

Candidate Information

Name: Gretchen Bender

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Number of Years Playing Pickleball: 6 years

Approximate Level of Player: 4.0

Director Candidate Questionnaire

1. Why is being part of the AAZPC Board important to you?

I love Pickleball and I am completely committed to growing the sport. I particularly enjoy being a part of a Team that is developing and growing the sport within my home community. I enjoy meeting and working with my neighbors on a significant project that benefits and improves our Community.

2. Will you be engaged – giving your time, energy and resources to support the work and mission of the AAZPC?

Yes. It has been extremely rewarding to help Anthem PB grow. I would like to continue to be fully engaged in the AAZPC Board for another 2 years.

3. What do you believe are the two biggest opportunities for the AAZPC?

- a) ***Getting more courts – top priority**
- b) Introducing new players to the sport of pickleball
- c) Continue building a supportive, fun, Anthem PB community

4. What ideas do you have that will help increase and strengthen our membership?

- a. ***Continue to advocate for the building of 4+ more courts**
Although this has been approved by Anthem Council (2024 completion?), we need to continue to focus on this project and drive it through. We have an “approval,” but the project is not done until the earthmovers come and we have more courts. We need to stay laser-focused on this project.

We need to keep monitoring this project with ACC Council and staff. And, we need to continue watching the progress of the other FMP projects.

- b. ***Continue to develop and implement league and organized play, programs and events so that AAZPC members have more AAZPC opportunities to play and, if they so wish, to further develop their skills**
- c. Engage Anthem residents that are interested in Pickleball: Consider developing and implementing events and/or programs to
 - i. Introduce and teach the game to Anthem residents
 - ii. Help new players develop confidence and skills so that they can comfortably join AAZPC Club (Open) Play
 - iii. Help new players develop networks and PB friendships that will help new members integrate into AAZPC
 - iv. Develop and implement a program to welcome new AAZPC members at a personal level (if Pilot seems successful)
 - v. **Caveat – we will need volunteers to help us capitalize on these potential opportunities.**
- d. Keep AAZPC FUN and upbeat!