

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Monday, March 16, 2026

At Tessa Graham's House

In Attendance

Roger Graves, President

Tessa Graham, Vice-President

Cathy Wong, Treasurer

Damaris Brix, Secretary

Denise Wheeldon, Program Director

James Nielsen, Communications Director

Amy Woermke, Sponsorship Director

Brian Harrigan (regrets)

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of February 23rd were approved and will be posted to the website.

President's Report

VRPA.Net – all Board members are now using VRPA.net and will transition off the old gmail accounts and transfer their files over to the shared Google drive. Using this platform will make it easier for future director transitions.

Liam's Replacement Update

Liam's contract expires April 30th. An RFP has been sent to two individuals who have expressed interest in our Program Director position. This position would be for 20-25 hpw. Among the other duties listed in the job requirements, the Board would like the contractor to explore, recommend and implement a new software program. We are currently paying \$10,000/yr for Sign-Up Genius. Ball management may be added to the duties of this position which Tessa has been handling along with some volunteers.

First Aid Training

Roger had previously circulated a proposal that VRPA consider sponsoring CPR training for its members. After some discussion, the Board was not in favour of coordinating first aid training which can be up to 6 hours. However, instructors and facilitators should be aware of the location of defibrillators. Coaches should have a first aid emergency action plan, and it is recommended that they have first aid training. Amy pointed out that the defibrillators talk a person through how to use it. Amy mentioned that there is an App showing the location of defibrillators.

AYP Request for Funding

The AYP group has made a request for \$335 which will be used specifically for the program at Frank Hobbs Elementary. This would come from our Community & Youth development budget of \$5,000. All were supportive of this request.

Vice-President Report

Berwick – James confirmed that he could take photos at the Berwick event. There are 198 players registered so far which is fewer than last year, particularly at the higher levels.

Referee Training Program

Ongoing training for the current cohort continues.

Ball Management

Tessa is willing to continue purchasing the balls and organizing them for tournaments but would like the program balls to be handled by someone else. She is getting quotes for Franklin balls from Courtside Sports and another supplier.

Treasurer's Report

Cathy advised that the financial reports are available for viewing on the Google Drive. We will be receiving a cheque for \$650 from a cancellation at Centennial park.

Berwick

Sponsorships include:

Berwick, Title Sponsor

Amplifon, Gold Sponsor

Dentist in Sidney

Chemainus Family Dental

Courtside Sports (in kind)

Shangri-Law (in kind)

Amy will get the sponsorship signs printed. In regard to Sponsorships Cathy would like to ensure VRPA continues to reach out to our previous sponsors to determine if they are interested in continuing their sponsorship, and to advise all sponsors we are looking for a Title commitment when that time comes and once the sponsorship levels are approved by the Board.

Membership – 763

There was a discussion re the membership benefit posted on our website which says: *“Membership allows advance registration in local tournaments such as the Victoria Classic and the Berwick/UVic Women's events”*. This did not happen for the Berwick event. The Board directed Tessa to talk to our Macdonald Realty tournament director so that this member benefit occurs for the June event.

Programming

Kevin did an excellent job of replacing Liam. Anne, Heather and Denise will be meeting soon to start planning the fall programming.

Sponsorship

Amy asked if the board would be comfortable having an alcohol sponsor and/or a cannabis sponsor. Tessa felt that we need to have a sponsorship framework before a decision could be made on this. She asked Amy to come up with a sponsorship framework for our May meeting.

Amy has several ideas for sponsorships. We should be encouraging people to sponsor and promote sponsorship opportunities. Cathy would like to see past sponsors asked back before approaching potential new title sponsors. Sponsorships could be expanded to leagues, etc.

Communications Update

James has been updating social media. He suggested that volunteer and sponsorship opportunities be put on all outgoing messages. He will add DUPR information to the website.

New Business

What is our Goal, Strategy and Mission?

The committee will take some time to reflect on our current mission statement and come back to the next meeting with recommended changes, if any.

To grow the game of Pickleball in the Greater Victoria Region for all ages, levels and abilities by creating and cultivating an inclusive respectful environment that promotes safety, health, social interaction, good sportsmanship and fun by providing the following:

- *fun competitive and recreational opportunities for players of all abilities*
- *continuing skill and mentoring programs to enhance organized recreational and competitive play*
- *a positive working relationship with all municipalities in the Greater Victoria Region promoting the building of public indoor and outdoor dedicated pickleball courts.*

Next meeting April 20th at the home of Denise.

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.