Voyager Pickleball Board Minutes

# February16, 2019

## Opening

The regular meeting of the Voyager Pickleball Board Minutes was called to order at 10:00 AM on February16, 2019 by President Gary Meldrum.

## Present

Gary Meldrum (President), Dave Hart (Court Maintenance), Tammie Brown (Treasurer), Larry Rauh (Structured Play), Nancy Heebsh (Player Improvement), Sandy Black (Tournament Coordinator), Dale Secord (Communications Coordinator & Secretary)

Richard Hyde (Court Usage) absent

Also present were our two co-social coordinators: Charlene Quandt and Peggy Douglas

**Attendance**

## There were 10 club members present

## Opening Comments

Gary prefaced the beginning of the meeting with comments that there would be a Welcome Back function at the beginning of next year’s season to encourage players to come back and play.

**Agenda**

Dale Secord suggested two items – approval to purchase Sign Up Genius and to have a committee to provide to the Board options, costs and suggested locations for new pickleball courts.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were posted on the Voyager Pickleball Web site, Facebook and Club Email. Motion to approve by Dale Secord and seconded by Sandy Black. Minutes were approved.

## Old Business

Club tee shirts for instructors will be ordered for all instructors.

There will be a survey of club members at the next social event on Thursday regarding changes to the rating system and several other issues to get feedback to the Board before action is taken. Survey Monkey (an online survey process) will also be used.

The Board had a recent meeting with Geoffrey Campbell, ELC General Manager to thank him for the actions that Voyager had taken to support pickleball. He indicated that the next budget would possibly include monies to replace the volley ball court with pickleball court(s).

## There was a discussion of whether to purchase a new Tutor ball machine. The forthcoming survey of players at the social and Survey Monkey will address whether the players are interested in using a Tutor pickleball machine. We can use the SUG and PayPal to rent out the Tutor machine. Dan Galvin stated that we would need to establish a specific time and day for players to use a pickleball machine. There have been several Tutor sessions at 4pm on Tuesdays. The initial interest was encouraging.

BYOB – the Voyager Pickleball club provides liability insurance for Voyager groups desiring to consume liquor in the ballroom. The Voyager Pickleball club collects BYOB monies from the activity office when other organizations request having liquor at the ballroom. Any monies collected exceeding our liability insurance is donated to a local charity. The Board is looking for suggestions on which charitable organization(s) to give the excess monies to this year.

Dale Secord suggested we consider either the USAPA’s preferred charity (St. Jude’s) or the Tucson Boys and Girls Club. The consensus was to give the excess BYOB monies to .the Salvation Army Toys Drive. There was a motion by Dale Secord to donate $300 to the Salvation Army Toys Drive. The motion was approved.

Gary Meldrum discussed the need for six new board members: Tournament Coordinator, Court Maintenance, Communications, Treasurer, Structured Play and Court Usage. Applications are available in the Activity Office and will be posted on the bulletin boards.

## New Business

## Judy Cameron was awarded a GAMMA paddle for being the February volunteer of the month.

## Court assignments – there has been some concerns raised regarding the court assignments for the 3.0 players. There have been long wait times for the 3.0 players. One possibility is to have the 3.0 players use Court 6 after 10 am. Any changes would be for next season.

New charity or community projects – Dale Secord made the observation that the Pickleball Club does not always have a good image with other residents of Voyager. Several years ago some of our club members discussed possible programs that the Pickleball club could do for the Voyager community. One idea brought forth was for the Club in coordination with the ELC Voyager, local fire departments, and big box stores to provide new 9 volt batteries for the smoke alarms. Many of the elderly residents likely have not tested their smoke alarms or replaced the batteries. With $500 from the Club and a matching $500 from ELC Voyager we could test smoke alarms and replace the batteries. Dan Galvin raised the concern of litigation claiming we caused a problem with their smoke alarm.

Larry Rauh volunteered to talk to the Voyager Caring Committee to solicit feedback on what the Pickleball Club could do for the Voyager residents.

**Board Member Reports**

**Treasure’s Report** – Tammy Brown

The income for the fiscal period October 1, 2018 to February 14, 2019 was $7,888.37. Total expenses for the period were $4,739.42 and the net income for the period was $3,148.95.

The bank balances at year-end as of September 30, 2018 was $9,315.62, a savings account balance of $50 and an additional $438.18 available in our Voyager account at the Activity Office.

The bank balances as of February 14, 2019 was $12,289.57 in the checking account, $50.00 in the savings account and $438.18 in the Voyager account at the Activity Office. Cash on hand was $100 used as startup money for the monthly social events.

The Treasures report was approved by the Board. A motion was by Dale Secord and seconded by Sandy Black to approve the Treasures report. The motion was approved.

The $5 per clinic has been successful in respect to nearly everyone who signed up for a clinic via Sign Up Genius has shown up at the court and paid the $5. Dan Galvin pointed out that the $5 is a commitment or “skin in the game”. He also indicated that we consider charging for lessons where the “show up” rate is erratic.

**Structured Play** – Larry Rauh

The structured play involvement has exceeded previous years since 2012. This year we have had 100 more players than the same time period last year because we have more courts available.

There are mentoring sessions for both the 2.5 and 3.0 players and they have been successful. Next year schedule will be the same as this year.

**Court Maintenance** – Dave Hart

Dave has been sealing cracks in the court surfaces. Dave has been assisting Richard Hyde to place new balls in the various courts. The major problem has been some of the older balls that were placed in the storage box often end back in the court storage tubes.

Also players are not returning balls back to ball tubes after playing a game and leaving the ball on the court.

The tennis net between courts 11/12 and 13/14 needs to be repaired or replaced. We have requested ELC Voyager to replace the old tennis net with a sturdy metal fence because the existing fence is a potential hazard if a player runs into the net.

Dave will purchase a couple of new ball “picker uppers” but larger than the ones purchased previously.

Dave stated that he is in favor of taking over another tennis court for future expansion because it would be less expensive than replacing the deteriorated volley ball court. There was considerable discussion of new pickleball courts. Dale Secord suggested a small committee study the options, costs and issues and make a recommendation to the Board for further action by ELC Voyager.

**Court Usage** – Richard Hyde (absent)

Although Richard was absent others have stepped up and completed his responsibilities such as replacing balls,

**Player Improvement** – Nancy Heebsh

There are still some players who are experiencing problems with Sign Up Genius because they are uncomfortable with computer concept of online signups. In January some players were signing up for multiple clinics but the situation has improved for February.

The evaluations of the clinics by those participating in the clinics have been very good.

To encourage more instructors, Nancy is initiating the use of “co-instructors” to lessen the fear by some as the “instructor”.

Jim Williams will be conducting a clinic on February 22 on Court 3 at 11 am. This will be a game where as it progresses there will be a pause and Jim will point out strategies, etc.

**Tournament Coordinator** – Sandy Black

The in-house Voyager player tournament will be held March 12, 13 & 14th using a round robin format. Announcements have been on the Facebook page and there will be an email sent out to all players and posted in the Voyager Compass. The registration fee will be $10 and $5 per event thru PayPal.

**Communication**s – Dale Secord

Dale worked with Jane Gilmore this past month to update the Welcome Letter for distribution to the Activity Office, Registration Office and the Pickleball Facebook page.

The Voyager Facebook page continues to be utilized by players. There are 213 members and 8 new members this past month. There have been 290 posts, comments & reactions.

The have been over 1300 visitors to the Voyager Web site and Dale is continuing to update the content. The Social Coordinators will have access to add information to the web site.

There are now 4 separate Sign Up Genius accounts – clinics, reserved courts, rating request and now the Tuesday Tutor sessions. Dale made a motion to purchase the Gold version of Sign Up Genius. Dale explained that the $249/year SUG would allow for multiple administrators, provide for a process to collect fees for clinics and tutor rental, have ability to establish sign up start/stop dates, and display/group all our SUGs together with tabs instead of separate SUGs. There was no consensus on the purchases of a paid version for next year.

Dale Secord read a statement to apologize to the Club about an incident that occurred several weeks ago when a player was upset that he was not able to play on court 1 when a clinic was scheduled.

**Social Coordinators** – Char Quandt and Peggy Douglas

The next social will be Thursday, February 21st in the ballroom at 6 pm. There will be a drawing for prizes and some pickleball gear to give away. There will be a dance and the annual Awards Ceremony in March.

There was a discussion of purchasing outdoor patio heaters for use at the Thursday courtyard social events and for use with our tournaments. Dale Secord made a motion to spend up to $500 to purchase two patio heaters to donate to Voyager for use in the courtyard after approval from Voyager ELC. The motion was seconded by Larry Rauh and the motion was approved.

**Rating Committee Coordinator** – Dave Bobanick (absent)

No report

**Public Comments –** Skip Deming commented on the subject of new pickleball courts, Skip suggested that we talk to Jean Cary who is a key person within the tennis community. The tennis players would likely be the group most opposed to using tennis court for new pickleball courts.

Skip also suggested that the committee reviewing the pickleball rating procedure include one person from the group that drafted the existing rating system. Skip was drafted to be that person.

## Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM by President Gary Meldrum. The next general meeting will be at 10:00 AM on March 16, 2019 in the Santa Rita room.

| Minutes submitted by: | Dale Secord, Board Communication Coordinator & Secretary |
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| Approved by: | Gary Meldrum, President |