

River Strand Golf and Country Club
Minutes: Tennis and Pickleball Committee Meeting
Tuesday January 16, 2018 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. Nancy Finman took the roll to establish a quorum. Attendees included Jack Wilson, Nancy Finman, Karen Baig, Janice McLeod, Chuck Olsen, Ann Beaton, Janet DeCostro, Judy Kersten, Sylvia Sethares-Heyl, and Nate Griffin. Board Liaison Eddie Hicks was unable to attend. Comments from resident members limited to three minutes. Guests: Phil Lahm and Kennedy Esteban. No initial comments were offered.

Opening comments by the Chair

Chair Jack Wilson previewed the items on the agenda. He indicated that Jon Greenbank resigned from the committee.

Opening comments by the Liaison from the Board, Eddie Hicks.

In the absence of Mr. Hicks, Janice McLeod and Jack Wilson provided a summary of the recent River Strand Board of Directors meeting, with a focus on subjects pertinent to the tennis and pickleball programs. During the Board meeting a motion was made to purchase a new tennis ball machine, despite the fact that the ball machine had already been purchased via ICON capital expenditure processes. The Board was reminded that this ball machine would pay for itself within two years. With an expected ten-year lifespan, the new machine will certainly generate additional revenue above the purchase price. Jack Wilson assured Nate Griffin that the Board members supported the purchase in spite of the fact that it was accidentally purchased prior to final approval. The Icon General Manager suggested that they would implement new purchasing procedures to avoid future misunderstandings.

Additionally, it was reported that Board member Anita Tierney made a motion to make the golf club private. This motion was tabled. While not directly affecting the tennis and pickleball programs, the committee discussed potential ramifications of a fully private tennis club versus the current program offering a modest number of annual and seasonal non-resident memberships. The committee agreed that no modifications or new proposals were necessary at this time.

Nancy Finman stated that, in her opinion, the Board seems to have communication issues with regard to how the committees should operate, what authority each committee possesses, and should clarify parameters of responsibility.

Old Business

Report of recent actions by the Board of Trustees (Eddie Hicks)

Mr. Hicks was unable to attend due to a sudden death in his family that took him out of town. Jack Wilson stated that Eddie was providing good support as liaison for the Tennis and Pickleball Committee. We will continue to handle each issue as we go forward to best serve our community.

Motion to amend Tennis rules to add one missing item: *“Any individual guest may play no more than four times per month.”* See attachment 1, proposed amended Tennis Rules dated January 16, 2018.

Nancy Finman reported that when the Tennis Rules were revised in mid-2017, this item was inadvertently omitted. She made a motion to amend the rules to reflect rule number two, “*Any individual guest may play no more than four times per month.*” Sylvia Sethares-Heyl seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. In addition, Chuck Olsen motioned that rule number four under Ball Machine Policies be reworded to say, “*Ball machine fees are established by the Director of Tennis for both hourly and annual ball machine membership.*” Judy Kersten seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Report from Nate Griffin on progress of capital items.

Nate Griffin expanded on the discussion regarding the purchase of the new tennis ball machine, to include his coordination with the ICON general manager. This resulted in the machine purchase being moved to capital expenditures. Regarding other proposals, Nate stated that future expenditures are still on request, to include the maintenance shed replacement and pickleball fencing improvements. Kennedy Esteban, an insurance adjuster, stated that the current shed remains a safety concern and recommended we reengage with the Board to complete this item. Finally, Nate Griffin stated that he has current funds in the tennis budget to cover wind screen replacement on the tennis and pickleball courts, and will complete installation next week.

Report from the Pickleball sub-committee.

Chuck Olsen reported that the pickleball program is moving into season capacity, and anticipates full morning court usage in the coming weeks. The split court program play was implemented several weeks ago and seems to be working well. Janet DeCostro stated that around 10:00 each morning, she has seen a smooth transition of some advanced players moving to courts 5-8 for competitive play. Chuck Olsen additionally stated that the January pickleball social was a success, with over 40 players braving the chilly weather, followed by good food and drink. Future socials are planned with the help of our residents.

Janet DeCostro suggested that with the increased interest in Pickleball and the growth of our community, a pickleball machine might be something to purchase to enhance our program. Jack Wilson added that it would be something for future discussion and asked that Nate Griffin and Janet DeCostro work on a proposal to bring to the committee in the future.

Report from the (newly formed) Tennis sub-committee.

Karen Baig, Sylvia Sethares-Heyl, Ann Beaton, and Jim Stephenson worked to create a software program to work in conjunction with the Salix System to track member usage, guests, and fee collection. Nate Griffin reported that Jim Stephenson helped to get the program in place and the tennis staff has received training on its use. The plan is for members to check in at the tennis center and for guests to sign in the guest book, followed by tennis staff entering the data into the tracking system. This process will enable the tennis staff to better enforce rules, collect fees, and control non-member use of our courts. Signs are in now in place on the fences. Nate Griffin will follow up with reminders to members via Eblast emails.

New Business

Nancy Finman stated that the Safety Committee has placed Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices in the Golf Pro Shop and in the fitness centers. However, due to the high aerobic nature of tennis, she believes that there should be an AED device in the Tennis Center. She stated that she plans to email the Safety committee as a resident member to make a request that an additional AED device be placed in the Tennis Center.

Problem of non-members using both Pickleball and Tennis facilities.

This item was addressed under the previous agenda item.

- It was determined that the next meeting should be held Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 5:30 pm and every third Tuesday thereafter –with the caveat that we will de-conflict with Board meeting times.
- Adjournment: Nancy Finman made a motion to adjourn and Karen Baig seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Attachment1

TENNIS RULES

River Strand Golf and Country Club

January 16, 2018

Members and their guests shall have the right to use the Country Club Courts at any time the tennis courts are open. The operating hours are daily from 8 am to 10 pm. Variations of time will depend on the season, weather and utilization of the facility. Courts are not to be used when nets are lowered.

General

1. The United States Tennis Association code shall govern play.
2. Playing guests must be registered by a member or transferee.
3. Courts are not to be used for any purpose other than tennis, unless authorized by the Director of Tennis.

Guest fee policies:

1. Outside guest fees are \$10 per player in season (Nov 1-April 30) and \$5 per player May 1 to Oct 31. There will be no fee for house guests of members.
2. **Any individual guest may play no more than four times per month.**
3. A member may register outside guests for no more than 4 time slots per month. There is no limit on house guest play.
4. There is no limit on how many times a guest can take lessons and clinics.
5. If payment is not made at the time of play, the member sponsoring the guest will be billed for their guest's fees.
6. Until the reservation system is upgraded to allow members to schedule their guests, members must call the pro shop to register guest(s) at the time that a court is reserved or participation in an event is scheduled.
7. Members may sign up guests two days in advance for organized events. Guests will not be bumped by members wishing to sign up after this cutoff.

Club Program Policies

For Morning Doubles, Tuesday Men's Night, Thursday Mixed Night, Sunday Men's Morning Doubles, if you must take your name off the participant lists for these events, you must do so by the following times: Morning doubles 5:30 pm the evening before, Evening doubles 1:00 pm the day of.

Failure to participate for the above events after reserving space without removing your reservation by the designated cut off time slots or arranging for a substitute (any club member) will result in a written warning for the 1st occurrence and the 2nd will result in a 2-week suspension from the type of event for which you did not appear. You may be able to arrange for a member of the staff to substitute for you, but, please, remember that they may already be filling out a set, have another client or have to remain in the Pro Shop.

Court Reservation policies

1. All members and guests are required to use the court reservation system provided. Players without reserved court time are always welcome, but are required to check in with the pro shop . Court reservations can be made by calling the Tennis Pro Shop at 941- 932-8680 or online at: <http://www.makeclubreservations.com> code: **river1**
2. You are allowed to make social reservations 72 hours in advance. Please include all the players in your group on the reservation block.
3. Players are asked to confirm their reservation with the pro shop prior to entering the court. Players without reserved court time will be asked to relinquish any court which has been previously reserved by another group
4. Reservations are limited to 1.5 hours. Additional time cannot be added by using a different name to the original reservation. However, the pro staff may work with the group to determine if there is an open court available to accommodate additional time requested
5. Event registrations can be made as soon as the Tennis staff opens the registrations, for example, morning doubles is entered 7 days in advance, bookings can begin immediately.
6. Reservations for activities like team practices or regular play by a floating group of players may be made the same number of days in advance as social reservations. Each group will appoint an administrator. This individual will be given sufficient computer privileges to block one or more court times using a method which will allow individual players to then sign up for the times. It will be the responsibility of the administrator to cancel reservations if a court will not be used. The first failure to do so will result in a warning. The second in revocation of administrator privileges.
7. Players without a reserved court time will be asked to relinquish a court which has been previously reserved by another group. The pro shop staff may rearrange court assignments to accommodate court conditions, league play, etc.
8. The Club Manager or the professional staff may block off times during which the courts will be reserved for men's and women's leagues, maintenance or special functions.
9. For league matches, the maintenance staff will make every effort to brush the courts between 11:30 am and 12:00 pm in preparation. Warm up courts for these matches may be booked 24 hours in advance.
10. Flex league reservations are recommended to be played during non-prime time hours if possible.

Ball machine policies:

1. Ball machine reservations can be made 48 hours in advance.
2. Ball machine reservations are limited to 1 hour.
3. Ball machine may not be reserved outside of Pro Shop hours.

4. **Ball machine fees are established by the Director of Tennis for both hourly and annual ball machine membership.**
5. Court 3 is the preferred court for ball machine reservations, courts 1,2,4, and 5 are the next best courts to use for this.

Court rules/etiquette:

1. Tennis shoes are required. No cross trainers, walking shoes, or running shoes.
2. Appropriate tennis clothing must be worn, no cut offs, cargo shorts, midriffs, sports bras without shirt/blouse, jerseys, or bathing suits.
3. Shirts required.
4. All players and spectators must refrain from loud conversations and noises that might distract others.
5. Players are responsible to close the gates and turn off the lights after play.
6. Only River Strand Tennis Professional Staff are allowed to give lessons on the property unless given direct permission from the Director of Tennis.
7. Sports drinks and snacks that meet the dietary requirements of individuals may be brought and consumed on court sidelines.