

GV TENNIS CLUB MINUTES - DRAFT

OCTOBER 2, 2013

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Lathrop, Brad Stillahn, Rey Otto, John Hadley, Tully Lawton, Joe Frasier, Judie Mordock, Marge Garneau

GUESTS PRESENT: Jon Otto, Bob Anderson, Grant Alley

President Don Lathrop called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

Minutes:

The minutes from April, 2013 were presented. There being no changes Rey Otto moved they be accepted as presented, John Hadley seconded, Unanimous.

President's Comments:

Don Lathrop thanked those who worked this summer for the Tennis Club.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Rey Otto reported that the checking has a little over \$ 14,000. She recommended the non-operating funds be moved to an interest bearing money market account at the same bank and that it be separated from the operating funds. There was discussion comparing a short-term CD vs a Money Market account and it was decided to put \$10,000 in a money market account.

Treasurer Otto presented the financial report and the proposed budget for this year. She asked for any questions. John Hadley asked why the catered dinner budget was being doubled. President Lathrop felt we need to have programs periodically and should spend some of the funds for paid programs that would interest our membership. It was decided to leave this amount as proposed. Mr. Hadley asked why the budget for Windssocks was so high. Do we need \$300 for these? After discussion it was decided to reduce this to \$75. He also asked what the bimonthly mixer for \$1000 is. Vice President Brad Stillahan stated this is a new item and he is trying to provide more fun events for the members. It was decided this was a good plan and since membership is really static, to leave this in the budget. Jon Otto asked why bimonthly? He suggested we think of them year round. It was decided to change this to monthly and leave the funds available. The GVR assistance program contribution of \$400 was discussed and it was decided to remove this from the budget, the Board felt the money would be better spent to directly benefit Tennis Club members. Discussion about the ball machine line item was held. It was decided that the ball machine brings in its funding and the income/expenses should be the expectations and if the money is not spent by Mr. Frasier then the surplus will carry over to next year. Mr. Frasier stated we need to build a surplus as the way some people are using the ball machine it will need to be replaced more often. Judie Mordock moved the budget be accepted as changed and the financial report as reported. John Hadley seconded. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership:

Rey Otto reported that we currently have 366 members. She noted that Jon Otto will be doing the 50/50 sales and asked if we were to provide prizes for this. The Board records show that the 50/50 income would pay for the prizes and \$40 was taken out of the April income to cover prizes for October. The sales for October will have \$40 removed before splitting it between the winner and the Club.

Rey Otto suggested we change our meeting to 11:30 am so those who have practice on Wednesday do not have to leave the meeting early. It was decided to leave the meetings at 12 noon.

Discussion about the upcoming year's member payment was held. We need to remind people to renew membership. We will do a poster for the Ramada entry gate, take the forms to the Potlucks and hand them one when they sign in, put out some reminder emails – add it to the monthly announcement of the meeting/potluck, and put it in the newsletter. Membership is January through December 31st. If they are new and pay in October for 2014, they get the year plus 3 months.

Reservations: Tully Lawton, we are lacking some monitors at this point. He noted we have lost some due to age or injury. Lost one since she wants to play on a USTA team and not sure when it is. There are four open slots in October. Brad Stillahan said the survey has some people who will monitor. He will get the information to Tully. Mr. Anderson volunteered to do monitor.

Ball Machine: Joe Frasier noted we will need money in the near future. He feels we may have to replace a machine. He noted that the donated balls are working well. When he left for the summer we had 3 ball machines working and when he returned only 1 was working. He stated that he had to change the combination on the backup machine cabinet since someone was taking this machine out and using it. At this time we have 2 machines operating. The normal life of the ball machine is 10 years, with the abuse of a few people we will be lucky to get 5 years out of them. Dick Dempsey is coaching Barb Szabo's 3.5 USTA team and wants to have the two courts and two ball machines reserved for this team practice. After discussion, it was noted that anyone using the ball machine has to be a ball machine member and that there is a policy in place that only Court 2 can be used for the ball machine. So his request was denied. If he chooses to use the one ball machine with his team on Court 2, they must all have a ball machine membership. It was also discussed that no team practices were to be at Las Campanas due to the availability of the ball machine. Since Lou Grau was not in attendance, this could not be verified. Joe noted that there is a "lip" on the existing storage cabinet and this could be causing problems with people putting the machine away and causing the damage to the bottom of the machine. He looked at a different storage cabinet and it would cost \$700 without a bottom lip. Joe stated he will manufacture a ramp that can be added and is not sure if it can be screwed to the storage shed. Bob Anderson volunteered to help Joe with this.

Communications: Marge Garneau reported there were 197 hits on the website in September, which indicates people are looking to return and get involved. We need information on the drop ins for the website and posters. It was decided to put up a notice in the windows at TC Ramada showing the Tennis Club website address. Marge presented the Policy for emails. After discussion, it was moved and seconded to approve these policies. Unanimous. The form for "drop in" coordinators was presented. Some changes were made and Marge was asked to provide this to Jerry LeTendre for distribution to the league coordinators.

Potluck: Judie Mordock noted that she will continue to do it this year but wants to be relieved after this. She needs the volunteer teams to help this year as she has another obligation and cannot be at the potluck to serve. She will decorate and have the tables set up along with a "kitchen duty outline" but the team will need to arrive at 5:00 to handle the rest of the set up. She will return after the potluck to help take things down. It was noted that there are 7 potlucks; new kitchen person takes over April. Don would like to have a captains meeting this year and have them sign up for a potluck right then and there. Judie noted that she is setting up 7 tables for October, which will accommodate 56 people- last year had 40 attend. Decorations need to be protected she donates them to a blind auction after the potluck. Tennis Club does not provide money for decorations. Don noted that the Tennis Club has the funds and the Board agreed they should be paying for the decorations and for the table snacks. Judie noted that she is changing from candy to 8 sealed bags holding a healthier snack for each table.

Tournaments: Brad Stillahan noted that there are 4 and they will be competitive formats. He plans to supplement the tournaments with a challenge ladder for people who want more opportunities. Brad noted that the next one will be in early November. In the past it was held in October and called Octoberfest. The Board moved it to November and changed it to "Noktoberfest" to make it available for the snowbirds. Don noted that the U of A ladies will be here on the 16th in the morning so perhaps the tournament can be run in the afternoon.

Programs: Don Lathrop noted that the ladies team from the U of A will be here November 16th. This is not a Potluck entertainment item and he is working on programs at this time.

USTA/Afternoon; Lou Grau was not in attendance. Rey Otto stated that the USTA had a Captains meeting and they were informed the captains can do a third set in lieu of a 10 point tie break if both captains agree and if the facility allows time for this. After discussion, Rey moved that the Tennis club require USTA teams to play a third set 10 point tie break in lieu of a 3rd set on GVR courts due to time constraints. Marge seconded. Unanimous

Leagues: Jerry LeTendre was not in attendance. Brad Stillahan stated that he spoke with Jerry and at this point there will be Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday "community" leagues. Dempsey is the Captain of Tuesday; Thursday is a Coed League and he was not sure what the Friday one is. It was noted that Paul Taylor will have the Ultras on Monday afternoons beginning next Monday.

Discussion was held on the definition of a Tennis Club league – either drop in or "community". Can this "community" league be exclusive or must it be non-exclusive and open to all GVR (or GV Tennis Club Members) in order to have courts reserved. It was felt that the Club is asking for trouble if we set up exclusive groups. Tully noted that the study he did last year for GVR showed that in the afternoon only 56% of the time taken up by reserved courts last fall.

Jon Otto suggested the following definitions:

Drop in leagues – open to any GVR member and criteria/definition set by the Tennis Club Board.
Structured league (community league): Organization with a captain. If they have criteria, anyone who meets the criteria (skill set or physical) should have the opportunity to play in that league. Not by invitation. If it is an exclusive league the Tennis Club will not give them courts. Players must be a GVR member.

It was decided that no “community” leagues will be given courts at this time except Paul Taylor, which is a non-exclusive community league that is ongoing. A special meeting will be held once Jerry returns to Green Valley for further discussion on this issue and to define what a Tennis Club League is. Tentative date for this meeting will be October 16.

Maintenance: John Hadley thanked Brad for filling in this summer while he was gone. He reported the following:

Open Items:

- Windscreens need to be tied down. He would like to give people ties to put them on the windscreens. Last year they put ties on the courts and they were stolen. They are expensive so John needs to control who has them.
- Lockable cabinet at Desert Hills for materials for Clinics has not been handled by GVR.
- Decision is still ongoing for viewing stands on ct 4 at west being raised.
- Cabana on Las Campanas not completed.
- Sunshade for Court 1 viewing at west – There are 2 at the CH pickleball courts and these cost \$4900 each installed. We would need about \$6000 for Court 1 viewing area.
- New Ramada door – trying to get door closure and glass installed.
- Windsocks provided not up yet
- River rock at West court 1 viewing has been determined to be unsafe and John has notified GVR.

John noted that the Tennis Club Board give him the okay to purchase ball holders/waste paper baskets – not ordered yet. They are about \$35 each. There will be 5 for West. Do we want ball holders and baskets or just holders? Do we want to do them at DH? Rey Otto suggested only a ball holder. Judie Mordock agreed and noted she felt they should be on all 5 courts at west. Since these are only \$13 each, it was decided to put them on all courts at GVR. John will handle this.

John stated that ice is being dropped on the floor at the West Ramada and melting, causing a safety issue. He recommended we purchase a floor mat. Discussion centered on the tripping hazard and it was determined this could be handled. Marge moved we purchase a mat to place in front of the ice machine, Brad 2nd. Unanimous.

Judie Mordock noted that the ice machine scoop should have an enclosed plastic container to be placed in when not in use. It is currently being put back into the machine. The Board decided to purchase this and John will handle it. Jon Otto asked if we need to have a “bio safe line” at the bottom so ice remains in the machine for emergency use. John will look into this.

Renner is building courts in Tucson, and GVR has informed John they are going to look at court 2 at west but has not provided a date or time.

Ball sweeper – John noted he asked Lanny Sloan, GVR Executive Director, to purchase a sweeper for the ball machine and this request was removed from the GVR list in February. Joe Frasier said we don’t have the storage for it and leave it off the table. The Board concurred.

John said the players now have bag hooks on west cabanas and have been utilizing them. It was decided to add these at Desert Hills.

West ramada curtains: John noted he has been looking into some type of curtains for around the outside of the Ramada. It will be put on hold until we see how the new door works. It was asked why we have a San Quinton door – John noted that GVR had this door; he was not made aware they were going this in place of the lexan on the screen door and they plan to add glass in the top part of the door.

It was decided to add East Courts to the West Center reservation Boards. It will look just like the others and the morning “double faulters drop in” will be written in from 7:30 am to noon. It should be shown as open in the afternoon. GV Tennis club will cover the cost.

John had a request from a USTA Captain that we renumber the courts at west. They would like ct 5 to become court 1; next to it ct 2; court 1 becomes 3; then 4, 5, 6. This means the pro gets ct 6 by the lower viewing stand. After discussion, it was decided to renumber the courts. John will handle this and will notify Lou Grau for scheduling purposes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Survey: Brad Stillahan noted that 181 answered if they were satisfied with the Tennis Club. Of these 85 very satisfied, 80 satisfied, with 14 neutral, and 2 dissatisfied. The Board asked Brad to have the results posted in the website and provide the information at the Potluck. Brad noticed that 164 of the responders check email daily and that 122 said they would use an online reservation system.

Online viewing of court conditions: On the survey 95 said they would check court availability online. 46 said maybe 41 said no. Jon Otto reported that he has been testing some webcams and some ideas. Jon built a system to upload still pictures to a website. Every 5 minutes the prototype shows the court motion. He also noted that there is a weather station near Las Campanas and a non working one 20 feet away from west center court 2. He is working on showing the reservation board – it needs to be larger so it can be read. We need a camera doing 2 courts, new power, and a router with an address. If we move forward Jon recommended we start at East Center; Las Campanas; and Madera; then other courts later. Cost about \$300 per facility. It was decided to continue this process and Jon will build a prototype to show at the potluck.

Automated Reservation system: Brad Stillahan noted that he plans to introduce an online system for the tournaments and mixers. He would like to have a committee to look at online reservations to replace the boards. Ideas were discussed and it was decided if we convert to an online system we need to do it in the summer to work out the bugs and to completely replace the reservation boards. Tully thinks we are fine now. He hasn't had any complaints from members on how we are doing this. Survey said most people were happy with the system 95% said they would use an online system. Don felt we don't have a problem with the current system and there could be problems with conversion to automation - with the web cams we have enough on our plate. Tully the key to this is you have to have paid people because volunteers won't be able to do it. They will need more knowledge. It was decided to keep this on back burner for now.

Bylaws: Marge Garneau provided proposed changes to the Bylaws. Changes were made by Board members and it was decided to take them to the membership in January.

Rey Otto said she has been asked if there is a reduced rate for the ball machine memberships if you join half way through the year. It was decided that \$25 is very inexpensive compared to other clubs and the

Board did not feel it was necessary to offer part year discounts. This could cause a lot of extra work for the Treasurer and Membership chairperson.

At 3 pm John Hadley moved to adjourn, Rey Otto seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Garneau
Acting Secretary