

PINE LAKES TENNIS ASSOCIATION
SPRING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm by President Ruth Sarno.

Board Members in Attendance: Ruth Sarno, Ed Dukes, Terry Brush, Irwin Peters and Sandy Milley and the Commissioner, Randy Markham

PLTA Members Present : 24 members present (including board members)
For the purpose of voting, 2 members completed an absentee ballot.
Quorum was met.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Terry began by sharing the beginning and ending balances for the 2021-2022 year.

He then shared this fiscal year to date. The details of the Treasurers' report are available in the secretary's binder. Terry explained why last year's ELS tournaments resulted in a small profit, while this year's tournaments resulted in losses. This was because this year we ran two tournaments without any funding from ELS. (It was noted that we are still working on securing funds, which will be addressed later in the agenda.) Ending the year we have a positive balance.

Ed motioned to accept the Treasurer's Reports as reported. Irwin second the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

MINUTES

Minutes from the Winter Annual General Meeting of January 16, 2023 were circulated ahead of the meeting in order to give the membership an opportunity to read them prior to the meeting.

There were no additions, deletions, or concerns. Irwin made a motion to approve the minutes. Terry seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Sandy shared that there were three vacancies and there were three nominees. Irwin Peters agreed to stay on the board for another term, Sharon Thomson and Frank Tivnan accepted nominations. All three received applause. Ruth asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Rick made a motion to accept the nominees by acclamation. All were in agreement. The members of the PLTA Board for 2023-2024 are Ruth Sarno, Terry Brush, Irwin Peters, Sharon Thomson and Frank Tivan.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Discussion took place. The membership followed along with the 3 pages handed out for voting. (Please see the attached sheets accompanying these minutes.)

A summary of the discussion is as follows:

Under COURT USE COMMITTEE
Propose Change #1 and #2 on Page #1

A member wished it to be clarified who would chair the Court Use Committee. It was shared that in the past it has been the Member At Large. It was also shared that in the past it has been the Commissioner. Ruth shared that it was not part of any proposed changes.

There was no further discussion regarding the rationale for the two changes, nor the new proposed wording for Proposed Changes #1 & #2.

Under COURT SIGN-UP AT PINE LAKES
Proposed Change #3 on Page # 2

This proposed change initiated some discussion, but it fell under the proposed change # 5, so the short discussion that took place will be documented under proposed change #5. The rationale and the new wording were reviewed and there was no further discussion on Proposed Change # 3.

Under ARTICLE IX f) Duties of Officers, Secretary, page 4
Proposed Change # 4 on Page 2

It was explained that this change would only be necessary if the proposed change #3 passed, as it was to change the wording of the responsibilities of the secretary. There was no discussion on Proposed Change #4.

Under COURT SIGN-UP AT PINE LAKES
Proposed Change # 5 Page 3

The discussion began with the concerns that would occur if the removal of the two sentences were to occur. Inquiries were made by a couple of the members as to where the bylaws say that 3 courts are not to be allowed at the 9:30 time slot for team practices. The specific event of not allowing the SWIFT team 3 courts at 9:30 was brought up. Input on the topic was given by Ruth, Sandy, Randy and various PLTA members. The discussion revolved around whether teams should have or should not have priority over open court time. The following points were made.

-It is a concern when a team with 14 players is not able to get 3 courts at 9:30 when sometimes that 3rd court is being used by non-playing PLTA members.

-It should not be a concern that 14 team players are not able to get 3 courts at 9:30 when there have not been 14 players available to play for various reasons at any time this year.

-Last year the Blue team was given 3 courts on Wednesdays at the 9:30 slot. Each week the captain of the team would let the secretary know what would be required, either 3 courts or 2 courts, for the upcoming week. That worked out well and could possibly be something to consider going forward.

-Randy reiterated that the board is responsible for representing all to the members of the PLTA

-It was agreed that the 9:30 time slot is the much preferred time slot.

People on opposite sides of the discussion asked why the others could not use an 8:00 or an 11:00 slot.

-These questions will be discussed at the Court Use Committee meeting to be held within the next couple of weeks.

-The discussion came back to what happened last year, where some felt that no one knew that 3 courts would not be allowed for the upcoming year, nor the reasons. This resulted in the secretary, reading the minutes that pertained to this subject from two specific meetings from last year.

The secretary first read, word for word, the pertinent sections from the Pine Lakes Tennis Association Board Meeting held on Monday March 7, 2022. The secretary then read word for word the pertinent sections of Pine Lakes Tennis Association, Court Use Committee Meeting, held on March 25, 2022.

Please note that if one would like to review the exact wording read, who was in attendance at those meetings, the minutes in their entirety can be found on the Pine Lakes Website by visiting ourpinelakes.com

The minutes stated what had transpired, the reasoning for the position that the board was taking for the upcoming 2022-2023 season and that this was communicated to all of the team captains.

Ron asked a question regarding the direction that was given to the court use committee from the board last year as to why the direction was given before the court use meeting. Should input not have been received from the court use committee members first?

It was shared that last year it was very clear that at least one team would be asking for three courts as they shared this information to the board well in advance. In addition the board thought that maybe a second team may be requesting 3 courts. These possible requests were discussed at length at March's board meeting and it was determined that it was not in the best interest of the PLTA to grant a request for 3 courts at 9:30. Sharing this in advance would give the opportunity for captains to share this information with their players in advance of the court use meeting and come up with a request that would not be for 3 courts at 9:30.

It was stated multiple times throughout the discussions that each year there are varying situations regarding the number of teams and the number of players on each and the needs of each team. Therefore each year the situations or circumstances need to be examined in a manner that is fair. What happens one year is not necessarily what will happen the next year. It will be up to the new board and the court use committee to discuss the current needs of the membership and to decide what would be best for the upcoming year.

The discussion then returned to the proposal to remove the two sentences in bold on the page 3 ballot/handout. Sandy asked Ruth for permission to address this. Sandy shared the rationale for this with more information than was provided on the ballot.

Sandy shared that she was asked by Ruth to give some thought how some of the language in the by-laws may be tightened up to prevent issues from developing. Sandy shared the main issue was that the last two sentences, (see page 3 Proposed Change #5 in bold) have created problems. Sandy asked the membership to consider the following.

When looking at the PLTA Handbook the Table of Contents, provides a starting point. A Table of Contents allows a reader to go to a specific section in order to find out information about that topic. Sandy showed that the Court Use Committee and the Court Sign-Up at Pine Lakes are two separate procedures. Therefore a couple of sentences found mid-way through a paragraph in one procedure can not be applied to another procedure.

The next point made was that what is written clearly states that the priority order listed is to be used in the event of a scheduling conflict or a need to extend an activity, not to give priority for someone to sign up courts on the weekly court schedule. The same holds true that one can not take the priority wording out of context to use at a court use committee meeting. This again is because they are two separate procedures. Taking this working out of context has not been allowed previously, yet the issue continues to come up. It has created issues last year and again this year and getting rid of this confusion would certainly help the board going forward, as the issues created have not been the most pleasant.

Ruth then spoke from a book that she had. Robert's Rules for Dummies." She read from the book sharing that a set of by-laws are for the organization that created them. The by-laws are interpreted by its members. If any by-laws can be interpreted by some in one way and by others in another way, as soon as possible the by-law's wording causing the issues should be removed. She ended by saying that is the intent of the proposed changes...to remove the sentences that have created the issues.

The discussion ended and the voting took place. Ballots were collected and the votes were tallied.

	For	Against	Abstained
Proposed Change #1	25	0	1
Proposed Change #2	25	0	1
Proposed Change #3	23	2	1
Proposed Change #4	25	0	1
Proposed Change #5	21	4	1

All of the proposed changes were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ruth shared the following:

Court Conditions

The board has been in touch with Natalie, the region manager with ELS whose office is in Tampa via email. A reply has been received in the form of an email. Natalie's response was that, "Any damage that was caused by Hurricane Ian will be addressed and repaired or replaced. I will take all items listed in your email to ensure they are on our list and that nothing gets missed."

The following was put on our list:

The fences, new wind screens, the resurfacing of the courts as the surface needed repairs before the hurricane and more damage occurred during the hurricane. As a result of the hurricane, the structures that anchored the canopies over the spectator bleachers were torn right out of the ground. This has left huge holes. Repairs will be needed to the surfaces as well as

three canopy structures will need to be replaced. It was pointed out that these structures would need to be made to fit the canopies which we have, or it may be simpler to start from scratch. Another item on the list was the small roof at the back of court #2 will need to be replaced. We even put a hitting wall on the list, as that was discussed with Jason last spring.

We are pleased that we have a response in writing and that our list of needs will be addressed. Unfortunately there was no timeline given.

ELS Funding for Tournaments

We learned last week that the funding for such items is done at the site level and therefore Bryan has been contacted once again for our request for funding. Bryan has replied to us on numerous occasions that he has yet to receive a reply from management, but we now know that he is the one to approve our requests. A hand delivered letter was left at his office on Friday and the same letter was sent in an email on Friday. We are waiting for a reply.

A question was asked regarding the use of the court 3 for pickle ball and the lights being used. It would be us at Pine Lakes who will get charged for their use through the "pass through charges." The wording of our prospectus was shared and it is hoped that it will be honored.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Pool Party /Games

MaryAnn shared information about the upcoming event. The dinner/dance originally scheduled for March 23rd has been changed to a Year End Pool Party to take place on Saturday March 25th from 4 pm to 7 pm. There will be a small cost, \$5 for members and \$7 for guests. You can bring as many guests as you would like. It will be a taco bar and a margarita bunch will be provided, without alcohol, so bring your own to add to the mix. There will be a variety of games available to play if one wishes to do so. MaryAnn would like assistance with set-up, so please see her. There will be other jobs to volunteer for too.

The Year End Tennis Tournament for Sunday March 19 has been cancelled. As of the meeting there were 15 players signed up and it was felt that a number more would be needed. It was shared that all but 5 of those signed up regularly play in the Sunday Funday tennis. It was suggested that the tournament should be cancelled and the membership present felt that was a good idea.

TEAM/TENNIS REPORTS

The Commissioner Randy reported that the rosters have been prepared. The Blue team will have 8 players, the White team will have 8 players. The SWIFT team will have 14 players and Cully shared that they will be very competitive.

Swift - Cully reported that they are in 2nd place and didn't even swing a racket last week. They had a bye.

Blue - Ron reported that the Blue team if one took the team standings and turned it upside down they would be in there. This received a good chuckle.

White - Rick said that they are tied for 4th, and have a tough final 3 games.

Red Alternative League - Rick shared some red league information. A different format is used in this league. Players play with a different partner each week and play two games with that partner against the same pairings for that week. Ron asked if he could post the standings on the bulletin board and Rick said he would do so.

Whatever/ Whoever - Prudy reported that there is always enough for at least one court and of late they have sometimes used two courts. Players are from both Pine Lakes and Lake Fairways.

The Bylaw Ballot results were then shared, as reported above.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Ruth would like to hold an Organizational Meeting following this meeting to determine the board positions. The members of the board agreed to meet after this meeting.

Rick made a suggestion about looking into the idea of changing the times for the weekly schedule. Maybe provide for two popular times...starting at 7:30, then 9:00, then 10:30 may be helpful. Ron shared that these were the times in the past and he was unsure as to why it changed to what we currently have.

Terry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed second the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm

Respectively submitted by,

Sandy Milley
PLTA Secretary

Handout

Proposed Changes #1 & #2

AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN IN THE PLTA HANDBOOK	RATIONALE FOR THE CHANGES	PROPOSED NEW WORDING
<p>*PAGE 6 <u>PROCEDURES</u></p> <p>COURT USE COMMITTEE</p> <p>The president will appoint a court use committee each year in March, which will meet after new teams are selected.</p> <p>Members will be the commissioner, board representative at-large, captains of all teams, and coordinators of intramural league, lottery, ladder, and other special programs. The board will consider the plan presented by the committee at an open meeting and adopt a court use plan by a majority vote of the board.</p>	<p>#1) Since some programs no longer exist, changing the bold print wording on the left to be in line with the current programs, while still allowing other programs in the future, would provide clarity.</p>	<p>Replace the bold print with;</p> <p>Members will be the commissioner, board representative at-large, captains of all teams, a representative from social/drop-in tennis and coordinators of other special programs.</p>
<p>Same as above.</p>	<p>#2) In the past there has been a need to change allotted court times and therefore it should be clarified how one would do so. No one person, (the secretary, an acting secretary or other PLTA member), has ever been permitted to block off, or change any court time on a permanent basis without approval from the board. Adding a sentence would be beneficial.</p>	<p>Add to the Court Use Committee Procedure;</p> <p>Once a plan is adopted by the board, any changes must be requested in writing and presented to the board for consideration and possible approval.</p>

Proposed Change #3

<p>AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN IN THE PLTA HANDBOOK *PAGE 6 <u>PROCEDURES</u></p> <p>COURT SIGN-UP AT PINE LAKES</p> <p>It is the secretary's responsibility to block out all pre-scheduled court time before the court schedule is posted. All requests for pre-scheduled court time must be given to the secretary at least forty-eight hours in advance of the court schedule posting. The priority order for scheduling will be: PLTA/ELS activities (tournaments and clinics), scheduled league matches, scheduled league practices, make-up league games, and other approved PLTA functions and then open sign-up. This order is to be used in the event of scheduling conflicts or a need to extend an unfinished activity.</p>	<p>RATIONALE FOR THE CHANGE</p> <p>Each year the membership is informed as to when the weekly sign-up sheets will be posted. For the past many years it has always been at 9:00 am. Placing this information in the handbook would make it clear. Having the wording "by 10:00 AM" leaves room for other interpretations.</p> <p>Changing "The Secretary" to "a PLTA member designated by the board of directors" would mean that the Secretary would not necessarily be responsible for the weekly 9:00 AM posting. Then adding an additional sentence would clarify the procedure.</p>	<p>PROPOSED NEW WORDING</p> <p>Change from "by 10:00" to "at 9:00AM." The new wording to read;</p> <p>A PLTA member designated by the board of directors, will post the court schedule for the coming week by 9:00 AM every Saturday morning. Before the court schedule is posted, times will be blocked out for pre-schedule court time, as adopted by the Board. Any additional one time weekly requests need to be given to the designated court posting person at least 48 hours in advance of the posting, in order to determine the feasibility of the request. Sign-ups will not be allowed before 9:00 AM. PLTA members who are in line by 9:00 AM will start the sign-up procedure as stated, "1. Original Sheet Posting Procedures."</p>
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Proposed Change # 4

<p>AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN IN THE PLTA HANDBOOK</p> <p>ARTICLE IX f) Duties of Officers Secretary page 4</p> <p>The responsibilities of the secretary are to take minutes of meetings, maintain all organization records, post the weekly court schedule and provide copies of minutes when requested.</p>	<p>RATIONALE FOR THE CHANGE</p> <p>If the above "Proposed #3 was to be approved then duties of the secretary would change and the posting of the weekly court schedule responsibility would need to be removed.</p>	<p>PROPOSED NEW WORDING</p> <p>The responsibilities of the secretary are to take minutes of meetings, maintain all organization records and provide copies of minutes when requested.</p>
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Proposed Change #5

<p>AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN IN THE PLTA HANDBOOK *PAGE 6 <u>PROCEDURES</u></p> <p>COURT SIGN-UP AT PINE LAKES</p> <p>It is the secretary's responsibility to block out all pre-scheduled court time before the court schedule is posted. All requests for pre-scheduled court time must be given to the secretary at least forty-eight hours in advance of the court schedule posting. The priority order for scheduling will be: PLTA/ELS activities (tournaments and clinics), scheduled league matches, scheduled league practices, make-up league games, and other approved PLTA functions and then open sign-up. This order is to be used in the event of scheduling conflicts or a need to extend an unfinished activity.</p>	<p>RATIONALE TO REMOVE WORDING</p> <p>Regarding the bold print on the left...</p> <p>1) In the past few years attempts have been made to take the 1st sentence out of context and apply it to the Court Use Committee Procedure. There is no priority given to the Court Use Committee. The needs for court time will vary year to year. The Court Use Committee will consider all requests in an equitable manner. After they have created a plan it goes to the board for approval. Removal of the sentence will avoid any issues of the sentence being taken out of context at a Court Use Committee meeting.</p> <p>2) In the past, attempts have been made to take the 1st sentence out of context and applied it to who would get priority to book time on the weekly sign-up sheets. It clearly states that the order is to be used in the event of scheduling conflicts or a need to extend an unfinished activity. Removal of both sentences will avoid any issues with some believing that they have priority to make changes to the weekly sign up sheets.</p>	<p>PROPOSED REMOVAL OF SENTENCES</p> <p>Removal of the bold print on the far left.</p>
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