

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:15 p.m.

At Judy Langford's House

In Attendance

Connie McCann, President

Beverly De Haitre, VP, Director (via Zoom)

Joanne Rykers, Treasurer

Damaris Brix, Secretary (via Zoom)

Judy Langford, Director

Jules van Rosebrook, Director

Lindsey Stene, Director (via Zoom)

Guests via Zoom: Jeff Hodgson and Cathy Wong

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 2023 board meeting were approved as presented.

Financial Report

Joanne reviewed the financial report as of March 20, 2023

- Island Savings balance \$23,252.27
- PayPal balance \$438.76
- Petty Cash balance \$100.35
- Trackie (PCO) balance \$350.00

Joanne noted that most of our revenue comes from programs, while the majority of our expenditures go to facility rentals followed by instructor fees and admin expenses.

June Tournament Budget

Jeff Hodgson, Tournament Director, spoke via zoom on the proposed budget for the June tournament.

- Costs have gone up for the Pearkes rental, and sponsorships are down.
- Jeff has applied for a BC grant of up to \$2,100.
- Registration fees will be raised to \$50 (from \$40 last year), plus the usual \$15/event.
- Without the grant, Jeff anticipates a net income of \$2,600
- There is a tournament in Kelowna at the same time which will impact our ability to get referees for each match
- Balls are budgeted for \$400. Gearbox will be contacted to see if they would be interesting in sponsoring for balls. Pickleball Depot has also been

approached, but they have numerous requests for sponsorship so may not be able to support our event.

- Shift has offered \$250 towards snacks. National Bank has not renewed its past sponsorship of the event.
- We are still seeking more sponsors. Sponsors would get prominent signage on courts, in our communications, and the option of awarding the medals. Lindsey will check with her employer to see if they are interested.

The Board approved the proposed budget, with the understanding that adjustments may be necessary.

Membership Report

We have 638 members with 45 individuals who have not renewed. Our membership is growing daily.

Programs

Lindsey reported that the programs are going well. Registrations have been moved to Sign Up Genius but it currently does not accept payment and it is a tedious process to cross reference who has paid. Lindsey, Chris and Connie will be meeting to explore other registration options including the premium model of Sign Up Genius which can accept payments, or possibly paying someone to manage registrations. They will report back to the Board. Pickleball Canada promotes the use of Pickleball Brackets for registration, which we have used in the past, but a fee is charged for each transaction.

Website

Jules reported on the draft website and asked for feedback. Lindsey suggested that the link for “gallery”, be renamed to “media”. She also suggested adding a button for current volunteer opportunities, recognizing that this would require regular upkeep. Connie will send some photos to Jules for inclusion. Connie was hopeful that the website can go live within a month.

Bursary Program

At Connie’s request, Joanne Rykers, along with Anthea Marcus and Steve Marcus drafted a rationale for a Bursary Program and made the following recommendations:

1. Establish a standing Bursary Committee
2. Establish a yearly budget

They felt that bursaries should be used for recognized certification programs for coaches, referees and program/tournament directors. The Board was very appreciative of the work done on the bursary program framework, but there was

not agreement that bursaries would need to be equally awarded between those seeking coaching certification, referee certification and program leadership/administration. Connie will ask some individuals to form a Bursary Committee who will finalize the bursary framework. There was some discussion on the amount to be budgeted for bursaries. Connie recommended that we budget \$600 for bursaries, with the option to top that up if needed. The Board agreed to this. Thank you to Joanne for getting the Bursary program framework started.

Saanich Parks Mtg

Connie and Bev met with Julie Lommerse of Saanich Recreation. They talked about Tolmie Park and the fact that some young players are jumping the fence to play when the courts are closed. Saanich will be installing additional signage, which VRPA will have an opportunity to review ahead of time. Saanich will not be going to a booking system. Saanich is looking into another location for courts. A further meeting will be held in the next two weeks.

PISE May 6

VRPA will be participating in the Family Sport & Recreation Festival at PISE on May 6th. Last year this event attracted over 2,000 parents and children (aged 5-13). We will have the opportunity to showcase Pickleball and give exposure to our sport. We will have at least two paid instructors there to coordinate the court.

Another opportunity for exposure is on the May 19th provincial Pro-D day where we are renting space in SMU gym to run a pro-d activity for interested teachers. Joanne queried why would have to rent the gym and pay our instructors to give a course for the teachers. Connie advised that this is part of our relationship building with schools and is the cost of doing business. Judy also pointed out that it is part of our mandate to grow the game of Pickleball. Joanne wondered if this should be presented in a budget to the board. Connie advised that the Youth Programs group comprised of Nancy Mollenhauer and our instructors has been working on this for some time, but it has only just come together. They will track how it goes this year and present a budget for it next year if it is to be repeated.

President's Report

Connie met with Lana Popham, MLA, on Mar 16 with Dave Metcalf and Malcolm Macaulay. Lana is Minister for Sport & Tourism and is a Pickleball player herself. They spoke of the need for more Pickleball courts. If we had 20 Pickleball flooring rolls we could have a major tournament in Save on Foods Arena. Lana has been invited to attend our June tournament to hand out medals. She has suggested that her office could coordinate a joint meeting with VRPA, Dean Murdock, Murray

Rankin and herself to discuss Pickleball. We have applied for a grant to the Sports Festival, which Lana will be reviewing.

City of Victoria Program

This summer, the City of Victoria will be offering Pickleball courses through a joint venture with VRPA at Central Park. The city will do the advertising and accept payment. Our instructors will be used. The net proceeds will be split either 60/40 or 70/30 (VRPA/City). Our members can sign up through the City of Victoria.

Pickleball BC Meeting

Connie participated in a Pickleball BC zoom meeting with other club presidents around the province. There are now 60 clubs under the Pickleball BC umbrella. PBC has joined Via Sport. As part of that affiliation we are required to create policies on privacy, conduct and membership retention. Connie will draft some policies for the board to review. Connie reported that Metchosin has formed its own pickleball club which is also affiliated with PBC and PCO. This does not look good politically for VRPA. We have spent 1.5 years building a relationship with Juan de Fuca Parks & Rec. Having another pickleball club emerge in the region makes the pickleball community appear fractured.

Victoria Symphony Orchestra Silent Auction Item

The Board agreed to donate a set of lessons to this silent auction for the second year.

Carnarvon Park Tournament

There will be a series of three 90-minute tournaments offered at Carnarvon Park over the next several months. The organizers, Paul, Ian and Carsten, have asked VRPA to be a sponsor of the tournament by donating balls. In return we could have a table at the event, signage and our logo on their promotional material. Connie felt that this was a way of supporting Pickleball in the region and developing our relationship with Oak Bay. The Board agreed to this request.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 18 at 3:15 p.m. at Connie's house

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.