

DRAFT

River Strand Golf and Country Club Tennis and Pickleball Committee Meeting

Tuesday June 20, 2017 at 5:30 -6:45 PM

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

Minutes

The June meeting of the Tennis and Pickleball Committee was held on Tuesday June 20, 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 Nancy Finman, Anne Beaton, Arletha Blackman, Deborah Landes, Chuck Olsen, and Janice McLeod. Jack Wilson, Karen Baig, Sylvia Sethares-Heyl, Janet DeCosta, and John Greenbank attended remotely via Google Hangout. Nate Griffin, Tennis and Pickleball Director, was also in attendance. Our Board Liaison Eddie Hicks attended remotely along with fellow Board Member Anita Tierney and IT committee member Krys Olson. A large contingent of residents was in attendance; those with comments are noted below. Notice of the meeting was posted on the Tennis Office bulletin board and delivered to the River Strand Office on Friday June 16, 2017. The notice, agenda, and minutes of the previous meeting were then posted on the River Strand members' web site at <http://www.riverstrandgolf.com/-tennis-and-pickleball-committee>

Vice Chair, Nancy Finman, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Comments from resident members

Patti Reid (from the Social and Recreation Committee) asked two questions -

- How many total members use the tennis facilities?

Nate Griffin reported that approximately 250-300 members play tennis on a regular basis.

- How many employees work for the tennis center?

Nate Griffin said there were 3 full-time and 4 part-time employees to run the tennis and pickleball facilities.

Mark Todd asked about the possibility of getting a device called a Court Devil to aid in court maintenance.

- Nate Griffin indicated that this acquisition is currently under review for cost and utility.

Mike Fisher stated that, as a RS resident who played tennis years ago but is nervous about restarting, he would like to see more tennis instruction specials during the off season to encourage residents to participate in tennis.

- Janet DeCostro and Nate Griffin both mentioned that a number of low-cost group clinics are routinely offered and advertised in the RS newsletter, but they will look into ways to make sure the entire community is aware of these low cost options.

Angela Simmons stated that she believes the tennis center has an excellent program. She was disappointed in recent disrespectful social media comments and stressed a need to continue to work on communicating about the quality of our program. She mentioned that she lives across from the tennis center and continues to notice the court lights are occasionally on after the 10:00PM cutoff time.

- Nate Griffin stated that a defective timer switch was recently replaced to correct the problem, but to let him know if anyone sees the lights on after 10:00PM.

Dave Gutierrez stated he feels the tennis program is terrific and feels the negative comments on social media were not accurate. Specifically, the monthly maintenance dues each resident pays include social membership in the tennis center along with pickleball, pools, gyms, etc. He believes the \$100,000 loss last year at the tennis

center is not accurately reported because our dues cover all costs. In essence, the tennis center only uses about 4% of the annual social membership budget.

Opening comments by the Chair

- Jack Wilson reported that he was glad to have so many community members present, and in spite of recent negative comments on social media, he believes our committee is off to a good start. We will strive to improve communications.
- The action that the Committee took was to cap the outside memberships currently being offered, not to create a new a new membership program. The cap was set at approximately the membership last year. Current membership is slightly less. This serves multiple purposes:
 - provides revenue and supports the tennis program
 - makes our teams competitive with surrounding teams; especially at upper levels and filling out our league teams
 - enhances the growth of pickleball and other social groups
- The subcommittee tasked with updating the River Strand Tennis Rules, as requested by the board, has worked hard to meet legal requirements and prepare a working document for the committee to review.
- Nancy Finman provided copies of a spreadsheet and stated that to clarify questions about the tennis center running a deficit, she checked the River Strand Budgets for 2016 and 2017 for programs (tennis programs, pools, fitness centers, clubhouses) which are funded with revenue from residents' social dues. These budgets reflect deficits only because revenue from social dues, which is designated for these programs, is not budgeted as a line item for each program. This is how Lennar chose to structure the budget. It was pointed out that the swimming pool and the fitness centers are budgeted the same way. Since the dues are not allocated to them in the financial statements, it makes them all appear to have a "deficit." Deborah Landes added that the tennis program was never intended to be self-sustaining. Amenities are covered by our dues. Anne Beaton stated that outside membership fees go into the budget to cover all amenities, not to the tennis center.

Opening comments by the Liaison from the Board, Eddie Hicks

Eddie Hicks congratulated the committee for their hard work in preparing the information for the board. He issued a challenge to the committee and to Nate Griffin to better inform our community regarding participation in the tennis and pickleball programs. Our goal is to make sure our outstanding program protects our members and noted that there are very few complaints. A viable tennis/pickleball program enhances our community as much as a good restaurant at the club enhances the community. He offered his continued support as we move forward to make sure we maintain good programs that benefit our resident and suggested we initiate a PR program to tell the tennis/pickleball story to the community.

Board member, Anita Tierney emphasized that she strongly believes our tennis program enhances the value of our homes.

Comments from Director Nate Griffin

- Nate Griffin reported that he will begin a PR campaign to maximize resident participation in the tennis/pickleball programs.
- Court maintenance is ongoing with getting bids for repairing/replacing the bottom rail and fencing at the pickleball courts, new wind screens, gates/doors. Deborah Landes reported that a large portion of the wind screens are currently down. Anne Beaton questioned the situation with the shrubs by court 9 and Nate stated that they are being moved. Janet DeCostro commented about the new placement of a water cooler by the pickleball courts.

Old Business

Update on Board consideration of summer membership proposal

The proposal for summer memberships was taken up on Friday, June 16th. The proposal including amenities failed the initial vote by the board. Due to the number of River Strand members opposed to the inclusion of amenities, our committee dropped the amenities and the subsequent vote by the board passed 4 to 2. The price of summer memberships for May 1st through October 31st is \$400.00 and will be pro-rated as needed based on date membership purchased. Future summer membership proposals will be revisited annually.

The final motion presented to the Board for voting was as follows:

The Tennis/Pickle ball Committee recommends to the Board that summer outside memberships be authorized for the period of May 1st to October 31st each year. Such memberships will be sold at a price to be determined by the Board upon recommendation from the T/PB Committee, based upon competitive rates, and will include access to the tennis and pickleball courts. In March of each year, the Tennis Committee will recommend to the Board the number of Summer Memberships to be offered for that year and a fee to be charged. For this year, the T/B Committee is proposing 25 Summer Memberships. The recommended rate for this year is \$400 for the summer to be prorated based on the actual start date of the membership.

The board added an amendment to restrict this to individual memberships only.

Discussion and update of number recommendation for annual non-resident members

Eddie Hicks referred to the motion at prior Board of Directors meeting:

- Upon a motion made by Eddie Hicks, seconded by Anita Tierney, it was voted in motion #17-80: to request the tennis committee to make a recommendation to the board of directors to the number of outside tennis only memberships be allowed in 2018, motion carried with Terry Lyons opposed, Anita Tierney, Charles Glasser, Bob Walsh, Mike Fisher, Scott Hancock, and Eddie Hicks in favor. Motion passed.
- Nancy read from the minutes of previous meeting that outside tennis only memberships be limited to 60 for 2018.
- Jack Wilson stated that originally the number of outside memberships was 70, but the committee decided that 60 was a better number. These additional players are needed especially at the upper level of play, however we want to be competitive at every level. He then read back the motions from the last meeting:
 - *Janice McLeod moved that the number of non-resident memberships be increased up to 70; it was seconded by Ann Beaton. Discussion ensued then around the issue of whether 70 might be too many to try for in this first year. Some felt that we should begin more conservatively and then review the results at future meetings.*
 - *Judy Kersten moved to amend the number to 60 memberships and reevaluate each year; Deb Landes seconded; The amendment was then **unanimously approved**. The full motion, as amended, was then taken up and voted upon and was also **unanimously approved**. The final motion recommends that the number of non-resident memberships be limited to 60 at this time.*
- Anne Beaton asked about the current cost of outside memberships; Nate Griffin stated the 2017 rate is \$2,000.00 for family membership and \$1,600.00 for individual membership.

New Business

Review of proposed rule changes

The subcommittee presented a draft of the proposed new River Strand Tennis Rules. The committee used the original River Strand rules to compare and update for legal purposes as requested by the Board. Chuck Olsen noted that the rules looked good, but suggested some changes to the wording. Sylvia Sethares-Heyl and Janet DeCostro discussed numerous changes and offered to format the text and edit the grammar. The updated proposal will be reviewed by the committee at the next meeting.

Next meeting July 18, 5:30 pm. Plan for every third Tuesday

Jack Wilson reminded committee members to be sure to submit requests to him or Nancy Finman for items to be added to the next agenda, including discussion of River Strand Tennis/Pickleball PR campaign ideas.

- Adjournment

The next meeting will be July 18th at 5:30 pm. Future meetings are to be held on every third Tuesday at 5:30 pm. We will use the Clubhouse Board room when available. Dates, times, and location may have to be changed from time to time to accommodate member and facilities availability. Interested members of the Tennis Community are encouraged to check the River Strand members' website for details and the agenda of each meeting. (<http://www.riverstrandgolf.com/-tennis-and-pickleball-committee>)

Motion was made by Janice McLeod to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Anne Beaton.