



GCTA Quarterly Meeting Convened at 7:01 pm by Aaron Ockerman April 16, 2024

Board Members Attending:

Aaron Ockerman	Fred Duy	Linda Guyton	Lori Brown
Lenny Comeras	Bill Curry	Kimmy Confar	Lois Dosky
Eby Day	Scott Gerber	Ren Kuzmanovich	Kris Susa
Terry Finneran	Brenda Toney	Marty Pfeifer	Emily Saalman
John Roberts	Tara Hayes-Guest	Mike O'Callaghan	

January Meeting Minutes Approval—Aaron Ockerman

- The January Minutes were reviewed. Mike O'Callaghan motioned to approve and Lori Brown seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Awards Presentation —Linda Guyton

- Soham Gunturu of Dublin Tennis Outreach Program accepted the award for the 2023 USTA Midwest NJTL Chapter of the Year. This award is presented to an outstanding organization that has demonstrated quality on and off court programming, positive interactions with local parks and recreation departments and contributes to the local community.
- Dublin TOP is a student led organization that helps guide the tennis development of children in grades K-5 by offering year-round free tennis lessons in Dublin and surrounding school districts.

Treasurer's Report—Fred Duy

- Fred reported a current balance of \$127,000. The full treasurer's report can be found attached to this email. Terry asked if we were putting any money in the stock market. It was noted that money is kept in Money Market accounts and Certificates of Deposits.

Women's League-Lori Brown

- The Board welcomes the new Women's Chair Emily Saalman. Emily is currently the co-chair and will be taking over chair duties in September. She is a retired medical doctor, the Northam Park Club Rep, the 3.0 Career chair and a 4.0 player at Northam and Olympic. We will be looking for a new Level Chair to fill the 3.0 career position.
- Cindy Ferrara will no longer be serving as the Women's Membership Chair. Lois Dosky will be filling that position starting with the 2025 season. Lois and Emily will be working with Lori this Spring, approving and adding to the rosters and collecting membership fees. Lois indicated that she will continue as the 3.5 Daytime Level Chair.
- Emily, Lori and Lois will be working on the scheduling the first week of May. Then information will be sent to Frank Garabo in Florida, as usual. Plans are for 11 weeks of play and one week of Championships. We expect to start the day after Memorial Day.
- This year the women have 70 daytime teams, 90 career teams, 14 Gold teams and 11 Platinum teams. The clubs with the most women's teams are Scioto Country Club, Swim & Racquet, Players Club, and Worthington Hills Country Club. Sites added this year were Bexley High School and Wellington School.
- Career teams now have a choice of start times 6:00, 6:30 or 7:00. 7:00 will be for locations with lights.

Men's League-Bill Curry

- Men's Board has added Milan Jovanovic who will focus on the 3.5+ league.
- Men's League has added three teams from 2023 number (Gold, 3.0 and 3.5)
- Still need teams declarations from 9 locations, most are verbally confirmed. Men's due date is 4/26.
- There have been some key rule changes of this summer. There will be no more waivers to play down-everyone must play at or above their rating. We have removed the coin flip to determine winner of ties in leagues with an even number of courts. The winner will be the Court One winner. We have also removed the anti-stacking rule, but still encourage captains to play courts in order of ability.
- Captains have started submitting preliminary rosters. Due date for men is 5/3.
- Matches will start June 1
- Invoices are aligned between men and women. They will be sent out on 7/1 and due 7/12.

Columbus Recreation and Parks-Kimmy Confer and Ren Kuzmanovich

- Ren introduced herself as the Rec Admin Manager for CRPD
- Kimmy Confer reported that this year CRPD is hoping to add a third evening to adult team leagues for summer. Details are still being worked out.
- CRPD will be having 4 weeks of youth programming, 2 hours per day, Monday through Thursdays at Whetstone, and this will include a racquet. There is room for 12-15 participants. There will be a new tennis instructor.
- Jumpstart Your game will introduce participants to sports. They are looking for volunteers, including High School athletes. Tennis courts will be used at Schiller Park the first Friday in June.
- Scott asked if there was difficulty getting instructors as there had been in past years. Kimmy replied that was just for the tennis only camp they had in past years.

Website-Scott Gerber

- The full Website Usage report is attached to this email

Social Media Report-John Roberts

- John noted that X(formerly Twitter) has changed the way they do analytics, but it doesn't affect engagement. John also noted that Facebook and Instagram remain consistent. There have been a lot of postings on Ohio State University tennis matches as the top team in the country. John encouraged GCTA captains to send pictures or videos and team info and he would post them. Lori asked the best way to get info to John. Text is best 614-397-2981.

Executive Director's Report-Linda Guyton

- This quarter Linda secured the contract with the Amelita Mirolo Barn, the caterer and bartender for the awards dinner
- Insurance Liability certificates were obtained for the upcoming season.
- Linda continued to work on Safeplay language for the handbook. There will be more on this in Old Business.
- Initial work has been done with the website committee and Improving for rebranding.
- Linda participated in on boarding of our newest board member Emily Saalman.
- Linda also continued dialog with OVTA's Jim Amick and Tara Hayes and Columbus Rec and Parks

OVTA Report-Tara Hayes

- Tara reports there will be 3 Midwest Youth Tennis programs this summer. The locations will be Canal Winchester, Watkins Memorial, and Westerville Central. These will be for grades 1-6. The capacity is 48 kids per camp. High school coaches will be leading the camp with HS players helping.

Old Business

- Linda gave a status update on the Rebranding work with Improving. A committee has been corresponding and meeting both in person and virtually with Improving, the company we have selected for the website refresh. We met to discuss goals and objectives of the website and the rebranding. We reviewed the current website as well as other Community Tennis Organization websites. Website updates focused on highlighted the current grant process. We are also looking at a new logo. There is a 4-6 week timeline for working with Improving on the rebranding. Bill added there is a checkpoint Monday, April 22nd to review website ideas with the Board Committee. We'll have our first view of the theme then. As we transition to the new website, we want to thank Scott for all the work he's put into the websites, and all the ideas he's contributed.
- Mike O'Callaghan was on the agenda to discuss scholarships. Mike noted that we haven't had the opportunity yet to set guidelines as to what we are looking for in applications, or how much we'll be offering. Mike reported that this year \$45K was budgeted for Grants, and a considerable amount was left. To be ready by fall, scholarship applications should be due by February. Mike would communicate this to local students. He suggested starting with one High School senior girl and boy. \$2000 was suggested as a minimum for a scholarship. We may need to decide what conditions to set. For example, should GPA be a factor? Are they going to play college tennis? Aaron suggested that we send this conversation to the Grants committee for criteria discussion. Mike will get together with the Grants committee and report back.
- Safeplay language—Linda reached out to Jim Amick to find out what other organizations do. We came up with some recommended language.

The GCTA supports and is committed to the USTA's SafePlay program. The function of the SafePlay program is to promote a safe and respectful environment for all athletes. Grant recipients and their lead on-court instructors shall successfully complete the requirements of the USTA's SafePlay program and shall provide proof of their valid certification to the Grant Committee Chair and/or the Executive Director.

- Kris suggested that if we are wanting this to apply only to those working with children or students, that we clarify—Youth under 18 and including any High School student. That was the intent of the policy. Linda will rework the language and present it again next meeting.

• New Business

- Terry gave us a history of GCTA involvement with Northam Park. He reports that the Upper Arlington City manager is taking away 3 tennis courts to be replaced by Pickleball. Terry and others are circulating a petition to get more tennis courts back. They'd like to be on the ballot this fall. Terry would like to circulate this among the GCTA membership. Lori noted that we do not make our membership contact information available to anyone. Lenny noted that Northam is losing teams and wanted GCTA to spread the word. Lori explained this was the executive board's decision and is the policy of GCTA.
- Eby will be coordinating Level 7 youth tournaments at Whetstone Park on August 17th and September 21st from 4-7 pm. She has a contract with CRPD, and is asking for suggestions on how to ensure that Whetstone patrons are aware of the tournament, so there will be less need to kick anyone off the courts for the tournament. She has some signs that could be zip-tied to the fence the day of the event to notify the public. These signs are not to promote the event, but to notify the public that the courts will be in use. CRPD agreed to day of event use of these signs.

A motion was made by Lois Dosky to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Terry Finneran
The motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm by Aaron Ockerman

NOTE: Next Board meeting is Tuesday July 16th at 7:00 pm
Annual Awards Ceremony is Thursday, September 26, at 6:00 at Amelita Mirolo Barn