

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2026

At Amy Woermke's House

In Attendance

Roger Graves, President

Tessa Graham, Vice-President

Cathy Wong, Treasurer

Damaris Brix, Secretary

Denise Wheeldon, Program Director (regrets)

Amy Woermke, Sponsorship Director

Brian Harrigan, Peninsula/Legal Director

James Nielsen, Communications Director (regrets)

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of April 20, 2026 were approved as amended and will be posted to the website.

President's Report

RFP for Programming Support

There was only one response to our RFP for Programming support which came from Rex Sports' Cayce Fedberg, past GM of Victoria Pickleball Centre. The board was impressed with the nature of his submission which offered two different scenarios of support. The first option was the transition from Sign Up Genius to Play by Point software, and the second option to provide ongoing support to run the system (i.e. handle all registrations/refunds/queries). Transition would involve various stages including audit/assessment, system architecture, secure payment gateway and environment migration. Play by Point is anticipated to be significantly more cost effective and superior than SUG. Many of our members are already familiar with Play by Point. The Board agreed to hire Rex Sports for the first phase of their proposal. The Programs team should be able to implement and operate the software once it is in place, with Cayce on an hourly retainer to offer support as needed.

Royal Bay Courts Opening

4 new courts are opening at Royal Bay in Colwood.

Topaz Courts Opening

Many of our Board attended the much-anticipated grand opening of Topaz Courts which have been 10 years in the making. Roger, Tessa and Damaris got to play the very first game on the courts with councillor Jeremy Caradona. Having an 11-court Pickleball Ball Hub in Victoria is amazing. However, there are a few improvements that could be made: dividers between courts, windscreens, a single paddle in paddle system (rather than on 3 different courts), and signage on how to get to the end courts. Roger will send a letter to the City congratulating them and making these suggestions.

Picklefest

VRPA was approached to be involved in a Picklefest event being held at Philips Brewery in August. The board felt that we do not have the resources to support this event as we are already committed to the Clipper Cup Pickleball Festival the following weekend.

VRPA Merch

Roger has set up a Shopify Store called VRPA Merch. Hats, t-shirts, and hoodies are the initial offerings. Once the board has assessed the quality of the merchandise it will be opened up to the members.

VRPA Mission Statement

This agenda item is postponed until next month's meeting

Referee Assessment

Referee assessments will be taking place on May 16th at First Met as follows:

Level I – one individual

Level II – two individuals

Level III – one individual

Courtside Sports Core Testing Machine at June tournament

Courtside Sports has purchased a second core crushing machine and would like to rent it to us for the Macdonald Realty tournament. After some discussion it was agreed that crushed cores are becoming a safety issue and that players should be educated around this. Arrangements will be made with Crystal of Courtside for paddle testing.

2027 June Victoria Classic Tournament

Oak Bay Recreation Centre is being considered as the location for the June Victoria Classic tournament in 2027. Board members are encouraged to attend Rumble in the Bubble on June 7 to check out the venue.

VRPA Tournament Committee

The VRPA Tournament Committee met at Tessa's house and clarified roles and responsibilities. We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated group running our tournaments. Thank you to all!

June Classic Budget

The Board reviewed the budget for the Macdonald Realty Tournament. The event coordinator has overall responsibility for the budget. Expenses cannot be submitted for items that have not been approved in the budget. There was discussion about an offer from a member to make the medals. It was decided to delegate this decision to the tournament committee. The budget was approved.

Sponsorships

Amy had compiled an extensive document on sponsorships from which several priorities were identified:

- Annual Association sponsors who will get exposure to our membership all year long
- Tournament Sponsors and Online Store sponsors
- Player experience
- Growth opportunities for programs
- Give more exposure to our sponsors on social media and the website.
- Need to build a sponsors committee. Currently, the sponsorship team are focused primarily on tournaments.

Amy will put together an executive summary with the main points. A spreadsheet will be developed to track all our sponsors on the shared drive.

Peninsula Update

Brian advised that an informal group of players met with the mayor of Sidney to request an increase in the number of Pickleball courts at Iroquois Park. Sidney has agreed to convert one lined tennis court into 2 new courts on a trial basis. If successful a third may be added. VRPA agreed to contribute funding to this project with money from SPA's amalgamation with VRPA. This contribution is subject to a funding agreement being reached between VRPA and Sidney which is currently being developed.

The need for more courts on the peninsula is clear. One suggestion made to the North Saanich council is to convert an indoor tennis court at Panorama Rec into 4 pickleball courts.

Activating Youth Pickleball

Activating Youth Pickleball has gained another grant from Jump Start in the amount of \$18,000. The program is flourishing in Greater Victoria schools.

Rate of Pay

It was clarified that instructors have a signed contract for a specified term and at a specified rate of pay dependent on their qualification level at time of signing. Any increase in certification level for pay purposes would not take effect until the next contract period.

Membership Report

864 (up 50 from last month)

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Next Meeting on June 22 at the home of Roger.