

Special Meeting of the Giants Neck Beach Association

Board of Governors

July 31, 2024, 6 pm

Helen Lena Clubhouse

Present: Ernie Annibale, Lisa Doggart, Paul Formica, Mary Ann Heenehan, Lou Piscatelli, Gerry Van Noordennen

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Paul Formica made a President's Report. He remarked that this is a special meeting requested by the Board and community members. The previous Board brought forward the discussion of court issues, and the current Board has generated the opportunity for further discussion. BOG meetings first discussed concerns over pickleball noise in August 2023. A committee was formed. Discussions have been held at every meeting. There was a survey. New mandates have been passed for quiet OWL paddles or mufflers. People have spent much of their own money buying OWL paddles. The BOG purchased mufflers. The BOG has also added Wi-Fi and cameras to the clubhouse to monitor court activity. Paul thinks the BOG has worked hard to accommodate everyone who lives here and wants to enjoy the opportunity the court provides.

Russ Moore made a report on the Court Committee. He stated that the committee provides convenient and equitable court access for the entire GNB community. However, the court committee is not able to determine policy.

Russ stated that compliance with the regulations surrounding the use of OWL paddles and mufflers has been high. The committee has provided locks and signage on the court. Skedda scheduling has improved. Thanks to the cameras, more data is available to track court usage. The cameras have been operational for 14 days. Forty-one percent of the court's schedule is being occupied. The number of hours that the court has been used over the hours that it could

have been used is 32%. The court is used 78% of the time it has been scheduled for use in Skedda.

In these 14 days, the basketball court was used twice for less than one hour. The camera did not pick up excessive noise on the court. In summary, usage has been low, and the cameras do not reveal excessive noise.

Paul presented a petition to preserve pickleball, which has been signed by 93 people and is attached to these minutes.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION

Mario Harris noted that out of 11 days, only 3 were the court used past 6 pm. The current court hours were clarified to be 8 am – dusk.

Lous Piscatelli felt the remaining issue is the hours of use. It is infrequent that the court is used past 7 pm. Lous thought that the complaints in many other municipalities are about hours. Hours are being restricted throughout the country. He felt that the hours of court use needed to be addressed.

Lou proposed that the BOG purchase eight owl paddles and put the box given the camera. Lou proposed that court activity be limited to 9 am – 7 pm. Lous suggested an actual rule for no foul language and to give the BOG the power to suspend a player for up to 30 days for breaking the rules. He suggested that the Court Committee be the enforcer of the rules and that the Court Committee needs to be more active.

Gerry Van Noordennen said that the biggest complaint is people playing on the court at night. He suggested using a smart lock before restricting hours. Lous suggested waiting to limit hours.

Ernie Annibale agreed with Lou. He feels Gerry's comments refer to safety. He believes that not much has changed for the people around the court.

Ernie agreed with Lou's proposal to restrict hours but thinks the hours should be 9 am – 6 pm. Ernie does not think the exact hours are needed for tennis.

Lisa Duggart proposed restricting the hours to 9 am—12 pm, with a silent midday, and then having evening hours from 3 pm—7 pm.

Mary Ann Heenehan opposed a break in hours during the day when kids are likely to use the court. She stated that pickleball players have already moved their start time to 9 a.m., so making that change seems to be a no-brainer. She felt that an end time of 7 p.m. would allow those who work to get home and use the court.

Mary Ann felt that a specific end time versus “dusk” is important;

Paul proposed that a committee be formed to discuss the issue of suspending players for breaking rules.

**Motion 1:** Lou Piscatelli moved to restrict the multi-activity court's hours of use to 9 a.m.–7 p.m. Mary Ann Heenehan seconded the motion, which passed 4-2.

**Action:** Research a cell phone-based court locking system.

**Motion 2:** Mary Ann Heenehan moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40. Lou Piscatelli seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Very truly yours,

Annah Perch

Acting Recording Secretary