BOCA WEST
COUNTRY CLUB

MINUTES

MEETING:	Racquet Sports Committee
DATE:	November 10, 2023
MEMBERS PRESENT:	David Shifrin, Chairman; Steve Roth, Vice Chair; Jerry Appelblatt; Howard Attermann; Camille Bauer; Michael Budd; Jeff Cohen; Dr. Marc Finkelstein; Lisa Glassner Frank; Glen Friedman; Karen Sussman; Jane Zenker; Robert Zenn;
MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:	Sandy Boilen;
PARTICIPANTS:	John Joyce, Director of Racquet Sports; Matt McInerney, Assistant Director of Racquet Sports; Maria Tato, Operations Manager
ISSUE DATE:	November 27, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1:33pm.

The minutes from the October 10th, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved after Karen Sussman requested a clarification.

A. Opening comments from John Joyce, Director of Racquet Sports:

1. All of the pickleball courts that were being resurfaced are finished & currently in use.

2. All the existing fencing gaps on the 6 new pickleball courts are going to be filled in with soft fencing.

3. As of today, tennis courts # 24, 25 & 29 are currently being resurfaced.
    a) Because of the limited sun exposure on the 4 south side pickleball courts, the wind screens were removed so that the drying time will be faster on those courts when wet.

4. Signs are up in the pickleball court areas requesting that players do not use chairs for their bags but instead use hooks on the court fences to hang their pickleball bags in order for spectators & resting players to have a place to sit.
    a) An email stating the same was sent to the Racquet Sports Membership.

5. The 1st session of the opening pickleball tournament on Sunday, November 19th is fully committed & 10 spots remain for the 2nd session on Sunday, November 26th.

6. John was pleased to announce that the Boca West Pickleball Exhibition on Saturday, November 25th will feature our new resident touring pro, Christa Gecheva, as well as our new pickleball & tennis pro, Nico Ruiz.
    a) John shared that Nico has been very well received as the new pickleball & tennis pro at Boca West.

7. The International Staff will help organize the pickleball paddle racks in both locations each morning during the season when needed.
    a) The staff will keep an eye on night play to assess if more staffing is needed.

B. Committee Discussions:

a. The Racquet Sports committee discussed that both sessions of the Xglosive evening pickleball event were fully committed within 2 hours of the RSVP opening time.
    - The committee discussed, again, the idea of having a "lottery" system instead of a "1st come-1st served" sign up policy.
        i. A weighted lottery system was discussed to allow members to pick and choose which events they would prefer so the events that they choose not to attend won't give them a sign up advantage for the next event.
        ii. David Shifrin, Committee Chair, initiated a vote & the majority of the committee members preferred to continue with the "1st come-1st served" sign up system that is currently in place.

b. The Kick Off Racquet Sports Exhibition and Dinner was deemed a huge success

- The event had 200 attendees
- It was suggested to have a larger dance floor and a shorter check in line at the event.
- Maria Tato, Director of Operations, shared that the members who attended the tennis exhibition prior to the event were able to check in there & then walk right in.
    i. She said that option will be noted in the invitation next time.

c. POP (pickleball open play) has begun & is well received with an average of 32 members attending each session.

d. The Kitchen Dink Intra Club Pickleball League will hold its inaugural team draft this coming Friday, November 17, 2023 at 11am.

- The Racquet Sports Staff, as well as the league captains & co captains, will conduct the draft.
- As of our committee meeting, there are 230 Racquet Sports members signed up to play on the four teams.

e. The Boca West app has now been updated under "Today at a Glance" to state each evening at closing time that the court opening status will be updated at 7:15am.
- The app seems to be working much better & has alleviated confusion as to whether or not the courts have been checked already each morning.

f. Evening pickleball reservations:
- A member may reserve several courts but the members must have the correct # of players per court in order to reserve more than one at a time.
- We are hoping to have all 14 courts lit at night very soon as the demand seems to have been established.

g. Pickleball courts may be reserved for 30/60/90 minute time slots.
- Time slots will be limited to 60 max during holiday weeks.

h. The Boca West Tennis Singles Cup:
- So far, 14 tennis players have signed up to participate in this ongoing tournament.
- The starting date will be determined.

C. Maria Tato, Operations Manager:

a. Maria reported on the progress of the 1st annual Play For P.I.N.K. Racquet Sports tournament.
- As of our committee meeting, the 1st pickleball session is fully committed & the 2nd session is half committed.
- The tennis PFP tournament currently has 50 players signed up with a potential for a maximum of 108 players.
- Another event reminder email will be sent out to the members after the tennis & pickleball tournaments this coming weekend on November 18th & Sunday, November 19th.

b. Maria shared that many raffle items have already been collected & will need to be packaged together.
- There will be opportunities to purchase raffle tickets at the Racquet Sports Dinner on Friday, December 8th, as well as at the two tournaments on Saturday & Sunday.

- The Friday night dinner will have a "dress in pink" theme with an anticipated attendance goal of 250 members.

D. Camille Bauer:

a. Camille shared that the golf members have been hosting the Play For P.I.N.K. event for the last 15-20 years and as a result, some of our raffle donations & connections may have a cross over on a few items.
   - The Golf PFP committee suggested that they distribute a list of "unavailable" vendors to the Racquet Sports PFP committee so that we would not solicit the same vendors.
   - The Racquet Sports committee voted against that suggestion due to the fact that all donations procured will be benefitting the same charity.

b. Glen Friedman:
   - Glen is pleased to see the Tennis Singles Cup being established as an ongoing season tennis tournament.
   - Glen feels that it is important for our club & committee to ensure that tennis remains a relevant sport in light of the sudden popularity of pickleball.
   - The entire committee concurred.

E. Karen Sussman & Robert Zenn:

a. Both are two of the captains of the newly formed intra club pickleball league, known as "The Kitchen Dinks".

b. Both Karen & Rob have worked hard with the Racquet Sports staff in seeing the idea come to fruition and all are looking forward to the upcoming draft this Friday, November 17th, that will divide the 230 members who have signed up so far into 4 teams with each team consisting of all playing levels.

   - There will be 14 lines playing & competing simultaneously on our 14 pickleball courts on Thursday afternoons, January through March, beginning at 3pm and followed again at 4pm with 14 lines being played again.
   - There will be a total of 28 pickleball matches played each Thursday afternoon in our new intra club league.

F. Howard Attermann:

a. Howard suggested that we find a way to acknowledge all of the Play For P.I.N.K. donors who donate via golf, tennis or pickleball so that all of the Boca West membership can acknowledge their generosity and perhaps that will help alleviate donation solicitation competition for the various sport activities.

G. Matt McInerney, Assistant Director of Racquet Sports:

a. Matt shared that the signup interest for the January Play It Forward co-ed league will field at least two teams.
b. Matt also shared that the Ladies Power Pickleball League has a large response for the January session and Boca West will have enough players to field five teams of women for that league.

- It will be determined by the league whether or not Boca West will be permitted to have more than one team play on the same level.

H. Jerry Appelblatt:

a. Jerry complimented the excellent condition of the newly resurfaced tennis courts and suggested that adding additional pickleball courts should be considered by the club.

I. Jeffrey Cohen:

a. Jeff complimented the change in policy for tennis game arranging & feels that the new system of only being permitted to request one other player is working much better.

J. Michael Budd:

a. Michael questioned whether or not the DUPR system was going to be used for the intra club league and also to determine play ranking in Boca West tournaments.
   - The answer by our staff was yes, the DUPR system will begin being implemented as of this weekend's tournaments.

K. Steve Roth, Vice Chair:

a. Steve brought up the issue of guests, mainly pickleball guests.
   - He questioned whether or not 10am is the best time to allow guests to play and whether or not a paying guest could play earlier.
b. Steve also questioned how the "6 times per season" policy will be implemented so that racquet sports guests don't exceed that limit.
   - Maria Tato & Matt McInerney feel that it will be possible to keep track of the # of times a guest is playing at Boca West so John Joyce has agreed to implement the same "Cobalt" system to keep track of guests if the club begins to use it.
c. Steve agreed to raise the issue at the next Boca West Board meeting that he attends.
   - One of the issues that John Joyce reiterated is that not all members check in on a daily basis before heading out to the courts and they will now be required to interrupt their play to do so.

L. Jane Zenker:

a. Jane requested that a notice be sent to tennis game participants on days when their game is rained out and to please sign up again.
b. Jane also stated that she feels that Racquet Sports has helped enhance the Boca West community and experience & she thanked the committee & staff for their hard work.

M. Marc Finkelstein:

a. Marc wanted to praise all who are involved with tennis.
   - He feels that our tennis program is exceptional.

N. Lisa Glassner Frank:

a. Lisa agreed with Jane that we are very fortunate to have a top notch Racquet Sports program that seems to be the envy of other clubs!
b. Lisa also shared that she has ordered a sample of the pink card stock ribbons that will be displayed in our pro shop window the week leading up to our Play For P.I.N.K. tournament.

- The amount of the donation for each ribbon that can be personalized will be $20.
    i. The donation must be made in cash or by a check made out to "Play For P.I.N.K."
- Lisa also inquired as to whether or not our four intra club teams will each have a team color
    i. the answer was yes, which will help garner team spirit!
- Lisa asked the committee for ideas for a theme for the member/guest pickleball tournament that is scheduled on two dates, January 14th & January 21st.
- Everyone was reminded that a member may invite another member to partner at any member/guest racquet sports tournament.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43pm.

Next meeting will take place on Monday, December 4th at 1:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Glassner Frank

The meeting was called to order at 1:31pm by David Shifrin, Committee Chair.