

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Monday, November 24, 2025

At Tessa Graham's house

In Attendance

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

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as amended and will be posted on the website.

President's Report

Call Out for New Board Members

The VRPA Bylaws require no fewer than 3 and no more than 7 elected Board members, with up to 3 more appointed if additional representation is required.

Board Member	Role	Term Expiry at AGM of
Roger Graves	President	2027
Tessa Graham	Vice-President	2026 (willing to serve 1 more yr)
Damaris Brix	Secretary	2026 (agreed to another 2yr term)
Cathy Wong	Treasurer	2027
Brian Harrigan	Peninsula Rep	Temporary appt
James Nielsen	Communications	Temporary appt (will run for Brd)
Denise Wheeldon	Program Director	Temporary appt

Roger will put out a call to the membership seeking new board members. In the past we have elected the board and then assigned roles based on a person's area of expertise. Tessa suggested we advertise for specific skillsets to run for the board, such as for event coordination and sponsorship. The Board is open to change and doing things differently in the future. James suggested mapping out some sustainable action plans.

Activating Youth Pickleball

AYP has applied for a grant of \$17,491 from Jumpstart. The Board agreed that VRPA could be the repository for the funds if the application is successful.

Summer Youth Pickleball Camp Proposal

Eric Law and Gorman Lee are proposing running a series of Youth Pickleball camps at Topaz Park this summer. It would be in partnership with the City of Victoria with a suggested cost split arrangement in the neighbourhood of 70/30. It would be based on

the model used in Esquimalt 2 years ago with registration done by the city. It was suggested that Roger and Eric meet with the City and finalize the details. The Board approved in principal this proposal. A contract would need to be drawn up.

Emma Knapp Funding Request

Emma Knapp's Minor League Pickleball team won their division at the finals in Vancouver recently. As the winners they have qualified for the World's in Texas. She has approached VRPA to request funding for the trip. The Board felt that the team is not a VRPA entity, and that VRPA is not in a position to provide funding at this time. However, this opens the question of how VRPA could support high performance athletes in the future.

Vice-President's Report Sponsorship

Tessa reported that the sponsorship team has been highly successful in getting donations for the Christmas tournament. She hopes that in the future VRPA would have a framework for sponsorship which would extend beyond tournaments.

Christmas Tournament

There are 52 volunteer slots identified for sign up. VRPA is moving toward a goal to enhance the player experience in tournaments, for example by providing lunch. Next year's tournament could be held at UVIC. The advantage would be it could be held on just one day, utilizing twice as many courts.

Referee Training Program

Tessa is working with a cohort of referee trainees from Victoria. The refs will get practice at the Mini Tournaments, and with a goal to be assessed in May. Tessa hopes to get at least 7 certified refs completing the program.

Sub List on Facebook

James agreed to take over managing the sub list on Facebook. Thank you to Beverly De Haitre for managing it for all these years.

Membership Report

There are 1131 active members.

Treasurer

Cathy distributed various scenarios outlining VRPA Program costs and breakeven points. She pointed out that some of our programs are operating at a loss. The committee discussed the options and agreed that our prices would be set as follows in order to cover our costs:

Instructional based on 7 participants (should a session not be 100% full)

Pearkes \$27 per session

Pearkes \$15 per session for non-instructional programs

First Met \$22 per session for instructional programs

First Met \$15 per session for non-instructional programs

Centennial Park - \$6.50 per session (non-instructional)

Budget

Cathy met with Deb Davis, Krista Josselyn, and Kevin Smith regarding our budget. The Board will review what Cathy has provided and give preliminary feedback. The December meeting will be to review the budget line by line.

Programming Update

Denise reviewed the upcoming courses at Pearkes. Tessa recommended getting these course sign-ups out by December 1.

The Program Team is working on getting one of Centennial Park days moved as it conflicts with a popular session at Brentwood.

Approximately 250 members returned the survey. There was some excellent feedback and the Program Team will use the survey responses to help develop what is offered in the future.

A discussion was raised about whether VRPA should require goggles to be worn at our programs. This would not be implemented immediately but is definitely something to consider for next year.

Communications Update

James has updated some of the links on FB and Instagram and made the platforms more consistent with each other with a common branding.

Upcoming Meetings

December 15 – Brian's house

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 pm