



GCTA Board Meeting

January 2025 Quarterly Meeting

January 21, 2025

Quarterly Meeting convened by Vice President Heath Elliott at 7:07 pm

Linda Guyton began the meeting with a moment of silence for the two of the Guiding Lights of the Greater Columbus Tennis Association who have passed away since we last met-Cindy Ferrara and LeeAnn Massucci.

Board Members Attending:

Laurel Elmore	Lenny Comeras	Kimmy Confar	Bill Curry
Phil Diaz	Lois Dosky	Fred Duy	Scott Gerber
Linda Guyton	Tara Hayes-guest	Preston Eberlyn	Ann Leithauser
Aaron Ockerman	Michael Jones	Emily Saalman	Kris Susa
Brenda Toney	Les Vernado	Tom Moushey	Elena Sanders

• September Minutes Approval

The September minutes were reviewed. There were both quarterly minutes and annual minutes. Laurel Elmore made a motion and Lois Dosky approved that the September minutes should be approved as written. The motion carried.

• Treasurer's Report-Fred Duy

Fred reported we had \$124,000 in the bank. We have had some additional expenses this year with the updating of the GCTA logo and website.

The full Treasurer's Report is attached to this email.

Laurel Elmore made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Kris Susa seconded . The motion carried.

• Digital Content-Ann Leithauser

Winter Party sign-up was successful using an on-line form from a website news post. Ann is working on the drafting of forms for the website, including forms that will indicate Number of Teams and Court Availability.

We have about 500 followers on Facebook and 300 on Instagram.

Ann welcomes content suggestions for social media and more photos are needed. We will also share tennis photos from our partners, such as Buddy Up.

Ann shared a calendar of events that will be posted. One or more photos from each event will be needed. She suggested uploading the photos to the WordPress site if possible, or can be texted or emailed to her. A communications plan is in development, including audience, goals, and guidelines. The Communications & Technology committee will review and update.

Kris Susa made a motion to accept the Grant Committee Report and Phil Diaz seconded. The motion carried.

• **Grant Committee Report- Kris Susa**

Kris reported that we have received commitments from last year's grant recipients for 2025 programs.

Jess Chandler of Grove City plans to add a middle school program. We are hoping to hear from more potential middle school programs.

GCTA is working with CRPD to support a Spring Swing event in May for children and adults new to tennis.

Laurel Elmore made a motion to approve the Grant Committee report, and Phil Diaz seconded. The motion carried.

• **Women's League- Emily Saalman**

The Women's Board is updating the rules through the rules committee. This will be further addressed in New Business

We are currently working on forms for Number of Teams and Court Availability. It was noted that Northam Park plans to be back in 2025 with 9 courts.

The Women's winter party takes place this weekend.

Phil Diaz made a motion to approve the Women's League report and Kris Susa seconded. The motion carried.

• **Columbus Recreation and Parks- Kimmy Confar**

GCTA is partnering with Columbus Recreation and Parks Department to host a Spring Swing Event for National Tennis Month reaching out children and adults who have always wanted to learn the basics of tennis. The event will be held on Saturday, May 17 from 9 until noon at both Wolfe Park and Antrim Park.

There will be two sessions at each park 9-10:30 and 10:30 to noon. There will be more information coming in the next couple of months.

Kimmy indicated that this event was sent to their marketing team at CRPD. This event will be included in the Spring e-blast. Kimmy indicated that the Spring Swing event will be included in regular communications sent out by their marketing team. Recreation Center Managers will also do their own advertising of the event. The marketing team will print posters to be sent to all CRPD sites.

CRPD has sent Linda a current MOU to review.

Lenny Comeras made a motion that this report be accepted and Brenda Toney seconded. The motion carried.

- **Executive Director's Report: Linda Guyton**

Linda reported that this quarter she secured the Amelita Mirolo barn for the 2025 Awards banquet. She is also receiving quotes for caterers, and has ordered fleece pullovers for winter party volunteers.

Linda has secured the UA municipal building Conference room for 2025 meetings. Fred and Linda have secured our participation into the CTA insurance program for 2025.attend.

Linda has been working with Lori to update both the Constitution and the Handbook.

Work continues with CRPD on the MOU, as well as the Spring Swing event coming up this May.

Linda has submitted and received approval for the 2025 OVTA grant.

Phil Diaz made a motion to accept the report and Emily Saalman seconded. The motion carried.

- **Old Business:**

There was no old business reported.

- **New Business: Discretionary Funds for Memorial Gifts**

The Executive Committee seeks the Board of Trustees' approval to disburse in Memorium gifts following the death of a current or former member of the GCTA community. In Memorium gifts may include but are not limited to charitable contributions up to \$2500 with the amount of the contribution to be determined by majority vote of the Executive Committee. Executive Committee seeks Board of Trustees guidance regarding any and all Memoriam contributions made by GCTA.

An initial suggestion had been a \$2500 contribution. Fred felt that amount was a lot of money if there were no parameters. Typically, we have sent flowers to the funeral at a cost of \$100-150.

Phil suggested a broader discussion on if the Executive Committee should have a discretionary amount of money for needs that should come up. A discretionary amount that had been mentioned by a previous Executive Director had been \$500 without going to the full board. Up to \$1500 in discretionary funds was also suggested.

Les mentioned policies of other similar tennis associations. USTA policy regarding gifts to volunteers ranges from \$250 to \$400. This does not mention memorials.

Scott mentioned memorial plaques or bricks in a tennis location. Emily felt that if the family had identified a cause, they may not want the memorial to be somewhere else.

Linda answered Tom's question as to what the past practices had been. Recently, we have sent flowers to Bill Warren's funeral, and purchased a brick and a Memorial Message in the Midwest Tennis and Education program for Terri Jones, our long serving Executive Director. The discussion came up again with the recent passing of GCTA membership chair Cindy Ferrara, and former GCTA officer LeeAnn Massucci.

Phil suggested a discretionary amount per event. Scott noted that flowers would probably be the most common expenditure, with Cindy Ferrara certainly being an exceptional case.

Preston made the motion that we would have a set amount of funds available to the discretion of the executive committee not to exceed \$1500 per instance. It was noted that the main instance would be a memorium. The number of occasions would not be a set amount. Laurel seconded the motion. Of the 19 board members attending, 14

voted for the motion and 3 against. 2 others either abstained or did not turn their cameras on for the vote.

• **New Business: Approval of Constitutional Amendments**

The Executive Committee seeks Board of Trustees' approval of 2024 Constitutional amendments approved by the Executive Committee in November 2024. In an effort to make the GCTA constitution more user-friendly, the document was globally amended. All amendments were designed to streamline, clarify and bolster the usefulness of the document. No significant changes were made to officer or trustee responsibilities and no part of the constitutions was deleted.

On January 10th, the updated draft of the GCTA constitution was sent out to the Board Members.

Tom had a few questions about the updates. One was a wording change regarding "membership" changed to "general member". Linda confirmed there was only one type of GCTA membership. He also asked about a change in Article X — Indemnification. Those indemnified now includes Trustee or Agent. Officers and volunteers were not included in the updated draft. Linda felt that Trustee or Agent would cover all board officers and volunteers. This will be confirmed with Lori. All Board Officers are also trustees. Scott and Kris both felt it would be helpful to send a copy of the changes with the changes highlighted or a strike through. The constitutional discussion will be tabled pending further discussion.

• **New Business: Proposed Rule Changes—Laurel Elmore**

As stated in the GCTA Constitution, the Rules committee meets annually to review changes proposed by the Men's and Women's Board. The rules committee includes Emily Saalman, Bill Curry, Lanny Rubin, Laurel Elmore, and Elena Sanders.

The Women's Board proposed the following rule changes:

Player Qualifications: This would give the Level Chairs authority to recommend player ratings be moved up or down for GCTA teams. Self ratings never adjust to performance level and players could keep their same self-rating indefinitely.

Schedule of Play: Northam Park will play their home matches with USTA time limit rules. Career matches will start at 6:00 PM

Scoring: For the purposes of determining division winners, all third sets will be scored 1-0. Tight results determine division winners, sometimes considering sets or games lost. Tiebreakers are scored 1-0, and in full third sets, all games were counted. This rule change will put give all third sets whether tiebreaker or full set equal weight.

A motion was made by Phil Diaz to approve the changes and Brenda Toney seconded. The motion carried.

There were no changes to the Men's rules.

Laurel Elmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting , and it was seconded by Phil Diaz.

The quarterly meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm by Vice President Heath Elliott

NOTE: Board Meeting Dates for 2025:

Tuesday, January 21, 2025
Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Tuesday, April 15, 2025
Tuesday, September 16, 2025