

**Voyager Pickleball Club Board Meeting  
Santa Rita Room, Voyager Resort  
November 11, 2023**

**Board Member Attendees:**

Evelyn Bellotti-Busch, President  
Jerry Heintz, Vice-President  
Beryl Schultze, Secretary  
Lori Schneider, Treasurer  
Mark Jordon, Court Maintenance

Karen Paurus, Player and Constituents Representative  
Diane McGee, Tournament Co-coordinator  
Karen Tratiak, Tournament Co-coordinator  
Catherine Brown, Structured Play/Player Improvement (via phone)

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

**Call to Order:**

Evelyn Bellotti-Busch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Besides the Board attendees there were 18 Club members who signed-in and attended the meeting (see attachment). Evelyn introduced the Board members and explained that we would be seeking a new Social Director, due to the recent resignation of the previous director.

**Corrections or Additions to the Agenda:**

There were no changes or additions to the agenda and it stood as presented.

**General Comments from the President:**

Evelyn Bellotti-Busch explained her previous experience conducting meetings. She stated she believes in running things with order but saw no issue going forward. Evelyn indicated the Board is working on a number of things for the upcoming season, some of which would begin December 1<sup>st</sup>. Evelyn emphasized that the focus for Voyager pickleball this season will be having fun!

**Approval of Minutes:**

\*Beryl Schultze reminded the group that the minutes needing approval were from the open general Board meeting last March, the final meeting of last season. She stated those minutes had been reviewed by the Board members and were ready to be approved. Jerry Heintze made a motion to approve the March minutes, which was seconded by Lori Schneider. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Paddle Holders

Lori Schneider described the new paddle holders that have been positioned throughout the courts. She also gave a brief explanation on their use. Evelyn Bellotti-Busch indicated that the Board was planning to create some videos for a new Voyager Pickleball You Tube channel that would show how the paddle holders should be properly used.

**New Business:**

No New Business.

**Board Member Reports:**

Vice President

Jerry Heintz presented the proposed court usage plan that will go into effect on Monday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Jerry explained how the courts will be designated by skill level for suggested play during open play times and reviewed the courts and their corresponding skill levels. The goal is to be 'very fluid' between courts. Jerry also reviewed court usage for Structure Play, lessons, drilling and Geezer play, most of these beginning in January. Everything will be posted for player reference on the Voyager Pickleball website and Facebook page, and on the bulletin boards at the courts.

Following Jerry's review there were several comments and questions from the audience on the proposed court usage. Larry Frye, in charge of Beginner and Beginner Plus lessons, raised questions about the courts the Beginner and Beginner Plus lessons were assigned, as well as where those players would play, especially in regards to the safety of novice players. Other attendees offered similar comments. Following the discussion, Evelyn Bellotti-Busch indicated that in view of all the comments and input the Board would table its intent to vote at the meeting. The plan will again be reviewed and then amended, if deemed appropriate, before taking the vote. (See Addendum #1)

### **Player Improvement / Structured Play**

Due to Catherine Brown not attending in person, Evelyn Bellotti-Busch presented Catherine's information on Player Improvement and Structured Play. Evelyn first reviewed the different lessons being offered for Player Improvement and the instructors for those lessons. For Structured Play Evelyn explained the different sessions, including when they would occur and where. The information on Player Improvement lessons and Structured Play sessions will be posted on the Voyager Pickleball website and Facebook page, and on the bulletin boards at the courts. Evelyn also pointed out a Skill Levels decision tree that may assist some players in determining their own skill level, what courts they might choose to play on, what lessons they may choose to take, and in which structured play sessions they might wish to play. This decision tree document will be available with the other materials.

In response to a question Catherine and Evelyn explained that sign-up for lessons will now be done on-line through the Team Reach app, except for Beginner and Beginner Plus lessons. Catherine will be providing more information on this electronic sign-up in the next couple of weeks, including how it works if someone drops out of a lesson.

### **Treasurer**

Lori Schneider provided an update on the current financial status of the Club. The checking account balance as of November 8, 2023 was \$8,863.41 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.

Lori also introduced a fund-raising program for the Pickleball Club. She explained that Catherine Brown had offered her services to print T-shirts that the Board will sell. Lori was wearing an example of a printed T-shirt. The only up-front cost to the Board will be the T-shirts plus about \$1.00 for the printed design. Catherine will initially have two designs to pick from. More information will be forth coming.

### **Player Representative**

Karen Paurus stated she had just returned and had not yet had a chance to meet with Shannon Kemlo, Voyager Activities Director. Karen was not sure if the player rep position would be changing or if the procedure where she collected comments, concerns, etc. and provided monthly reports to Shannon would continue. Karen will have an update with more information next month.

### **Court Maintenance**

Mark Jordon provided a status of the courts upgrade, including resurfacing some courts and replacing the asphalt courts. Mark indicated this is a large capital project for Voyager. It is currently going through the multi-tiered management system to get funded. If it is approved it would occur in the 2024 timeframe since it would be in the 2024 budget. Mark went on to say that once approved there will be preliminary work, including timing of the work to not interfere with the season. Mark encouraged players to inform him of any issues that can be addressed by the Board.

Discussions followed with questions from the attendees, including who owns the courts and who is responsible for the nets. Mark stated that Voyager owns the courts. Mark's goal is having Voyager take more responsibility for the courts upkeep, such as paying for new nets. Other questions followed with Mark giving as much information as he had.

### **Secretary**

Beryl Schultze reminded the group that last season there was interest by some Club members in establishing a formalized Club membership with voting privileges for Board members. Due to a number of issues this idea was tabled to be looked at again this season. Beryl stated that there had never been any type of poll to see if this was something the majority of Club members supported. Sending out a survey to Club members whose email addresses are on file could be the first step this season. Beryl took a quick poll of the attendees, asking who would be in favor of establishing a formal Club membership with voting privileges. None of the Club members or Board members were in favor of a Club membership. This topic and whether to proceed further would be discussed by the Board members and presented at the next meeting.

### **Tournament Coordinators**

Karen Tratiak gave a quick overview of the annual Voyager Holiday Tournament being held December 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> and the current status. She reminded the group that this tournament is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the Club. It is a USAPA sanctioned tournament with registrations from all over the country and beyond. Karen reminded the group that many volunteers would be needed and encouraged all players to come and watch.

Karen then gave a quick overview and confirmed the dates for the other in-house to tournaments during the season: the Geezer Tournament on December 30<sup>th</sup>, the Dink Tournament on January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Rodeo on February 17<sup>th</sup> and finally the Memorial Resident tournament on March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Social Director**

Evelyn Bellotti-Busch reminded the group that the previous Social Director resigned in September because of family issues. She said that Dave McMullen had graciously agreed to be the interim Social Director. Evelyn announced that the open position for a new Social Director would be posted on the Voyager pickleball website and Facebook page, and on the bulletin boards at the courts. Information for how to apply if interested would be included. The posting will be up for 10 days to expedite the process for filling the position. (See Addendum #2)

### **Public Comment:**

There was a follow-up question on the paddle holders and their use. Evelyn Bellotti-Busch reiterated that training materials on use of the paddle holder would be coming.

### **Adjourn:**

Evelyn Bellotti-Busch adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beryl Schultze  
Secretary

\*Addendum #1: Following this meeting the Board discussed via email the comments and input from attendees at the meeting, including lesson leaders, on the proposed court usage plan. The Board's discussions prompted some changes to the plan. A motion by email was made and seconded to approve the modified court usage plan. It was voted upon via email and passed on November 19, 2023.

\*Addendum #2: After posting the open position for Social Director only one application was received. The application was from Dave McMullen who fulfilled the criteria to be considered for the position. To avoid delaying the process of securing a Social Director until the next meeting, the Board voted unanimously by email on November 29, 2023 to elect Dave McMullen as the new Social Director.