

River Strand Golf and Country Club

Minutes: Tennis and Pickle Ball Committee Meeting

Tuesday July 18, 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 Nancy Finman, Janice McLeod, Jim Stephenson, Nate Griffin, and Deborah Landes in the room and Jack Wilson, Karen Baig, Janet DeCostro, Jon Greenbank, and Sylvia Sethares-Heyl on the phone.
- Comments from resident members limited to 3 min: Guests Tony and Rita Baena, new residents of RiverStrand made brief comments of greeting. Eddie Hicks came by at the beginning of the meeting, but had to go off to the Board meeting. Janice McLeod suggested that we consider rescheduling meetings that conflict with Board members, as this one does. There was general agreement that this was desirable, but we also observed that it is difficult to change the meeting time on short notice.
- Opening comments by the Chair previewed the items on the agenda.

Old Business

- Discussion and adoption of the Tennis Rules as proposed by Nate Griffin, discussed in this Committee, revised in sub-committee, and now presented for adoption. Deborah Landes moved and Jim Stephenson Seconded adoption of the Rules. There was a discussion of the differences between a house guest and an outside guest which clarified that the outside guest was a local person who was not a member, but who occasionally played at RiverStrand. House guests were staying as visitors in the homes of residents and were often family members of the residents. Renters become members and are not house guests. The motion to approve the rules was passed unanimously.
- Discussion of Pickleball and Tennis budget items stemming from suggestions made at an earlier meeting.
 - a. Pickleball: two proposals for 520 feet of bottom rail fencing -bids of \$6,000 and \$6,150.

- b. Pickleball is also requesting a bench and umbrella, possible pavers or cement slab for that location.
- c. Ball machine - 10 years old, (forecasted life), estimated at \$5,000
- d. New maintenance shed , est. \$3,500 plus concrete slab,
- e. Patio furniture – cushions – may already be inside the pool budget,
- f. Probably 1 water fountain will need replaced, \$1,000
- g. Spice up area between court 5 and 6 for better seating and viewing, Nate would like to widen the cement and add better seating.

After discussion of each item it was moved by Jim Stephenson and seconded by Deborah Landes to recommend these times to the Board with the commentary that one of these items, the ball machine, will pay for itself through rentals, and that the shed and pickleball railing were viewed as high priority safety items. We are already dealing with a liability for one injury attributed to the shed. We also recognize that some of these items might be able to be put on the list for Lennar to finish, and others might be able to be included in existing budgets. Nancy Finman volunteered to write up a matrix with justifications for these items (attached to these minutes). The motion to recommend these items to the Board was passed unanimously. Debby Landes mentioned that the courts and fitness centers, need defibrillators. We recommend this to the safety committee

New Business

- Discussion of Pickleball policies, activities, and procedures . There was a very good discussion of current policies, which are far less restrictive than the tennis policies. There is no dress code other than appropriate clothing, suitable shoes, no flip-flops, and a few other items. Nate observed that the rules are posted on the web site. After a good discussion, Nate agreed to make a copy of the rules, review them for revisions or additions and then send a copy on to the committee so that we can comment and approve the rules. We also suggested that Pickleball be included in the charity events next March.
- Discussion of outreach and public relations and possible activities to the broader community. The committee discussed current efforts to involve the community with publicity in the newsletter, morning doubles in tennis, and the morning pickleball groups. We also offer clinics for all levels from

beginner on up in both sports. We urged that more direct outreach (marketing) be done to members to encourage them to participate.

- Discussion of landscaping plans for the court area. Sylvia Sethares-Heyl raised a concern over the removal of the hedge around the tennis courts and the potential replacement with lava rock. Nate observed that the lava rock is now in place. He reported that flowers were on the way to improve the look of the area. The pros and cons of hedges versus lava rocks versus pavers were discussed. The hedge creates drainage problems, leaf problems, and lost balls. The lava rock is viewed as unattractive and hot. Pavers might be another potential alternative. No consensus solution was found.
- The next meeting is August 15, 5:30 pm and every third Thursday thereafter –with the caveat that we would try to avoid Board meeting times.
- Adjournment: Deborah Landes made a motion to adjourn and Nancy Finman seconded that motion. the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Addendum: Proposed Tennis & Pickleball Program Investments

Proposed Investment	Estimated Cost	Description	Justification
Safety Items			
Maintenance Shed	\$5,000	Replacement of the existing tennis maintenance shed – which houses the golf cart, maintenance equipment, ball machine, teaching supplies and bags of clay – with a larger structure on a cement pad set back from the sidewalk.	The existing shed is in poor condition and in a dangerous location. The shed is raised up on blocks and heavy equipment must be wheeled up and down a steep ramp, which extends onto a pedestrian thoroughfare. The floor of the shed is collapsing. Most of the inventory of clay has to be stored off site and shipped as needed, which is a recurring cost.
Pickleball Fencing Improvements	\$6,000	Installation of a bottom rail on the fencing around the perimeter of the pickleball courts; windscreen replacement; additional gate.	The tension wire that holds the fence in place isn't strong enough to support the fencing, which protrudes into the playing area. Players' shoes have gotten caught on the fencing. Bottom rail is recommended to rectify the problem. Lennar retrofitted the tennis courts with bottom rail several years ago for this reason. The existing windscreens are poor quality and poor design for the type of fencing in place. In high winds, the wind screens pull the fencing off of the posts. There is currently only a single gate for entering and exiting the courts.
Water Fountain	\$1,000	Lifecycle replacement of one water fountain on the tennis courts.	This is a normal lifecycle replacement. The typical useful life is 3-5 years.
Revenue Generators			
Ball Machine	\$5,000	Lifecycle replacement of the 10-year-old ball machine.	Players pay to use the ball machine, which generates \$4-5k annually. The existing machine is requiring more maintenance and is becoming unreliable. A new machine will pay for itself in one year, then generate revenue for another nine.
Facility Improvements			
Pickleball Seating	?	Installation of a bench outside the pickleball courts for spectators and players waiting for courts.	There is currently no seating outside of the pickleball courts.
Tennis Spectator Seating	?	Expansion of the spectator seating area between courts 5 and 6.	There are currently two metal benches between courts 5 and 6 that can accommodate about 8 people. There are often a lot of spectators when matches are in progress.