

PINE LAKES TENNIS ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
Monday February 7, 2022

Board members present: Ruth Sarno, Ed Dukes, Jill Brush, Irwin Peters, Hayes Harp, Rick Shaw and Sandy Milley

Regrets: nil

PLTA members present: Cam Thomson, Sharon Thomson, Cully Swinford, Rick Coats, Steve Coy, Sue Halverson and Morgan Schafer

President, Ruth Sarno called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

MINUTES

The minutes were circulated earlier and everyone had a chance to read them. There were no amendments. A motion was made by Irwin to accept the minutes. This was seconded by Rick S. All were in favor and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jill presented the treasurer's report. An inquiry was made regarding expenses for the ELS tournament and the deposit for the ballroom. Jill explained that the deposit for the ballroom will be reversed and most tournament expenses will be reimbursed by ELS. These items will show on February's report.

Hayes motioned to accept the treasurer's report as submitted. Rick Shaw seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Pickleball Request - Ruth received a request from the pickle ball group, (known as the Fairway Pines.) They would like to use court 3 after 4:00 pm on Thursdays. They assured Ruth that no permanent markings would be put on the courts and they would not be using the tennis nets. It was suggested that a person from Pine Lakes Tennis would pop by after the use of court 3 to see that all went well. Ed volunteered to do this. Ruth thought that maybe this request was also for Monday afternoons and she will check on that. It was also felt that this request should be confirmed in written from Fairway Pines. The following motion was made by Irwin:

The PLTA agrees to allow the Fairway Pines pickleball group to use court 3 after 4:00 pm on Thursdays (and if needed on Monday's after 4:00,) with an end date of March

31st. Going forward if the times and dates need amending then the pickle ball group will need to put that request in writing.

The motion was seconded by Ed and all were in favor. The motion passed.

Revision of By-Laws

#1)

The first changes discussed fell under League Play. Members of the board received a handout a few days before the scheduled board meeting, which provided the following information.

Background

On several occasions in the past few years the topic of making changes to the team selection process as it pertains to the timing and the adding of new players has been brought forward, either from the floor or under new business at board meetings or at general meetings. Most recently it was addressed at the January 17, 2022 Winter Annual General Meeting.

Under "Open Discussion," an inquiry, from the floor, was made to ask if the team selection deadline for the adding of new players could be changed. After a brief discussion of some pros and cons, a small committee was formed, led by Steve C.

Rationale for Change

The rationale for the motion to change some of the current by-laws under Inter-League play would allow the PLTA's competitive teams to follow their respective leagues by-laws or rules and regulations, as they pertain to the addition of new players. Currently, competitive teams are chosen 8 months ahead of league play. Circumstances can and do change during the span of time between February and November. Similarly, circumstances can and do change after the start of league play. The men's competitive league allow for the addition of players at any time. The women's competitive league do allow for the addition of new players up to and including January 1st. (Please note: While proposing specific changes pertaining to the addition of players, a few language changes are proposed in order to clarify a by-law.)

This handout also outlined the needed by-law changes.. The proposed by-law changes are as follows:

**PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES FOR VOTING
from page 11 to page 13 under**

The additions of the proposed changes are in red. The deletions of a few words and a couple of sentences are not indicated. You would need to reference the current by-laws to see what was removed..

INTER LEAGUE PLAY

1. SWIFT "Senior Women In Fun Tennis" / RED / WHITE / BLUE

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

a) All Team Members must be members of the Pine Lakes Tennis Association and current residents of Pine Lakes for at least two (2) consecutive months. Participation and play in the North Ft. Myers leagues is governed by appropriate league by-laws. In the event a men's team or a women's team requires an additional qualified player or players from outside of Pine Lakes, all qualified candidates within Pine Lakes must be given first consideration. The player or players must become a Pine Lakes Tennis Association associate member and pay the annual membership fee. Associate players are restricted to a maximum of three (3) players per team. In addition, an associate player or players can only play on a year to year basis.

b) New teams can be added whenever enough qualified players sign up and the appropriate league can handle the addition of another team. All phases of the Team Self-Ranking Process and the Team Selection Process will be observed and approved by the Commissioner(s). The Commissioner(s) will either approve or reject any team voting and call for a new vote if there are irregularities. The Commissioner(s) may choose assistants as they deem necessary.

c) A New Player arriving at Pine Lakes after the teams are formed will be considered for a team.

i) To determine the team on which the new member should be placed, he or she will meet with and play tennis with the captain and players of the team of interest. If there are two teams within the same division or league then both captains will consult with one another to determine which team the player would fit best.

ii) It will be up to the captain(s) in consultation with the Commissioner(s) to either accept the player or suggest another team.

d) When circumstances warrant a qualified player (see 2a) can be recruited for a team after the team's formation in March. In order to recruit a player the team's captain must first seek the approval, with a majority vote, from their team to add a new player to their roster.

3) TEAM SIGN-UP SHEETS

Sign up sheets for each of men's and women's league teams for the next fall/winter season will be posted from February 14th to February 28th of each year. Anyone signing up for a higher league level that is not selected at that level will automatically be considered for the next lower level. Players must be signed up to be considered for team selection, as requesting a spot on a team, at a later date, may not be approved.

4. TEAM FORMATION

There are no proposed by-law changes to this section and hence it will not be referenced.

- **5. SCHEDULE FOR TEAM FORMATION - There are no proposed changes to this schedule, so you will see the timing of team selections remains the same.**
- This process will be used to form all competitive teams. The schedule for team formation is as follows:
 - (a) Red Team(s) March 1-7 or sooner
 - (b) White Team(s) March 8-14 or sooner
 - (c) SWIFT Team(s) March 8-14 or sooner
 - (d) Blue Team(s) March 15-21 or sooner
- **6. SELECTION OF TEAM CAPTAIN**
 - (a) The team members of each new team will choose a team captain from the Pine Lakes Tennis Association membership by March 21st.
 - (b) A team captain may appoint an assistant captain or co-captain.
 - (c) Team Rosters and Substitute Lists will be submitted by the captain to the respective league coordinators **when requested to do so.**
- **7. EXCEPTIONS**
- Requests for exceptions to any of the above processes can be brought forward by a Team Captain to the Commissioner(s) and/or the Board of Directors for consideration.

Following discussion, a motion was made to accept the the proposed by-law changes as presented above and to then take these changes to the PLTA membership for a vote. This motion was made by Jill and seconded by Irwin. All were in favor and the motion carried.

#2)

The second proposed by-law changes were in regards to the Board of Directors changing from 7 members to 5 members. Ruth provided a handout which explained the background and rationale, which read, "Based on declining membership and the difficulty in finding members interested in serving on the board, it has been suggested that we reduce the board number from 7 to 5 members. It is felt that the board can be just as efficient with the smaller board and the interests of the tennis association will continue to be served.

This handout then provided the specific proposed changes to Article IX.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES REGARDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO ARTICLE IX SECTIONS

- a) The Association shall be managed by a Board of Directors composed of five (5) persons. Directors must be members in good standing of the Pine Lakes Tennis Association, who are owners of homes on leased or estate property. Each director shall hold office for the term for which he is elected and until his successor is elected. All directors will be elected for a two (2) year term. It is the intention of these bylaws that a staggered Directorate be maintained beginning with the 2022 annual meeting and election, with two (2) persons being elected for two years and three (3) board members completing the final year of their two year term. To maintain a staggered directorate, the board may hold seats in future elections open for one or two year terms, when necessary or appropriate. In such cases those receiving the higher number of votes shall be elected to the longer term.
- b) The presence of three (3) of the directors, one of whom must be President or Vice President, shall be necessary at any meeting to constitute a quorum to transact business.....
- c) The Board of Directors, at their annual meeting, following the Association annual meeting shall elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and an Officer At Large. ~~DELETE VOTING MEMBERS~~
- d)
- e)
- f) Duties of Officers

Delete Voting Board Members

A motion was made by Jill to accept proposed changes as provided above to Article IX. This was seconded by Rick S. The motion carried.

The process going forward was then reviewed. Voting is required by the PLTA membership. The proposed changes will require two votes, one under League Play and one under Article IX. This will take place at a General Membership Meeting on Monday February 21, at 3:00 pm in the Activity Room. Information will be posted on the bulletin board and will be sent out to the membership via e-mail. For those unable to attend this important meeting, absentee ballots will be available from the secretary.

Confirming the Board Directors Terms - Providing the proposed by-law changes are approved, the staggering of 5 board members, for the 2022-2023 Board will have three board members, Ed, Irwin, and Hayes, completing their second year of their two year

term and two new board members would be joining the board to begin their two year term.

Jill volunteered to head up the Nominating Committee of which she will be looking for people to join her in her quest to find people to join the board. This request for assistance was made to the floor to but there were no volunteers.

The next ELS Good Neighbor Tournament will be held on February 26th and 27th. Ruth will be the tournament co-ordinator and Irwin and Ed volunteered to assist.

New business from the Floor - Morgan wished to promote tennis. He would like to offer free lessons, possibly on Friday afternoons. It was shared by Cully that this would fit in very nicely with an article that she and Joe would like to put in the Whispering Pines to promote tennis. Cully and Morgan will get together to discuss this further and submit an article to the Whispering Pines.

OLD BUSINESS

Sandy shared communication with Vianney at ELS. She referenced an email that she sent on behalf of the PLTA board and a follow up phone call with Vianney today. It was determined that the following action will be required.

-Ruth will submit the receipt for the first aid kit that we purchased.

-Sandy will follow up with a phone call to Vianney next Monday regarding the installation of the first aid kit and the repair to roof at the back of court 2. Vianney believes she will have made progress on these two requests by then and will be able to bring us up to date. (During this phone call Sandy will request an in person meeting to discuss additional items. See * below.)

Canopies —Sue Halverson reported the following with regards to the replacement / purchase of the canopies.

The Coastal Canvas and Awning Company provided the canopies in 2017, and when contacted by Sue they said that they no longer supplied that product and would not be able to assist us at this time. Sue then sought out quotes from two other companies which came in at \$55,000 and \$37,000. Sue contacted a fabric wholesale place to see if we could get canvas, but they no longer had any suitable material for our needs. Sue then reached out again to Coastal Canvas and explained our situation.

This time Sue was able to get assistance from Coastal Canvas. Sue shared that she has a quote to supply us with 3 flat panels with bungee cords and replacement bungee cords. If we were pick up and install the new canopies the price would be \$2538. This would require volunteers to remove the old canopies, sand, repair and paint the existing framing and poles and put up the new canopies. The approximate timing of this would

be 10 to 12 weeks from the time the order is placed. It was suggested that having a skirt be placed over the bar would be nice and Sue agreed to look into the costs of that.

Sue shared her desire to place this order and pay for it. Discussion took place as to who should pay for this and how we should proceed. In the end it was agreed that a motion should be made which would read;

“ The PLTA board accepts Sue’s offer to place an order with the Total Canvas & Awning Co.(for \$2538.) The board will see that the man power to take down the old canopies, paint/ repair the structures, pick up the canopies from the company and put up the new canopies will be available when needed. ELS will be approached to pay 1/2 of the costs for these new canopies.

Irwin made the above motion and it was seconded by Rick Shaw. All were in favour and the motion was approved.

Sue went on to share information about Court Resurfacing. Stoney Bates’s, (the gentleman who provide the \$55,000 estimate for the canopies) main business is court resurfacing. Sue obtained a quote and found out what was required to repair the tennis courts. To fix cracks, apply an acrylic coating, apply new playing lines, and then a apply a seal coating the cost would be approximately \$38,000 for the three courts. It was felt that this information should be taken to ELS and follow-up discussion take place.

*Therefore, when Sandy calls Vianney next Monday she will request a meeting with Vianney to discuss two items: 1) ELS paying for 1/2 the cost of the canopies and 2) ELS ensuring us that a major expenditure for court resurfacing will be put into their budget. Sue, Ruth, Rick C. and Sandy will hopefully be able to set a time for an in person meeting. It was pointed out that the tennis courts are part of the amenities provided by ELS/ Pine Lakes and as such they need to maintained by ELS. The board would like to draft a letter to be submitted it to ELS. We would like to know to whom we should send this letter. At this meeting we would like to obtain advice from Vianney in order to move forward with positive results.

Upcoming Event Dates

Spring Annual General Meeting and Elections - March 14

Dinner Dance - March 15 Some people offered to help, but a volunteer to head this up will need to be found. Jill will seek out a couple of people.

Motion was make to adjourn the meeting by Rick Shaw. Seconded by Jill. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:31

The next meeting is the General Meeting and Voting on the proposed by-law changes. This meeting will take place on Monday February 21st in the Activity Room at 3:00 pm.