BOCA WEST
COUNTRY CLUB

MINUTES

MEETING:	Racquet Sports Committee
DATE:	February 13, 2024
MEMBERS PRESENT:	David Shiffrin, Chairman; Steve Roth, Vice Chairman; Jerry Appelblatt; Howard Attermann; Camille Bauer; Michael Budd; Jeff Cohen; Marc Finkelstein; Lisa Glassner Frank; Glen Friedman; Karen Sussman; Jane Zenker; Robert Zenn
MEMBERS ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE:	Sandy Boilen;
PARTICIPANTS:	John Joyce, Director of Racquet Sports; Matt McInerney, Assistant Director of Racquet Sports; Maria Tato, Operations Manager
ISSUE DATE:	February 22, 2024

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

1. David Shifrin announced that today's meeting would be presided over by Racquet Sports Committee Vice Chair, Steve Roth.

2. The minutes from the January Racquet Sports Committee meeting were approved with a request made by Dr. M. Finkelstein which referenced the number of tennis courts that would be replaced to add additional pickleball courts closest to the new Lifestyle Center.
    a. It was hoped that the overall number of revised tennis courts would be kept to a minimum.
    b. The minutes were unanimously approved with this clarification.

3. John Joyce, Director of Racquet Sports reported the following:
    A. On January 21st, the pickleball Member/Guest tournament took place with two sessions available.
        a. Both sessions were fully committed with 56 players in each session.
    B. On January 26th, the ProAm Tennis tournament took place and was very well received
        a. With 40 professional tennis players and 40 Boca West tennis players
    C. On January 31st, the Women's Member/Guest Tennis tournament took place & was fully committed with 108 players participating.
        a. Lisa Pugliese was the guest speaker and discussed the role & need of tennis programs for our special needs community.
    D. On February 9th, Boca West Racquet Sports hosted a Tennis Legends Exhibition.
        a. Participation included Sam Querrey, Ivo Karlovic, Ettore Danesi, and Joaquin Blanco.
    E. The 1st session of Pickleball Color Wars took place on Sunday, 2/11, with 56 players.
        a. The pink team won!
        b. The 2nd session is also fully committed and scheduled to take place on Sunday, 2/18.
    F. February 28th-March 4th, Mixed Doubles Club Championship play-offs are scheduled
    G. March 6th-March 11th, Doubles Club Championship play-offs are scheduled
    H. March 13th-Match 17th, Singles & Combined Age 160+ Club Championship play-offs are scheduled
    I. All entry forms for the tennis club championship playoffs are available at the front desk.
        a. Any event that requires partners needs to have the form signed by both people prior to the entry deadline.
    J. On March 23rd, the Pickleball Club championships will take place with play-all in one day.
        a. There will be 3 sessions of shortened match play that won't require as long as last year.
        b. The rain date will be held the following day, March 24th, if necessary.
    K. Additional gates have been installed in the interior of the newer pickleball courts (#9-14) to close the existing gaps which will help facilitate ease of play.
    L. After much thought, John and the Racquet Sports team provided a solution regarding future pickleball tournaments that will allow for the most amount of players with minimal wait listing:
        a. All future pickleball tournaments will be played in one day with three sessions.
            i. 1st session will play 8:30am-10:30am
            ii. 2nd session will play 11am- 1pm
            iii. 3rd session will play 1pm -3pm
        b. Food will be served at 10:30am for the 1st session, to be refreshed throughout the day.
        c. When pickleball players sign-up for tournaments, staff will assign each player to a session based on ability.

d. Session times will be rotated to keep the playing time fair for all levels.
e. It will be stated on sign-up forms that a lottery system will be instituted if necessary.
f. Also being instituted for future tennis & pickleball tournaments:
    a. Only member/guest teams will be accepted for member/guest tournaments.
    b. Member/member combos will not be accepted.

4. Maria Tato, Operations Manager, reported the following:
    a. A new format is going to be implemented for Club Championship play-offs this spring since it was felt that the play was too long last spring.
    b. A system of "dual bracket" play will be formatted so actual playing time will be shorter.
    c. Another change for next season - Pickleball tournaments on Saturdays instead of Sundays.

5. General Commentary
    A. S. Roth, Committee, Vice Chair, raised the question of how best to handle behavioral issues affecting our Racquet Sports play & our Racquet Sports team play.
        a. Steve suggested that our committee members should help diffuse situations as they arise but are to contact Racquet Sports staff for any unresolved/ unamicable issues.
    B. C. Bauer questioned whether one club member, even if you are on the Racquet Sports committee, has the authority to approach another club member regarding an issue.
        a. Steve recommended diffusing a situation as a first step, but that the staff should be consulted & involved immediately if initial attempts at resolution are unsuccessful.

    C. J.Cohen has witnessed conflicts on tennis courts when play isn't finished but court time is up:
        a. Steve Roth responded that it's nice to allow the current players to finish up a last point, but it's up to the discretion of the member who booked the following time slot on the court.
        b. Jeff suggested informing tennis players who have not finished playing to call the pro shop for other court availability.
        c. It was suggested to have practice tennis sessions arranged in open tennis play for tennis players who will be playing together in upcoming tennis tournaments.

    D. J. Appelblatt commented that he was very happy to learn that guests can use their credit cards when making purchases in our pro shop.
        a. He felt that it should be advertised because sales may increase as a result.
        b. Just to clarify ~ club members must always charge purchases to their member accounts.

    E. L. Glassner Frank complimented the new Racquet Sports pickleball intra club league & how well the matches have been going with little or no conflict between the members playing.
        a. Lisa asked whether or not an intra club league will be considered for tennis as well in the future.

    F. M. McInerney responded to a question regarding the Play It Forward pickleball league & why the matches are played in a staggered & sometimes very delayed fashion
        a. Matt explained that it is a format required by the directors of that league.
        b. The league directors feel that a staggered play format with rest periods in between play is better suited for the age level of players in that league.
        c. C. Bauer added that the Play it Forward league is the most contentious of all league play.
        d. The committee suggested not continuing participation with that league in the future.

G. M. Budd questioned how the DUPR pickleball rating system was faring.
    a. M. McInerney reported that it's going well and that the Play It Forward League and all Boca West Club matches will be inputted to help determine DUPR ratings
        i. However, the Ladies Power League will not be using it.
    b. Michael added that the intra club league seems to be going well without behavioral issues, but perhaps a code of conduct could be mandatory for Racquet Sports members to sign.

H. Dr. M. Finkelstein stated that he has been receiving very good feedback from his tennis contemporaries.

I. J. Zenker conveyed that some of her fellow tennis players have shared that they feel that tennis players are being placed in 2nd place compared to pickleball players.
    a. John Joyce responded that it may seem that way because of the rapidly increasing participation in pickleball, but our tennis program has not being subjugated to pickleball.
    b. In fact, tennis is growing and plans are in place to replace all of our courts in the near future.

J. R. Zenn shared that he thought that the 1st session of pickleball color war was great!
    a. Rob questioned whether or not a lottery system would still be needed for pickleball tournaments if there will be 3 playing sessions on the same day in the future
        i. The response was that a lottery system will most likely not be needed, but it will be stated on tournament forms that a lottery system will be implemented if necessary.
    b. Rob also suggested dividing play level in the intra club league so that more advanced players would play one hour and less advanced players would play the other hour.
        i. K. Sussman thought it would be too difficult to organize that format but S. Roth said that he would consider it.

K. Steve Roth, Racquet Sports Vice Chairman, called for a pause in the meeting & a cake was presented to our outgoing Chairman, David Shifrin,

L. Everyone had an opportunity to thank David for his excellent service to the Racquet Sports committee!

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39pm.