

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Monday, September 23, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

At Judy Langford's house

In Attendance

Connie McCann, President
Judy Langford, Director
Damaris Brix, Secretary
Lindsey Stene, Director (via zoom)
Tessa Graham, Vice-President

Regrets

Trish Fougner, Director
Joanne Rykers, Treasure
Kerry Pridmore

Approval of Minutes

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

Financial Reports

The board reviewed the financial statements previously submitted by Joanne. It was noted that payments from Esquimalt are still outstanding. In the future it would be preferable to have Esquimalt remit program fees to VRPA monthly as is the practice with the City of Victoria. Connie will bring this up with Esquimalt at her next meeting with them. The Steve Deakin clinics at Esquimalt were run at a loss.

Programs

Liam McTavish our newly hired contract programmer reported on his experience with the programming to date. There were a few initial glitches including that the Stripe payment system did not work on the opening day of registration. This issue has now been resolved and there are no outstanding payments owing. Liam demonstrated how the Sign-Up Genius platform works from the administrative end. He will be starting work on setting up the winter programs soon.

Liam advised that some people are reluctant to go to First Met due to its location. Judy reported that First Met is increasing the lighting in the parking lot, and that there will be more of a police presence there now that there is a daycare in the building.

There have been numerous cancellations due to injuries. Liam suggested that instructors and facilitators should encourage a proper warmup before playing. Connie will send out a reminder to players about the importance of warming up.

Finance Committee Report

The Board formally recognized the structure of the newly established Finance Committee made up of Joanne Rykers, Lindsey Stene, Deb Davis and Ken Quan. Lindsey presented the committee's objectives for 2025 and outlined their mandate around the preparation and maintenance of financial records and budgets. They will also ensure internal control procedures/checks and balances are in place. They will be mindful of succession planning, creating a step-by-step manual drafted by Joanne, and reviewed by the committee

Next meeting is scheduled for November 26 to draft a budget for 2025.

It was clarified that financial statements need not be published monthly with the minutes, but will be made available at the AGM.

Facilities

Judy reviewed the opening and closing procedure for First Met for those dates when there are no building staff on site. After some discussion it was agreed that we will not offer programs at First Met on stat holidays in the future.

All contracts have been signed with all our facilities.

Bursary

We still have one applicant outstanding from the last round of bursaries. The newly trained coaches will be given the opportunity to apply for a bursary.

Sponsorship Grid

Connie reviewed the PBC sponsorship grid which she has modified for our use. If anyone has a question about sponsorship, they can be referred to this document Berwick has confirmed their sponsorship of the Women's tournament in April for \$2,000. Uptown will be sponsoring our Christmas tournament for \$2,000.

Women's Tournament

VRPA will have access of up to 16 courts at CARSA for our next Women's event in April. With 16 courts the tournament can be expanded to include more levels and players. TD Leah Gordon will work with the software and determine how many events can be offered. It was agreed that the tournament should remain on just the Saturday.

At next Board meeting Tessa will bring forward a proposal and budget for training the next cohort of referees.

Community Conversation in Pickleball

Connie reviewed the panelists and the format for the Community Conversation on Pickleball which take place at First Met on Oct 16th and moderated by Tessa Graham. The panelists will be:

Connie McCann, president, VRPA

Barry Petrachenko, Executive Director, Pickleball Canada

Councillor Jeremy Caradonna, City of Victoria

Councillor Mena Westhaver, District of Saanich

Councillor Hazel Braithwaite, District of Oak Bay

Brad Watson, president, Saanich Peninsula Pickleball

Chris White, IPOP, Vancouver Pickleball developer

Dave Eaton, Secretary, PBC

1,000th Member

In recognition of reaching 1,000+ members VRPA will be having a draw for a prize such as a tournament entry, gift card, or program registration. Entry forms for the draw will be in the form of a fun quiz - correct answers not required to enter the draw. Board members were asked to send their ideas for questions to Lindsey.

Oak Bay Council

Connie reported on the Oak Bay Council meeting regarding Carnarvon Park. Of the various options proposed Council is in favour of option #3 which reduces the Pickleball courts by 1, or Option #2 which keeps all the courts. Connie made a presentation to them to consider installing a hybrid cover which would reduce the sound. Connie also stressed to the Council that all 5 courts are needed in all Options including Option #3.

District of Saanich Pickleball Open House

To be held Tuesday, September 25th.

Beacon Hill Park

Connie has written to Victoria Mayor and Council to formally request planning for permanent and dedicated pickleball courts in Beacon Hill Park. She has been in contact with the James Bay Pickleball group and Friends of Beacon Hill Park around two potential sites – a hub in the area of Douglas and Dallas, or the installation of four permanent courts in the space where the temporary ones are now.

Royal Oak Golf Course

The CRD has bought the Royal Oak Golf Course and they will be releasing their interim management guidelines. VRPA will be starting a conversation with the CRD counsellors about the future use of the property.

Next meetings

Oct 21 and Nov 18

AGM in February, date to be determined.