

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

At Tessa Graham's House

In Attendance

Tessa Graham, Vice-President
Damaris Brix, Secretary
Lindsey Stene, Director
Trish Fougner, Director
Joanne Rykers, Treasurer (via Zoom)
Kerry Pridmore (via Zoom)

Regrets

Connie McCann, President
Judy Langford, Director

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 2024 board meeting were approved as presented and will be posted on the website.

Strategic Planning Update

The VRPA Board will be holding a Strategic Planning session on Monday, June 17th from 9am-2pm. Kerry will facilitate and document the discussions. She has interviewed the board members and other stakeholders and will present what she has heard. A common thread is that people are feeling somewhat fatigued with the pace of all that is going on in VRPA. She will put together an agenda and provide a one-page document as a starting point for discussion. The location for the meeting has yet to be confirmed.

Bursary Update

After a call out for volunteers to our membership, Virginia Jacklin and Denise Helm stepped forward to review our bursary applications. They are recommending the following four people for a bursary: Robert Athey, Tony Melendez-Duke, Vanessa Ramsdale and Cameron Watson. In addition to their review of the applications they made the following suggestions:

- Ensure that those reviewing the applications have no conflict of interest.
- Update the application form to include the PCO number.
- Use a more secure process to transfer applicant information other than email
- Advertise and promote the opportunity for bursaries more thoroughly both through email and on our website.

The successful applicants will each be granted a bursary of \$100. The board was in agreement with the recommendations.

There was some discussion on whether a bursary program would be needed in the future given that we have a waitlist for the Level I coaching program. It was pointed out that we have the resources and it's a matter of determining how to allocate them. This will be brought back for a future discussion.

Financial Report

Joanne reviewed the financial report. She presented a contract for Debbie Davis to be retained to do our books at \$50/hr for approximately 4 hours per month. All were in agreement with the contract.

Our contractors and instructors have been asked for their SINs for tax purposes. Debbie has advised that VRPA does not need to file a tax return.

Tessa will follow up with Berwick on their sponsorship money for the Berwick/UVIC tournament which has not yet been received.

Membership Data Update

Damaris advised there are currently 918 members with one or two more coming in daily. There are approximately 150 individuals from last year who did not renew.

VP Update

Saanich Peninsula Pickleball Association

On March 26th Tessa and Connie met with Brad Watson, President of SPPA, and other SPPA representatives to discuss their desire to join VRPA. They are interested in amalgamating to have increased political weight and get access to the variety of programs offered by VRPA that would hopefully be expanded to the Peninsula. From the VRPA perspective a larger membership means a bigger voice. It was agreed that SPPA would send out a survey to their members. Their AGM is in June and they would require a 2/3 majority vote. VRPA would also need to have a special general meeting and obtain a 2/3 majority vote in favour of amalgamation. While no shortcomings could be foreseen, Kerry pointed out that we would need to manage expectations.

Wain Road

SPPA has organized sound testing at Carnarvon Park on May 15th and the media have been invited. Carnarvon was chosen as it has similar conditions to Wain Road with proximity to houses etc. Sound measurements will be taken during play and OWL paddles will be available. Tessa is hoping to get a meeting with the Mayor and Council to present them with the data. Connie has already offered North Saanich \$4,000 for sound mitigation. Panels would cost an estimated \$35-40,000. A

petition to prevent the closure of the courts was signed by 1,600 people, 500 of whom were from North Saanich.

Esquimalt Programming

Tessa reported that the number of hours required to get the Esquimalt Pickleball Programs up and running is exceeding what was budgeted for. The reason for this increase is due to on-boarding of a new contractor and service provider (e.g. Esquimalt) and VP stepping in for President all of which has resulted in additional coordination and communication efforts. Tessa asked the Board to consider increasing the number of hours in the programmer contract. The programmer will be asked to track the hours moving forward. Tessa will send out an email to the Board recommending that the hours be increased.

The temporary courts will be laid on May 15th.

Public Service Day

Public Service Day is on June 16th. VRPA will again be providing Pickleball as an activity at the Ministry of Citizen Services BBQ picnic. Beverly D'Haitre and 4 volunteers will be onsite with nets and paddles. It was agreed that the volunteers would be given a \$25 honorarium.

Uptown Pickleball Courts

Tessa has been contacted by the Creative Project Manager at Uptown advising that two permanent Pickleball courts will be installed there by Playco. When they open in July, they will be reservable for \$15/hr. Tessa suggested they rent out OWL paddles and use the slightly quieter Onix ball. They are interested in running programs and perhaps involving Brown's Social House. The Uptown court info is confidential until such time as they make the announcement.

First Met Security Issue

A daycare centre is opening in June at First Met which hopefully will reduce open drug use in the area.

Carnarvon Master Plan

Tessa sent out a reminder to our members to fill out the survey on the Carnarvon Master Plan. At least a dozen people advised her that they had done so.

Victoria Classic Update

240 players have signed up for the Macdonald Realty Victoria Classic which is our highest registration ever. Tournament Director Krista Josselyn had the clever idea

of adding a 9th court which has resulted in 90 people getting off the waitlist. Tessa secured another court sponsor of RBC. The budget is showing a \$3,900 profit.

Referee Program Update

On April 23rd Tessa polled the Board by email for approval to purchase 12 anti-fatigue mats for refereeing. After researching various options Tessa recommended purchasing them from Canadian Tire for a total price of just under \$300. The Board was in agreement. Tessa thanked the board for endorsing the purchase which will be much appreciated by the refs.

On May 18th seven trainees will be assessed for their Level I or II by Rick Folk and Ray Cyr.

Youth PISE Event

The PISE Fun Family Festival event saw 150 families attending, many of which tried out Pickleball. Several families inquired where they could take lessons and if we had summer camps. The Board approved an honorarium of \$100 to send to Kathy as a thank you for her work on the Youth and PISE event. She recruited 6 volunteers.

The Northridge School Program currently underway has been very successful. The teachers are appreciative and enjoy the experience. Kathy and Paul have been doing the instruction.

Trish will follow up with Kathy to provide a written report for PBC which is required in order to receive the \$500 grant.

Northridge PAC needs to be invoiced for \$380 as per the contract.

Victoria Curling Club

Tessa and Trish met with Victoria Curling Club General Manager James Keogh to discuss potential VRPA use there next summer. This opportunity will be discussed further at our strategic planning meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm