



Harbour Town Racquet Club
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New Bern, NC 28562
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October 16, 2015
Board Meeting

LOCATION OF MEETING: Harbour Town Racquet Club House

CALL TO ORDER: President Ed Hall called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 1:15 p.m. In attendance were Ed Hall, Dan Frey, Rich Lamke, Tommaso Serra, Mike See and Kathy Rioux.

The Minutes from the September 2015 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Membership: No new members this month. We have prospective members coming out on Sunday. They should sign the Guest Register and receive an application. The Guest Register will be updated and will include our guest policy as established in our Bylaws.

Resignations: None.

Board Positions: Tommaso Serra was nominated as a member of the Board. He has agreed to accept the position. This will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting on October 19th because all interim Board members, those being ones appointed to fill a vacated position(s), must be officially elected for a three year term at the members meeting.

Media/Advertising: Kathy suggested that we advertise our policy to allow USTA members to play at the current guest fee rate.

Website and Newsletter: Nothing to report.

Courts/General Maintenance:

1. Mike has used 1 ton of Har-Tru with 6 tons remaining. Mike and the Board members agreed that we are saving money by purchasing in bulk and doing more of the labor ourselves.
2. Ed Hall pointed out that the decks and gazebos need to be painted. He suggested scheduling a work day to get this done, and it should be accomplished in 3-4 hours with enough "hands on deck." He will purchase the paint and supplies. We voted and agreed to schedule a workday on October 31st at 9:00a.m.

3. Tommaso Serra suggested that we make a list of repairs and maintenance projects that need to be done, post it, and have members volunteer to do these at their convenience. He will take a survey and develop a project list.
4. The clubhouse door needs a new doorknob and Tommaso volunteered to purchase and replace it with a keyed doorknob lockset as a backup measure in case the cipher lock ever fails. Mike See and each Board member will have a key in case of emergency.
5. Ed Hall pointed out that our main focus has been on the courts and that we will address the other areas as time and finances allow.

Drainage Problems and Overgrowth of Trees and Shrubs: Several members have mentioned that the club is looking "shabby". Kathy suggested that shrubs should be trimmed in fall and spring.

1. Rich will contact the individual who did trimming for us last fall to see if he can do the trimming. He worked at an hourly rate and we were happy with the work he did. It was suggested that Mike oversee this, but he felt his approach might be too radical for what the members would desire and he declined.
2. Tommaso suggested taking a survey and making a list of what needs to be trimmed and cut back versus removed. He also volunteered his wife, Ellen, who is a master gardener and has knowledge in this area. Several areas in particular need to be addressed:
 - a. The sidewalk area on Court #1 near the parking lot.
 - b. The area around the storage shed.
 - c. The shrubbery in front of Courts #1 and #2 cut back to shorter than 36".
 - d. The Holly trees on each corner cut back dramatically, both fall and winter.
 - e. The shrubbery around court #5.
 - f. The tall Leland cypress next to courts #6 and #4 are hanging over the courts interfering with high balls.
3. If we cannot hire someone at a reasonable rate, we may need to do it ourselves and plan a work day.
4. Mike will be checking with Jerry at Emerald to find out what chemicals they use around their courts and see if we can acquire same. He has a concern, however, that a license may be necessary and this would be a rather large expense.
5. Jed is planning to dig more drainage ditches around courts 3-4, 5-6.
6. Dan suggested digging a larger ditch and installing drainage pipe, but Ed replied that this is problematic because the pipes get clogged up with the Har-Tru material.
7. Member Elise Medenbach suggested in an email that the landscaping needs tending to and someone needs to oversee watering and feeding of plants. The Board members agreed and emphasized that this is a member owned club and that our members should volunteer and pitch it when they see things that need to be done. Thanks, Elise.

Events: Only a few have signed up for Turkey Doubles. Let's encourage participation.

The club's annual Christmas party will be at River Bend Country Club on December 16th. We discussed particulars and all agreed:

1. Last year's per person cost was \$36.00 for food and entertainment. The club lost \$148 due to refunds given to members after the reservation deadline date.

2. Kathy talked to Pat Engeman with *The Bears Band* and they are available. They will play "quiet music" during the cocktail hour, take a dinner break, and play for 2 hours after dinner. All agreed that this is a popular band and we expect to have a great time and have a good turnout, even if we have to charge a little more to cover the cost. Rich figured we may need to charge \$40 per person depending upon menu choices and the price quote we get from RBCC.

3. Kathy proposed that we have an earlier start time than last year, and the vote was unanimous. This year we will start our festivities at 5:00 p.m.

4. All members need to be aware that the Christmas party, like all other meet and greet social events, is by the members and for the members, with the club acting on members' behalf. Therefore, HTRC should not be responsible for refunding money out of the club treasury to members who cancel after the reservation deadline. RBCC requires a head count one week in advance and no refunds will be given after that date.

5. Kathy will be in contact with Camille at RBCC to confirm above mentioned changes and with Pat Engemen to affirm our desire to hire *The Bears Band*.

6. Announcements will be published in November and signups will begin after the Turkey Doubles. Payment should be made to HTRC in check or cash at the time of signing up. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER DECEMBER 8, 2015.

Bylaws Document: Ed reviewed the final revisions, which mainly involved grammatical and formatting changes. Other changes include:

1. Medical leave of absence changed from 6 months to 3 months, with an extension every 3 months approved by The Board.
2. Change \$10 per play-day fee to, "posted guest fee".
3. The USTA "Travel-N-Play" Program mentioned in the original Bylaws is no longer in effect through the USTA. This section has been modified to allow any active USTA member to play at our club at the current guest rate. This will encourage tennis players to try our club and perhaps attract new members, as well as provide added income.
4. The revised and amended Bylaws will be presented for discussion and approval at the Annual Business Meeting on October 19, 2015.
5. We will supply copies for all attendees, if we receive an email letting us know that they will be attending.

Treasury: Rich reported that this year's fiscal year ended \$900 in the red. Ed Hall pointed out that our membership is down from one year ago and that we need to add more members in order to manage financially. He emphasized that we need to remain fiscally sound and be frugal with our spending.

NEW BUSINESS:

Club Liability: Tommaso raised the concern of club liability in the event a member gets hurt or injured. Rich said we do have insurance coverage. Ed's opinion was that members should be aware that they play at their own risk. A vote was taken and all agreed that we should consider having a disclaimer statement on our website and on the Membership Application. Ed will consult with our lawyer about this matter and make appropriate changes to our website and Membership Application, if it is deemed necessary after speaking with our club attorney.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for November 20th at 1:00 p.m.

This meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Rioux, Secretary