

**Voyager Pickleball Club Board Meeting**  
**Arizona Room, Voyager Resort**  
**March 11, 2023**

**Board Member Attendees:**

Bethel Edens, Vice President (acting President)	Karen Paurus, Player and Constituents Representative
Beryl Schultze, Secretary	Evelyn Bellotti-Busch, Court Maintenance and
Lori Schneider, Treasurer	incoming President (See Addendum #1)

Note: Any paragraph/statement marked with an asterisk (\*) denotes a motion and/or vote.

**Call to Order:**

Bethel Edens called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. In addition to the Board members there were 15 Club members in attendance. (See attached) Bethel welcomed and thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting.

**Changes to the Agenda**

\*Evelyn Bellotti-Busch made a motion to bring the introduction of new Board members from New Business to the beginning of the meeting. Bethel Edens seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Since Karen Paurus and Evelyn were on the Nominating Committee Bethel asked them to explain the nomination and voting process and make the introductions.

Evelyn explained that besides herself and Karen, there were three non-Board member volunteers on the Committee: Karen T., Tom R., and Janet W. Evelyn thanked them for their contributions. She went on to explain that there were not many applicants but there was one for each open position, except for Tournament Coordinator. The Committee members reviewed all the candidate applications, met with each applicant and came to the conclusion that each applicant was well suited to assume the duties of the open position for which they were each applying.

Evelyn proceeded to introduce four of the new Board member who were elected and will assume their positions on May 1<sup>st</sup>:

- Jerry Heintze – Vice President
- Catherine Brown – Structured Play / Player Improvement
- Joel Mietzner – Social Director (See Addendum #4)
- Mark Jordon – Court Maintenance Coordinator (absent)

Karen Paurus introduced one remaining position:

- Evelyn Bellotti-Busch – President

Beryl Schultze thanked Bethel Edens, outgoing Vice President, for her contributions to the Board during her 2-year term and for the help she offered new Board members. Bethel offered to act as the interim Tournament Coordinator until someone is found to permanently fill the position. (See Addendum #3)

**Approval of Minutes:**

\*Bethel Edens called for approval of the February meeting minutes. Beryl Schultze stated that the minutes had been reviewed by the Board members and were ready to be approved. Lori Schneider made a motion to approve the February minutes and seconded by Evelyn Bellotti-Busch. The motion passed.

**Old Business:**

Tournament and Social

Bethel Edens asked Priscilla Scott, who is working on the upcoming in-house tournament on March 16-18, to provide a status of the tournament. Priscilla stated registration has been slow, especially in the Intermediate and men categories. Most registrations are in the Advanced Beginner and Advanced levels. Priscilla urged the attendees to encourage registration among fellow players. She reminded them that registration closes Monday night the 13<sup>th</sup>. At the time of the meeting 60 people were registered.

Bethel then asked Peggy Douglas, who is working with Susan Hawkey and other volunteers on the 'The Big Dill' social after the tournament to provide an update. Peggy indicated advertisement for the social will be published in the coming

week on Voyager Pickleball Facebook, by email, on the Voyager Pickleball website, and on bulletin boards with the social details. Peggy provided an overview of the food and activities planned. There will be a free taco bar with all the trimmings. Attendees are asked to bring a dessert to share and their own beverages. Raffles tickets will be sold for donated prizes. Medal winners from the tournament will also be introduced. Bethel thanked Peggy and Susan for taking charge of the social. Evelyn and Bethel reminded the attendees that the tournament name has been changed to the Voyager Resident Memorial Tournament. Bethel added there would be a table with names and pictures of those players who have passed.

#### Membership Committee

Beryl Schultze gave a status update on the Membership Committee. Because of the resignation of several members and time constraints Beryl recommended that further work with a Membership Committee be postponed until next fall. She also proposed sending out a survey to all players on the pickleball email list to determine whether players favor membership with voting privileges or not and their thoughts on other related issues.

Bethel Edens asked attendees to find out about their local pickleball clubs whether they have boards, memberships, etc. There was some discussion on finding out this information and sending out surveys.

#### Next Season Events and Court Play

Bethel Edens indicated that the Board intends to create a calendar of events for next season to better monitor court usage for special events. The Board requests any player or group who would like to hold any special event next year to send the information and dates to Catherine Brown by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Bethel stressed that sending the dates to Catherine doesn't guarantee the event and/or dates. They will be considered along with the usual events, i.e. tournaments, socials, etc. Catherine will work with Jerry Heintze to create the calendar for court usage that once approved will be available to everyone.

Bethel and Evelyn Bellotti-Busch also pointed out that the calendar will also help with budgeting and keeping track of expenses for events. There was discussion among the attendees and Board members about budgets and costs of equipment and repairs covered by the Club. A suggestion was made to add 'Fun Facts' to the Voyager website to provide information to the Club, which the majority of players may not be aware.

#### Next Season Lessons

Jane Gilmore reminded everyone that she will no longer be leading and teaching the Beginner and Beginner Plus classes. Larry Frye has agreed to take over these classes. Bethel Edens reminded the attendees that lessons this season and probably next are held on courts 1-5 from 11:00-12:30, Monday – Friday. Jane typically uses 2-3 courts. Any courts not being used for lessons during that time are available for open play. Bethel told the group that teachers, leaders, and helpers are always needed for lessons.

#### Paddle Holders in the Summer

Bethel Edens told the attendees that paddle holders will stay up during the summer. Paddle holders will now be a permanent part of pickleball at the Voyager. The Board is looking into new paddles holders constructed of materials that should withstand the summers in Tucson. The plan is to order and use one paddle holder during the summer to see how it performs and if it withstands the summer conditions additional paddle holders may be ordered. (See Addendum #2)

Discussion switched to some nets being removed for the summer and then to lighted courts. It was brought up that if courts 7-12 are redone, as proposed by the Board to Voyager management, wiring should be placed so that those courts could be wired for lights in the future.

#### **New Business:**

There was no additional New Business.

#### **Board Member Reports:**

##### Treasurer

Lori Schneider provided an update on the current financial status of the Club. The checking account balance as of March 5, 2023 was \$11,268.84 and the savings account balance was \$50.00 both with Hughes Federal Credit Union. It was the opinion of Lori, as Treasurer, that the Voyager Pickleball Club is in satisfactory financial operating condition at this time.

With a new Voyager Pickleball Board President and a new Vice President the following are now authorized to sign for Voyager Pickleball Club accounts at Hughes Federal Credit Union: President Evelyn Bellotti-Busch, Vice-President Jerry Heintze, and Treasurer Lori Schneider. Removed from authorization are Esther Franco and Bethel Edens.

An attendee asked Lori if she knew how much the Club has spent on balls this season. Lori estimated \$2000. This opened up a discussion between the use of Core balls and Franklin balls and whether there is a difference.

### **Player Representative**

Karen Paurus reviewed the comments, complaints and conflicts report that she recorded for February and will be sending to Voyager Management. There were 43 entries, half of which were conflicts or misuse of the courts. The remainder entries were general information. An attendee asked Karen if there's been any response to one specific incident that was reported by a number of people. Karen had asked Shannon Kemlo, Activities Director, about it. Shannon told Karen that it was Geoffrey's problem and she (Shannon) didn't know anything more. Karen encouraged anyone who has an issue is free to talk to Shannon who has an open-door policy. Karen did say Shannon would ask if they had spoken to Karen since it would need to be included in Karen's report.

Karen then brought up the subject of ordering T-shirts or other clothing with a logo, and possible infringement of trademarks. Karen has discussed this with Shannon and she said if anyone has questions about this they should talk to Shannon or Karen. Karen said that she is doing her own investigation into the use of logos and trademarking of them.

Karen also wanted to alert the attendees that cyber bullying has been reported in the pickleball community via posts on Voyager's Facebook sites, texts and emails. If anyone is a victim of any type of cyber bullying they should not engage but instead report it to Karen. Voyager Management is aware of it, as well as ELS and Courtesy Patrol. This opened up a discussion among everyone. Bethel Edens reminded the attendees to be on alert and if they are being targeted or see anyone or anything targeting someone else they should call Courtesy Patrol immediately.

### **Court Maintenance**

Evelyn Bellotti-Busch brought up again the use of paddle holders. She explained the paddle holder purchased from Udall did not hang on the fences correctly because of being metal and its weight. As mentioned earlier, the Board is considering a new style of paddle holder once the weight of it has been determined to be acceptable.

Evelyn also brought up the ball machine. The current ball machine is not working. Evelyn wants the Board and Club to consider purchasing a new ball machine that can be used regularly and perhaps with lessons. Brian Rickman reported that he has his own and Dale Secord has one. It was agreed to first see if the current machine could be repaired. Dawna Diaz, an attendee, volunteered her husband Ming to check out the old ball machine and even do routine maintenance on it if it can be repaired.

Evelyn reported that the 100 Selkirk balls she had purchased did not work out because of their poorer quality. Selkirk agreed to reimburse for 30 of the balls. She will put the remainder of those balls as well as other balls out before she leaves and make them available for the summer.

### **Public Comment:**

An attendee asked if the Board could put up a notice by the paddle holders asking players to play only to a winning of score of 9 when very busy. He also wanted to thank the Board for all their contributions this past season. He stated many, many more people had a great experience than the few who complained continually.

### **Adjourn:**

Bethel adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beryl Schultze  
Secretary

(See Addendums on next page.)

\*Addendum #1: During the Executive Board meeting on March 9, 2023 before any motions and voting occurred, Evelyn-Bellotti-Busch resigned her position as Court Maintenance Coordinator. After this act there was a motion by Bethel Edens, seconded by Beryl Schultze, to approve the slate of officers for the Board of Directors as presented by the Nominating Committee for the following positions: President, Evelyn-Bellotti-Busch; Vice President, Jerry Heintze; Structured Play/Player Improvement, Catherine Brown; Court Maintenance Coordinator, Mark Jordan; and Social Director, Joel Meitzner. The motion passed unanimously.

\*Addendum #2: At a Board work session on March 21, 2023 a motion was made by Lori Schneider, seconded by Evelyn Bellotti-Busch, to order the paddle holder discussed at the Board meeting held on March 11, 2023. Since there were not enough current Board members present to take a vote on the motion, emails were sent out to current Board members requesting their votes on the motion. Returned Board member emails approved the motion unanimously.

\*Addendum #3: On April 3, 2023 an email motion was made by Evelyn Bellotti-Busch, seconded by Karen Paurus, to elect Diane McGee and Karen Tratiak as Tournament Co-coordinators for the upcoming term beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a non-voting position. Emails were subsequently sent out to current Board members requesting their votes. Returned Board-member emails approved the motion unanimously.

Addendum #4: On September 9, 2023 emails from Joel Mietzner were received by Board members indicating Joel was unable to fulfill his positions as Social Director due to family issues. He therefore was resigning his position on the Board effective immediately. Discussions on his replacement will be included in the agenda at the Executive Board meeting on November 11, 2023 prior to the general Board meeting.