

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Monday, September 22, 2025

At Roger Graves' house

In Attendance

Roger Graves, President
Tessa Graham, Vice-President
Cathy Wong, Treasurer
Damaris Brix, Secretary
Brian Harrigan (Regrets)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

President's Report

Roger updated the board on his conversation with Chris White, Founder IPOP (Inclusive Place of Pickleball) regarding their proposal to put in 15-21 courts at Mayfair Shopping Centre. Although this project has not hit the point of no return, it is getting there and the City of Victoria is supportive. One proposed location would be in the upper parking lot.

Roger met with Josh Taylor of the City of Victoria regarding the 11 new courts at Topaz Park which will open in late October or mid November. They plan to hold an Open House with demonstrations and possibly a tournament. The booking system will be a blended model similar to that used at Juan de Fuca with some courts not reservable and some reservable (exact number of each to be decided).

Roger advised that the CRD Needs Assessment Study shows that the Peninsula is below average for Pickleball Courts And above average for tennis. They used Langford, Saanich, and Kelowna as the comparator cities. The Panorama Recreation Commission their priority is to build six dedicated pickleball courts, along with 1 tennis court. They are also considering repurposing one of the tennis courts at Panorama for pickleball play. They are also considering building a multiuse facility in Central Saanich.

The new multipurpose courts in Centennial Park have been well received. The courts are a textured asphalt and the lighting is good. However, the level of play at the VRPA sessions is very disparate. VRPA may need to organize the sessions by level or run them as King of the Court. Brad and Heather will be consulted on this.

Vice-President's Report

- Tessa will finalize the sponsorship details with Courtside Sports for member discounts
- Tessa advised that Pickleball Canada has adopted DUPR as its official rating system (previously was CTPR). At last month's meeting the Board passed a motion that the June tournament would be sanctioned. However, after hearing feedback from the tournament director, the board agreed that sanctioning could be postponed for up to 3 years. In the meantime, the board would like the tournament to more closely align with sanctioned events which would require

Timeouts, End Changes, full matches where possible and the use of Pickleball Desk to assign referees. Tessa will write a letter to the tournament director regarding this. Tessa will oversee the June and Women's tournament.

- Heather Fox and Anne Tremblay have agreed to assist VRPA with its programming. A new board member will be temporarily assigned for them to report to.

Finance Report

- Cathy reviewed the financial report and noted there was nothing major to report. There are several blocks of time at First Met where classes had to be cancelled due to low enrollment. Cathy will check with First Met to see if we can get out of the contract for those hours until the end of December. This amounts to \$500/week. Roger pointed out that our client based has eroded due to the many options available in Greater Victoria for programs. The empty timeslots at Pearkes could possibly be converted to King of the Court or Partner Play. Roger will speak to Liam about this.

AGM

The AGM will be held on February 10th at the Cordova 55+ Centre at Cordova Bay Elementary.

Membership Report

There are 1127 active members.

The Board determined that in order for private coaches to be advertised on our website they would need to be Level II or equivalent and have currently or previously coached for VRPA.

Bursary – next years' bursaries will be earmarked for Level II coaches.

Program Update

The next set of lessons start October 15 and should be advertised now. Tessa will talk to Anne and Heather to confirm the sessions with Liam

Google for Non-Profits

Roger will set up Google for Non-Profits to standardize our emails and file sharing

Insurance

Roger advised that Brian is looking into the possibility for rental groups to book courts at Pearkes through VRPA in order to have the liability insurance covered. Most groups have already paid their insurance premiums for this season, so it would be something to look into for next year.

Upcoming Meetings

October 20 – Damaris' house

November 17 – Tessa's house

December 15 – Brian's house

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm