

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025

At Damaris Brix' house

In Attendance

Roger Graves, President
Tessa Graham, Vice-President
Cathy Wong, Treasurer
Damaris Brix, Secretary
Denise Wheeldon, Director
Brian Harrigan (Via phone)

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

President's Report

Roger welcomed Denise Wheeldon to the Board and provided her with an orientation on the roles of the Board members. An organizational chart had previously been circulated by Tessa. The Board agreed that bios should be posted for all board members.

Topaz Park

Roger advised that Topaz Park will be opening in November and the City would like VRPA to run a fun event for its opening. The Topaz court allocation will be similar to that at Juan de Fuca, with some courts reservable and others more of a paddle in the saddle system.

Activating Youth Pickleball

Activating Youth Pickleball has received less funding from PBC than in the past and has therefore requested additional funding from VRPA. The Board conditionally approved some funding for AYP, pending receipt of a budget. Denise agreed to be the board liaison for AYP.

Vice-President's Report

Programming:

Tessa advised that when Cedar Hill School gym reopens, VRPA will have the opportunity of renting it again on Thursday nights. Ideally, we would also have social play at UVIC two additional evenings as well.

Of the many sessions we offered at UVIC this term, only some have sufficient enrollment to proceed. Tessa has negotiated a 30/70 split with UVIC: registration will be done through VRPA, the courts and a facilitator will be organized/paid for by UVIC. Although UVIC has some downsides, it is in a good location. We will lose our space at First Met next year when the building is demolished.

Membership Report

There are 1074 active members.

Sponsorship

There is a new Sponsorship committee including Barb Collombi, Julie Ng, Vicki Walker, and Becca Stuve. Tower Fence and Amica have both come forward as sponsors for the Christmas Tournament.

Event Coordinator

Nicola Reddington has agreed to be the Event Coordinator and Virginia Jacklin and Kari Fraser are the Volunteer Coordinators. Kyle Clancy has also come forward to help

Referee Training Program

Tessa has 15 referee trainees. She has requested a budget of \$1,400 to complete the training program, some of which is done online through USAP.

Treasurer

Cathy reported that we have now received the \$8,000 from Saanich Peninsula Pickleball Association which was due to us as part of the agreement when they amalgamated with VRPA.

Cathy provided a spreadsheet showing the VRPA Session Cost Analysis. This information is invaluable for future planning as we review program pricing given the increased costs of facilities, balls, admin expenses, etc. The Board agreed that programs must more than cover the cost to run them.

Budget

The Board will review a preliminary budget in November. Prior to that meeting Cathy Wong, Deb Davis (VRPA Bookkeeper), along with members Krista Josselyn and Kevin Smith will draft the 2026 budget. The budget committee may have some ideas on how VRPA could afford a parttime Executive Director.

Coaching

Roger suggested that next year's bursaries be targeted toward coaches getting their Level 2 certifications as we already have access to more coaches than we can employ, especially at Level 1.

The board felt that Coaches should be responsible for finding their own subs but, if unsuccessful, could reach out to the Program Team. Damaris suggested a coach's sub list be formed.

Insurance Indemnity

Brian had previously circulated a document re insurance and our rental agreement with Saanich. There are two separate issues: 1) the possibility that groups booking with Saanich would not have to buy insurance if they were able to book their programs through VRPA; and 2) that the actual language of the insurance agreement VRPA and other groups have signed is highly problematic because Saanich's current language attempts to download their responsibility onto the rental group. This second issue is the subject of an upcoming meeting between Malcom/Brian and Saanich administration.

Peninsula Update Centennial Park

Brian advised there is a proposal to convert the single tennis court at Centennial Park into 4 Pickleball courts. If approved, the Board agreed that it would contribute some funding towards it.

Iroquois Park

Brian reported that a group in Sidney is lobbying to get 4 Pickleball courts lined on one of the tennis courts at Iroquois Park.

Program Update

Denise advised that Pickleball pros Anna Dyachenko and Kim Layton will be offering clinics in BC and wondered if VRPA would be interested in having them do a clinic here. The Board thought this was worth exploring.

Member Survey

The Board agreed that members should be surveyed on the following:

- what kinds of programming should we offer
- would First Met players be willing to travel to UVIC to play once FM is no longer available
- would members be interested in attending a clinic put on by pros Anna and Kim even if the cost was in the \$200-\$300 range

Upcoming Meetings

November 24 – Tessa's house

December 15 – Brian's house

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm