

Voyager Pickleball Club Board Meeting
Arizona Room, Voyager Resort
February 18, 2023

Board Member Attendees:

Evelyn Bellotti-Busch, Court Maintenance Coordinator
Karen Paurus, Player and Constituents Representative

Beryl Schultze, Secretary
Lori Schneider, Treasurer

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

Call to Order:

Due to the absence of the Bethel Edens, Vice President (acting President), Evelyn Bellotti-Busch assumed chair duties for the meeting. Evelyn called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. In addition to the Board members there were 10 Club members in attendance. (See attached)

Evelyn welcomed and thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting.

Changes to the Agenda:

There were no changes to the agenda.

Jane Gilmore had requested time to speak at the meeting and was introduced by Evelyn Bellotti-Busch. Jane, who has organized and taught the Beginner and Beginner Plus classes for 10 seasons, provided an update of the current season through February 14. She reported that the Beginner classes, which began in November, have had 90 participants out of 153 who signed up. Jane emphasized that this rate of drop out is not unusual. Beginner Plus classes were not held in the fall and there have been two rain cancellations. They have had 51 participants out of 89 sign-ups.

Jane also wanted it on record that sometime before 2005 there was an unwritten verbal agreement with Voyager for the Pickleball Club to provide free pickleball lessons as payback for pickleball courts built by Voyager. The Club also provided money for building some pickleball courts. Jane wanted it noted that the Club can't "cancel" any courts or "do away with them" unless it is agreeable to Voyager and above.

Jane also mentioned that she is working on finding replacements for herself since this is her last year of managing the Beginner and Beginner Plus classes. Karen Paurus commented that the Board is also looking to help Jane find replacements.

A few questions were raised about the new paddles paid for by the Club for the Beginner and Beginner Plus classes and about the courts paid for by the Club. Jane answered the paddle questions and referred court questions to Priscilla Scott. The subject of other classes and clinics came up with some questions and discussions. Evelyn was able to provide answers and explanations.

Approval of Minutes:

*Evelyn Bellotti-Busch called for approval of the January minutes. Beryl Schultze stated that the minutes had been reviewed by the Board members and were ready to be approved. Karen Paurus made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes, seconded by Evelyn. The motion passed.

Beryl also announced that she received a thank you card from John Mosher's wife Debbie and family for the Club's \$100 donation towards the memorial bench for John. John was a Board member prior to his illness and passing last year. The card was passed around for the attendees to see.

Old Business:

Beryl Schultze provided the status of the Membership Committee, which had been established when Jim Bach was on the Board. Nothing had been presented to the Board by the time Jim resigned from the Board. Beryl is calling the committee together again to establish a plan for a Club membership that will give members the privilege to vote for Board members. An upcoming meeting is scheduled.

Karen Paurus gave a status report on the Nominating Committee. She and Evelyn Bellotti-Busch are leading the committee. Karen reviewed the steps of the Nominating Committee to identify candidates for Board positions. Karen also said there are 4 or 5 off-Board Club members who are interested in being on the committee and helping recruit candidates for the open Board positions. Karen reviewed the open positions. A committee meeting is scheduled for the coming week.

Karen Paurus also discussed the need to move the paddle holders for courts 1-6 after receiving a number of complaints from Voyager residents on crowding around the sidewalk area near the entrance to courts 5 and 6 where paddle holders are currently located. There was significant and lengthy discussion with the attendees on the best location for moving the paddle holders. The Board will make a final decision on location and will move them.

New Business:

Evelyn Bellotti-Busch gave a status update on the in-house tournament scheduled for March 16-18. Volunteers are working on the on-line registration process. Others are planning the social that will follow the tournament and be called The 'Big Dill' Social. More volunteers are still needed. Evelyn told the attendees to watch for registration and other information on the Voyager pickleball website, Facebook page, and in emails. The Board is planning to rename the tournament to honor those Voyager pickleball players who have passed. The new name will be the Voyager Resident Memorial Pickleball Tournament.

Evelyn informed the attendees that the Board will start work on next year's calendar beginning in March. She asked that Club members who have any classes, clinics and/or event(s) that they want on next year's calendar should inform the Board. The Board will review them and fulfill date requests, if possible.

Board Member Reports:

Treasurer

Lori Schneider provided an update on the current financial status of the Club. The checking account balance as of February 15, 2023 was \$11,181.68 and the savings account balance was \$50.00. It was the opinion of Lori, as Treasurer, that the Voyager Pickleball Club is in satisfactory financial operating condition at this time.

An attendee asked about expenditures to date. Lori did not have exact numbers on all expenditures with her but she was able to give estimates for higher expenditure items. The social in January cost a little over \$1000, about \$400 more than last year. The cost of pickleballs is about \$2000 per year. Lori also pointed out that the net gain from the holiday tournament was about \$5600.

Following the report there were general questions and discussion on the Club's finances, including expenditures, budget, accounts, etc.

Player Representative

Karen Paurus began by reviewing her role and what she does with the filled-out comment cards found in the Comment Box located at the bulletin board by courts 13-16. Karen shared that in January she accumulated 8 pages of comments collected from the comment cards, verbal exchanges, and Facebook postings. Most comments were complaints about the changes in Structured Play, Player Improvement, lessons, etc. from last year. Thus far in February Karen has 4 pages of comments and most of the complaints are now about misuse of courts and the paddle holder locations. She also stated that there have been a lot of compliments and offers of help to the Board, especially after the recent resignations. Karen expressed our appreciation for those positive comments.

Karen read from her report for Voyager management that members of the pickleball community, especially Board members, have received harassing and disturbing verbal and written comments. She went on to read that some are hearsay but others have been witnessed to come directly from a small group of individuals who want to "destroy the Board." Karen has met with Voyager management to make them aware of this continuing harassment. There were questions and lengthy and intense discussion with the attendees on different aspects of Karen's report.

Court Maintenance

Evelyn Bellotti-Busch reminded the attendees that she and Darwin Pugmire walked the courts in January with Shannon Kemlo, Activities Director, to point out the large budget items that need attention. Shannon told Evelyn the projects would need to be prioritized and documented on specific forms in order to be included in discussions with ELS for the 2024-2025 Voyager budget. Evelyn has completed the documentation and presented the four projects prioritized by the Board in order:

1. Redo courts 9-12 because of their age and poor condition with large cracks and crevices.
2. Partially concrete the areas outside courts 1 and 2 because of the tracking of small stones onto the courts.
3. Resurface courts 1, 2, 5 and 6 because they are starting to show their wear.
4. Redo courts 11 and 12 because of the cracks and the persistent water still running into court 12. This project need only happen if project #1 is not completed.

Evelyn will be meeting with Shannon to discuss the forms prior to Voyager management budget discussions.

Another requested item from players is an additional dink board by the pool-side courts. Evelyn doesn't believe Voyager will allow one like in court 3 because of the weight of it on a fence. Evelyn has been made aware of a portable dink board and will be following up on that possibility.

Public Comment:

One attendee spoke up and asked why the Board President and other members on the Board had resigned. Evelyn told the attendee to ask that question to the parties that had resigned.

Evelyn Bellotti-Busch called for a motion to adjourn. Beryl Schultze made the motion, which was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beryl Schultze
Secretary