

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 22, 2024

Via Zoom

**In Attendance**

Connie McCann, President  
Tessa Graham, Vice-President  
Judy Langford, Director  
Damaris Brix, Secretary  
Joanne Rykers, Treasurer  
Lindsey Stene, Director  
Kerry Pridmore

**Regrets**

Trish Fougner, Director

A special meeting was held to discuss the logistics of holding a Community Conversation on Pickleball and to approve a budget for the associated costs.

Connie advised that following the recent closure of the Wain Rd courts she received a phone call from City Councilor Jerney Caradonna suggesting we lead a conversation on pickleball.

This conversation is proposed for Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> with a panel of regional voices consisting of:

Councilor J. Caradonna, City of Victoria  
Chris White, IPOP, Vancouver pickleball facility developer  
Brad Watson, president SPPA  
An Oak Bay councilor  
Barry Petrachenko, Executive Director, Pickleball Canada  
A representative from Pickleball BC (David Snell or Dave Seaton)  
Connie McCann, president, VRPA

Under the direction of a moderator each panel member would speak for 5 minutes. They would be called up to answer previously submitted questions and a few questions from the floor.

First Met has offered us their Hall at no charge.

Connie asked each board member to provide their comments. Everyone was in favour of holding the meeting.

- Judy and Lindsey recommended that invitations be sent to every council

- Tessa felt it should be made clear what the purpose of the meeting is, being mindful of not raising expectations of the membership. i.e. Are we going to advocate for a standalone Pickleball facility as per the recommendation in the Pickleball Strategy to build an indoor community hub.
- Lindsey felt the tone should be kept general, focusing on the need for more courts. The municipalities need to step up and meet the need
- Kerry agreed with other remarks, but expressed concern about taking on too much, and keeping in mind our succession planning
- Connie said we can use Wain Rd to start the conversation. The sound issue has to be faced – the solution is to go indoors. Anything else is just a band-aid. Two options are for a developer to build a private Pickleball facility, or for a municipality to build a facility in partnership with VRPA as occurred in Vernon. This meeting is a way to report back and engage our members.
- Joanne didn't want the meeting to get bogged down on what we have already established is the need. She said there needs to be clarity of purpose and outcome. There has to be a focus on how to increase awareness, how to involve private developers, counselors and our membership.

Tessa agreed to be the moderator of the meeting.

Moved by Tessa, Seconded by Judy

**That the Board budget \$250 for the costs associated with the sound system and photocopying for the Community Conversation on Pickleball to be held Oct 2, 2024 at First Met Hall.**

All in favour

Judy will sign the contract with First Met. Connie will follow up with Long & McQuade for the rental of the sound equipment. Judy offered to organize enough volunteers to greet, set up and for the tech requirements.

Connie noted that we need to accommodate people who are not comfortable going to First Met in the evening by offering to accompany them to their vehicles, and recommending carpooling.

Representatives from Metchosin, Peninsula, and Saanich Peninsula Pickleball Clubs will be invited.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.