate Griffin stated both programs could easily support more outside members but remembering there may be 100 more homes built in the Sanctuary so the number may need adjusting as more residents are added to the program. Industry standards call for a tennis court average between 20-30 players per court depending upon activity -where RS is currently at 17 in season. We felt that our programs had positive benefits for the community by improving the experience of the residents through raising the quality of play and by creating a revenue stream for tennis. We discussed the amenities provided to non-resident members and the dissatisfaction expressed by some of them at that loss. It was also pointed out that many resigned their memberships resulting in a loss of revenue from \$30,000 - \$50,000 dollars for the year. That does not count indirect loss of revenues from the club restaurant, lessons or product sales. In the future, the Social budget would have to contribute more to the tennis line if the numbers continued to dwindle.

The committee decided to move the discussion of the amenities issue to future meetings in as much as this had financial complications and there was some concern expressed by some committee members about over-taxing facilities like the swimming pool or fitness center. Others pointed out that a survey had shown that the use of these facilities by non-residents was quite small -so it was more of a perception issue. The committee felt that further discussion was warranted in the future.

The committee did decide to express its concern over the decrease of non-residents from over 70 to approximately 40 and to affirm its desire to avoid further loss and give the Tennis and Pickleball director the flexibility to add additional non-resident members to enhance our programs and increase our revenue. That should be done only if it does not overload our current facilities and does not disadvantage resident members. It was the committee's opinion that this can be done. According a motion was made by Judy Kersten and seconded by Deb Landes which stated: *"To recommend that the BOD maintain non-resident tennis memberships, and that the Tennis Director, Nate Griffin should be empowered to adjust the number of memberships so as to maintain the overall vitality of the tennis program."*

The committee decided by consensus to hold monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting being May 16 at 5:30pm. We will also endeavor to provide the ability of committee members to participate by computer network using Google Hangouts or another conferencing software system.

There being no further business the meeting was properly adjourned at 6:45 pm.

-Submitted by Sylvia Sethares-Heyl and Jack M. Wilson