

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Monday, July 22, 2025

At Tessa Graham's house

In Attendance

Roger Graves, President

Tessa Graham, Vice-President

Cathy Wong, Treasurer

Damaris Brix, Secretary

Rhea Athey, Director

Brian Harrigan, Via phone

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the June meeting were approved and will be posted on our website.

Centennial Park Peninsula Update

Brian provided an update on the 4 new covered pickleball courts opening soon in the multisport box at Centennial Park. These courts will be booked through Panorama Rec Centre. In addition to this Central Saanich is considering converting one of its single tennis courts to 4 pickleball courts. Brian and Brad Watson met with counselor Paltiel who is Chairman of the Recreation Commission and it will be discussed further at the July 28th council meeting. The hope is that the project would be affordable and within Central Saanich's budget so that it proceeds.

It was agreed that VRPA will put in a booking request for the multisport box courts for twice a week for 2 hrs for non-instructional programs. Brian will submit a permit for this. Tessa will connect with some people who may be interested in being facilitators for these sessions

President's Report

Roger touched on the new insurance requirement put into effect at Pearkes. VRPA programs are covered by PCO insurance, but individuals doing block bookings are required to pay liability insurance. While this is out of VRPA's hands, Roger plans to meet with Saanich and Victoria to see if there is a way around this for next year.

Roger advised that Connie will be submitting a request for funding for Activating Youth Pickleball. Tessa noted that we have a budget for Community and Youth Development.

Roger will be speaking with Brad Watson about the dollars which were due to come to VRPA with the amalgamation of SPPA.

Roger agreed to call Chris White of IPOP about rumours of courts being built at Mayfair. He will also report back after talking to the City of Victoria about what the proposed booked procedure will be for Topaz Park.

Vice-President's Report

Sponsorships:

- Courtside Sports will be offering VRPA members 10% off apparel. Members will need to show proof of membership which can be downloaded from one's PCO profile.
- Tower Fence will be title sponsor for the Christmas Tournament.
- Amica has also expressed interest in sponsoring the Xmas tournament and discussions are underway regarding those details
- The Board will not be accepting sponsorships from travel companies to promote their trips

Sanctioning of Macdonald Realty Victoria Classic

Moved by Tessa Graham

That VRPA apply to Pickleball Canada to have the 2026 Macdonald Realty Victoria Classic designated as a sanctioned tournament.

Motion Approved

Tessa's rationale for putting forward the motion is that a sanctioned tournament will draw more and higher level players to the event. It will offer an enhanced experience for both players and referees but the main reason is that at some time in the future VRPA may wish to host a provincial tournament (which would be sanctioned) and we need to gain experience running a sanctioned tournament.

We already meet many of the conditions of a sanctioned event. A sanctioned event would use the CTPR rating scale rather than DUPR. The application would need to be submitted by the tournament director.

Finance Report

Cathy circulated the finance reports and said there is nothing out of the ordinary. We realized significant profits from our tournaments: Berwick \$9,000 and Macdonald Realty \$12,000.

At a future budget meeting we will consider the rate of pay our coaches receive as compared to that paid to VPC coaches.

Membership Report

There are 946 active members.

Bursary – bursaries have been awarded to Deb Davis, Gorman Lee, Rhea Athey, and Darren Anderson for Level I. The board will be reviewing the bursary program and considering whether next year's bursary program will be targetted towards Level II applicants.

Facilities Report

Rhea advised that the contracts for Pearkes and First Met are signed and completed. New this fall is that we will be running 3 non-instructional programs at VPC, and involved in the promotion of programs at UVIC, which will be booked thru CARSA.

Tessa will be ordering 400 inside balls, and 300 outdoor balls for a total cost of \$2,000. She pointed out that program costs need to cover the Facilities, Balls, Admin time, coaches, facilitators and net repair.

Coaching

The board discussed mentorship opportunities for new coaches but felt it should be done informally and without pay. This would allow the Level 1 coaches to get more experience. Tessa will talk to Cayce at VPC about opportunities for professional development for coaches.

It was agreed that surveys are a good tool for feedback. Coaches would need to see the surveys before they teach their first class. It could be a short qualitative survey such as: did the course meet the objectives; what did you like best; what would be an improvement?

Timing of Fall Programs

Liam will send out an email in mid August. There will be a waitlist tab. VRPA members can sign up for only ONE instructional and ONE non-instructional class.

New Rates

Facilities costs have gone up so our program costs will also have to increase. The Board will review the numbers and advise Rhea of their recommendation.

Job Descriptions

Job descriptions for the following will be finalized in September:

- Sponsorship Coordinator
- Communications Coordinator
- Event Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator

Meeting adjourned at 5:08pm

Next meeting to be held September 22 at Roger's house.