

Balboa Tennis Club

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Dwight Van Slyke, Colleen Clery Ferrell, Peter Conneely, Geoff Griffin, Kevin Barton, Melinda Murray, Mary Gunset, Pat Mason, Spike Lowndes, Jim Winters and Brad Hasper were present. Jane Pulliam and Jerry Bischoff were absent. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from January's meeting and the absences.

Member/Guest Presentation:

- 1) Pam Osterweil gave a short presentation on the benefits of massage therapy for athletes and asked if she could set up a massage table at some of our tournaments. After she left, the board discussed the issue and made a motion to allow her to set up a table at our tournaments, (with Brian Horner's approval, working for donations, and, if she was interested, to set up a table at the Tennis Fest if she donated a free massage as one of the Tennis Fest raffle prizes.
- 2) Allen Sanchez spoke about a possible donation from the San Diego Tennis Federation (SDTF) for improvements at BTC. SDTF is interested in helping renovate the clubhouse, which would be a great fit with the current remodel of the tennis cafe. Allen gave some thoughts and ballpark costs for some renovation projects: design fees; paint; carpet; and furniture. The next step is to have an interior decorator from the company he works with come by and take a look at the club house to give us additional thoughts/ideas.

President's Comments:

Update on Lower Court Lighting Project: Final approval from the City was received today! Construction begins Monday, May 2 after Tennis Fest.

Treasurers Report:

Jane was absent, so Colleen went through the numbers. Everything looks good. Bills for the lower court lights are starting to come in (\$25,000 so far), which explains the decrease in total assets. An additional expense of \$3,000 was to waterproof the steps leading to the roof above the clubhouse. The only other unusual recorded expense was the utilities bill, which reflects two month's payment instead of the usual one. (The second month's bill was received and paid early and showed up on this month's balance sheet.) The last two items in the Treasurer's report were: the Buskey Tournament financials, \$170 net income (very small tournament, but well received by entrants. It's difficult to find sponsors for a small senior tournament. The goal is not to lose

money. FYI on club membership totals. The database is currently at 1371 members, which is normal for this time of year. Membership peaks during the summer, usually in the 1450 range.

Tennis Director's Report:

- 1) Effective next year, any 10 and under USTA tournament must be on modified courts (smaller with either taped or painted lines) and use softer balls. Courts #1 and #2 will be lined (USTA paying) in accordance with the new rules. There was concern the additional lines might be distracting, but Dwight recently played at Mountain View, which already has some courts with the new lines, and didn't notice the additional lines until they were pointed out to him. And if the new lines do become a problem and the club wants them removed, USTA will pay for that also. Depending on the interest level for 10 and under tennis, two additional courts will be made available for new lines. Additional Junior Tennis info: new rules for 8 and under tennis go into effect next year also. A smaller court size will require new lines as well.
- 2) Potential problem for San Diego/USTA and next year's ITF Tournament. ITF rules will not allow play on courts with the 10 and under and/or 8 and under lines on them. Unknown how many courts will be lined before the ITF matches and therefore unavailable for ITF use.
- 3) Tennis Fest is set for May 1. Taylor Dent will be on the exhibition court for an hour.

Club Director's Report:

- 1) Paume Cafe signed a three year contract on March 15, 2011, which coincides with BTC's permit with the City of San Diego
- 2) Member suggestion to promote Cafe when Paume Cafe construction is finished and Cafe open: organize luncheon(s) with guest speaker(s).
- 3) The subject of schools using our courts for practices and matches was brought up. Recently there were two matches going on at the same time, utilizing 12 courts. Several members were unable to play because there were no open courts. Our number one priority is to support club members. But also, what can we do to support youth tennis to the best of our ability? How many schools want to use our courts? Can the schools get together on a schedule so there will be only one match at a time? Can the schools reduce the number of courts for a match? Can they start earlier? Can we come up with a schedule which caters to matches, but allows teams equal access to practice when courts are available? Jim Winters is Athletic Director at Gompers High School and will investigate options. Presently OLP and St. Augustine utilize the lower courts in the fall and spring, with all team players joining the club as members first, as well as paying court dues.

4) A suggestion was made to have schools using our courts provide insurance certificates showing their students are covered should an accident occur. This would show due diligence” on BTC’s part, should an accident occur. This was suggested by Ted Bauer from which BTC purchases most insurance policies.

5) The Club paid \$403 for a Balboa Tennis Builders Risk Policy to cover any potential damages during the construction process. The policy is good for a year.

6) Following up on a Jim Winter’s suggestion, Colleen created a Day Pass Liability Release” form, which reads: By signing this paper, I hereby release Balboa Tennis Club from any liability while playing tennis at Balboa Tennis Club. Motion made/carried to implement form immediately.

7) \$40,000 was transferred from savings to checking to cover lighting project expenditures.

8) Great idea from Gil on how to save money when the white tape at the top of the nets wears out. Instead of buying new nets at \$150 each, replace the tape with Net Headbands at a cost of \$30 each. Net Headbands are currently in place on courts #15 and #19.

9) What is the Club policy on holding court reservations beyond start time? A member requested a 5 minute hold time before giving away a reserved court. After discussion, motion made/carried to allow a 5 minute hold only by phone call. Otherwise courts not taken will be made available to other members at the appropriate time.

10) Starting this year, the City of San Diego made BTC financially responsible for all repairs and maintenance costs for the Club. The lower court lighting project effectively wipes out the clubs liquid assets (except for our accountant recommended reserve funds). Electric bills should rise significantly once the new lights are installed and operating. Several options on how to offset increased costs and to build up our financial base have been discussed, such as raising annual dues, charging for lights overall or just lower courts and fundraisers. A motion was made and carried to increase membership dues \$25 a year, straight across the board. New rates, effective June 1, 2011 will be: Senior new - \$160; Senior renewal - \$145; Adult new - \$225; Adult renewal - \$200; 4 month membership - \$100. Day pass rates will also be increased by \$1 except for the junior fee: \$2 youth; \$4 senior; and \$6 adult, beginning June 1, 2011. As a financial opportunity to save, members will be able to renew their memberships for up to three years at the old rate if they renew prior to the June 1, 2011 deadline.

Committee Reports

- A. **Facilities:** Lighting project and construction time line postponed until next meeting.
- B. **Constitution and By-laws:** None.
- C. **Contract and Lease:** None.
- D. **Employment and Personnel:** None
- E. **Newsletter Deadline:** May 6.
- F. **Ethics:** To be discussed in Executive Session
- G. **Youth Program:** None.
- H. **Activities:** None.
- I. **Special Projects:** None
- J. **Web Site Updating:** None.

Unfinished Business:

- 1) Discussion of increasing Membership Dues to offset lighting costs: See Club Director's report, item #10.
- 2) Marketing ideas for club lighting project and club improvements: Tabled until Paume Cafe and lower court light project are completed. Anticipate more favorable audience when members can see major improvements already in place.

New Business:

1) Entitlement to use BTC Clubhouse and Locker rooms. Current rules state clubhouse and locker/restrooms are for BTC members only. Paume Cafe and Grille is going out of its way to cater to the needs of the club and its members. It is also interested in attracting locals for additional business. Question for the board: Should non-member customers be allowed to eat in the clubhouse and use our restrooms? There was consensus that non-member customers be allowed to use the clubhouse and Colleen will order signs saying: Clubhouse reserved for members and Club Paume customers. Opinion was split about restroom utilization. The primary concern was fear of vagrants learning the code and using/vandalizing our facility. The issue of restrooms will be re-visited.

2) Peter had a great idea about asking RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Police) to make BTC a regular stop on their rounds. He has a contact in the organization and was given the green light to investigate.

Adjournment: 8:50