

Mountain Tennis Association
March 6, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes
MTA Office, Blue Ridge, Georgia

President Locklear called the regular Board Member meeting to order at 6:30 pm at the MTA office in Blue Ridge, Georgia. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Present:

Mel Locklear (President), Lori Brinson, Harold Cook, Sharon Deyton, Julie Harris, Dan Johnson, Wendy Jones, Jennifer Jabaley, Dick Kilpatrick, Bill Swift and Karen Wilkins (Secretary/Treasurer)

Absent:

Dani Jo Handell and Tom Spencer

Nomination of New Officers:

Mel Locklear will be resigning as President effective immediately. He nominated Dan Johnson to replace him. The nomination was seconded and the Board approved the nomination.

Facilities:

President Locklear and Dan Johnson provided the update on facilities, as follows:

Gilmer County (Mel)

- The County has decided to opt out of USTA financial support.
- They will be building three courts with additional pickleball facilities. Lori and Mel will be meeting with Gilmer County to provide guidance, if requested.

Union County (Dan)

- Larry Conley will install the backboard over the next couple of weeks
- Pickle ball courts will be completed next spring
- USTA has allotted more money for lighting and such. As a result, Dan will be discussing options of building a viewing area and lighting.

Fannin County

- Mel is working on a strategy to address the City reps on building city courts in Blue Ridge. USTA can provide a \$76,000 grant for facilities.
- If next SPLOST passes in Fannin, then Blue Ridge will expand the courts. The date for voting is March 19th.
- The County will provide some money to the city as a result of the recent Title 9 issue.
- Harold will organize a subcommittee to review the possibilities of more public courts and a strategy to expand our sport with Blue Ridge residents and visitors.

Tournaments and Events:

Mel has recommended the tournament committees begin planning earlier for the tournaments in our area.

- Georgia Mountain Tennis Championships (August 23 – 25, 2019)
 - Changeover of coaching staff at Young Harris College. Dave Nelson is the interim coach. Mel and committee members will meet with the staff to discuss their support.
- Homeward Bound
 - Last weekend of October
 - Harold (Tournament Director) needs to solidify the date and location.
- Bent Tree
 - Consistently has tournaments that is open to the public. MTA will assist with advertising to their members

Youth Tennis Initiatives

- (Mel) Coach Glen is joining with Mel on coaching Fannin County youth and Hiawassee private school. Mel is also renting city courts to coach Fannin County youth tennis.
- (Lori) Gilmer High School tennis is beginning for Gilmer County. There is also a segment of youth tennis, however, the MTA is not involved at this time.
- (Bill) Pickens County middle school tennis will begin in the fall because the high school teams will be using the facilities in the spring.

Marketing / Social Media

- The Board discussed the importance of expanding our marketing and social media presence. Harold volunteered to accept this committee lead position. He will be leading the initiative to review our website and research other CTA websites and Facebook pages to see where our opportunities lie.
- It was also discussed that the board members should also provide events and content for the Facebook page.

Organizational Restructuring

The proposed by-laws were discussed to reduce the amount of board members from twelve to five. After discussion, it was agreed that there should be no less than five and no more than seven Board members at any time. The following Board Members were approved by the current Board.

Dan Johnson, President
Bill Swift, Vice-President¹
Karen Wilkins, Secretary-Treasurer
Harold Cook
Lori Brinson Flink
Mel Locklear

The next Board Meeting will be held at the MTA Office on April 1st at 6:00pm. It will be preceded by a meeting with Michael Graham, Senior Director of Community Development & Programs for USTA Georgia.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.
Minutes submitted by Secretary, Karen Wilkins

¹ Bill Swift has since stepped down from the Board and the role of Vice President. Harold Cook will be taking his place as Vice-President. Agreed by all Board members separately.