

Report on Pickleball and Tennis discussions during September and October 2009

Many impromptu conversations, emails and requests for shared tennis court time have occurred since our introduction to Pickleball by Fritz Fouquet back in June 2009. There seemed to be an immediate excitement and attraction to this new sport. Some of our BHVA residents have known of Pickleball from their winter communities down south and extol the benefits of its fitness and fun.

After the 2009 summer of sharing time and space with the tennis courts, there were two movements afoot. By the end of July, the BHVA Board received a petition to only allow tennis on the tennis courts (thus disallowing Pickleball on the tennis courts). Many signatures on the petition urged to protect the integrity of the tennis community and the seasonal tournaments which were part of the attraction to becoming BHVA residents. The BHVA Board has also been lobbied by the Pickleball contingency for acceptance of this new activity and accommodation of the need for court time and space.

Several suggestions have been made regarding possible accommodation of the pickleball enthusiasts and their desire for court space. Suggestions include:

- Use of the unused portion of the CC parking lot,
- Convert the basketball court to a pickleball court
- Convert one tennis court (#1 is the most likely candidate) into two pickleball courts
- Request that S. Bristol Resorts build a pickleball court or provide land (requested by Steering Committee rep – Mark Moretti and denied)
- Purchase moveable net and equipment to put court in parking lot or on tennis court #1
- Delay permanent decision for one complete season, work out a shared court schedule, and accurately monitor the use of both tennis and pickle ball court use.
- Limit the time of pickleball play in deference to “noise” complaints

On October 2, 2009, there was a conciliatory meeting held at the Community Center. Representatives from both tennis and pickleball camps came together to discuss the options. Attendees included: Fritz Fouquet, Len Ceglie, Bill Coleman, Mattie Bicknell, Julie Held, Joe Charlton, Marilyn Noffsinger. Candace Ryan, representing the Board, attended and committed to taking the issues and recommendations back to the Board for consideration.

The above stated options were discussed with many pros and cons, depending on which side of the net you were on.

Fritz opened with a mission statement about our “number one lakeside retreat in the world” and a desire to support both tennis and pickleball as our amenities at BHVA grow and change. He reminded the group that 34 of the 43 pickleball players are also tennis players. Assuming that the BHVA association does not have the funds to build a pickleball court, the pickleball enthusiasts were advocating for the use of court #1, installing temporary net posts and having alternately colored lines.

Julie spoke strongly for the preservation of the tennis season of July 4th through Labor Day, and that more than three courts are needed.

Candace Ryan recommends to the Board, appointing a Tennis/Pickleball task force made up of equal membership which would resume meetings as soon as possible to design a schedule for shared use of court space for the 2010 summer season. Representatives would provide Board with documentation of court usage and participate in planning of appropriate spending of tennis/pickleball/recreation budget line of \$3,300.00 for 2010.

Candace would be glad to communicate by email with all above listed participants of that Oct meeting regarding the consideration of the Board.

Respectfully submitted by Candace Ryan.