

## **Notes of March 25, 2009 Brunswick County Tennis Association Special Meeting**

President Michaela Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Present were Randy Wrigley, Sarah Benjamin, Karen MacKinnon, and Michaela Richardson, BCTA Board of Director (BOD) members; Chip Eisele, Dave Gongora, and John Keilman, BCTA members; Brian Moore and Aaron Perkins, Brunswick County Parks and Recreation (P&R) staff.

**Secretary** – Randy Wrigley noted that since only 4 members of the Board of Directors were present, this was not an official BCTA BOD meeting, and no votes involving BCTA actions could be taken.

**Discussion** – Michaela Richardson opened the discussion by stating that the topic was the Summer Youth Tennis, which is one of the P&R programs, and happens at 5 local parks once a week for 6 weeks during the summer, and is staffed by BCTA volunteers. At the last BOD meeting on March 9, Karen Holbrook had discussed changes to the program for this year; a raising of the fees from \$5 to \$30 (which included a tennis racket), a lowering of the participant age range (from 7-12 to 5-10), and more emphasis on the QuickStart program. The March 9 meeting attendees agreed to try those changes this year. After the meeting, some BCTA members stated concerns about the appropriateness of these changes. After a poll of BOD members, it was decided to hold this meeting.

Brian Moore stated that there may have been a misunderstanding about the use of the \$30 fee. P&R had not planned to buy rackets with any of that money; Brian's understanding from Karen was that BCTA would take care of providing the rackets. Also, last year, "start-up" money was available to do the volunteer background checks; from now on, that cost, which ranges from \$15 - \$50 per person each year, needs to come out of the fees. Also, there was discussion and clarification of the insurance situation; the BCTA policy covers the BCTA and BCTA volunteer liability for being sued for negligence, not for participant medical costs. The P&R policy, whose costs are included in the participant fee, covers medical costs. Brian also mentioned that some folks have already signed up, but that he had put hold on further signups pending the outcome of this meeting.

Dave Gongora mentioned that it is possible to get youth rackets at low or no cost from the USTA via grants, one of which is active during April. He also mentioned the problem of what would happen next year; would this year's participants have to pay \$30 again and get another racket?

Randy Wrigley mentioned that his recollection of the March 9 meeting included the following reasons, amongst others, for the changes: 11 and 12 year olds would be covered by the Middle School and CIS programs, the Summer Youth Program via QuickStart was targeted at beginners, and raising the fee would promote a commitment from the parents to keep the children in the program (in past years, a drop-off in participation would occur from week 1 to week 6).

John Keilman, a participant in the Tennis Introduction programs held during school visits the past few months, stated that the students had been told that the program would continue to have a small fee, and that he thought the \$30 amount would be excessive.

After more discussion of pros and cons on various topics, Brian Moore of P&R agreed to the following changes to this year's Summer Youth Tennis program, which he will advertise:

- Redo flyer and advertising to show a \$10 fee (to cover medical insurance and background checks) and state that rackets will be available for use during the program
- Stated age range to be 6-11 years of age (P&R will use situational judgment on both ends of range, allowing a 2-year adjustment if deemed warranted)

Since Karen Holbrook is resigning her position as Youth Tennis coordinator, Dave Gongora and John Keilman will act as co-leaders of the Summer Youth Tennis program from the BCTA side this year; both will get copies of materials from Brian Moore, sometimes hardcopy and sometimes electronically. Michaela Richardson will follow-up on the June 13 QuickStart Training Workshop, to be held at Town Creek Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Wrigley