

MINUTES
VICTORIA REGIONAL PICKLEBALL ASSN.
OCTOBER 18, 2017
AT JAN'S HOME

1. **Attendance:**

Trish Main (TM), President
Denis Harrigan (DH), Vice-President
Mary Orme (MO), Treasurer
Malcolm Macaulay (MM), Secretary
Jan Bergen (JB), Director
Al Thomson (AT), Director
Regrets: Heather Ratcliffe-Hood (HH), Director

2. **Call to Order:**

- TM called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

3. **Minutes from the meetings of:**

- Approval of minutes of AGM of September 19, 2017.
- Approval of minutes of Board meeting of September 26, 2017.

4. **President's Report:**

- Re community advocacy with Saanich re Cedar Hill and Tolmie parks and Oak Bay re Carnarvon Park.
- TM discussed process and extent of differing community involvement re Cedar Hill Park located behind Rec Centre; contact with Dean Gillis (in charge of all racquet sports including PB); discussed problems with building new facilities in the area because Bowker Creek runs through it; presently there is minimal community use of 2 ball diamonds, one of which TM feels may have potential as a PB site. All is in a very early stage.
- Re filing of documents under Society Act.
- TM has filed Annual Report and Change to By-Laws.
- Re report on PCO affiliation.
- TM reported that the process is still underway and slow. The timing of completing the process is unknown.
- Re maintaining the membership list.
- TM is looking after this in the absence of HH
- Re VRPA bulletin.
- TM will send out communications to our members as frequently as possible.
- Minutes of Board meetings, once approved, will be posted on the VRPA website.

- Our membership currently stands at 114.

5. **Vice-President's Report:**

- No report.

6. **Treasurer's Report:**

- MO reported that our bank account totals \$7,366.47 and petty cash is \$66.75. She will reimburse TM \$90 for the cost of filing the Annual Report and Bylaw changes.

7. **Secretary's Report:**

- See MM below.

8. **Directors' Reports:**

HH:

- No report.

MM:

- MM gave an update on the ongoing consultation with Pearkes staff regarding the content of the contract for the proposed Wednesday afternoon sessions and the need for all potential facilitators to complete a PIC (Police Information Check) for volunteers. There is an additional need to complete the association with Pickleball Canada in order to access the necessary insurance coverage that will be required as part of the Pearkes contract. While we hope to finish these steps in near future, we cannot control the speed with which others respond. It may be more realistic to abandon October 2017 as a start date for the program and aim for January 2018 instead. The proposed Pearkes contract will carry through to June 2018.
- After a discussion respecting the importance of delivering service to members as soon as possible, MM will report to the members respecting the timeline delay and offering, if possible, 5 trial sessions starting November 15 and running through to December 13, 2017, at a reduced cost.

AT:

- AT reported that, with technical assistance from DH, he is preparing a Power Point presentation to introduce the sport of pickleball in dealing with the municipalities.

JB:

- JB reported that she and TM met recently with Saanich representatives and some residents in the area of Tolmie Park regarding complaints about noise associated with play, as well as loud yelling and swearing. One resident stated that he is planning to use a decibel meter to monitor noise levels and also threatened to take pictures of players. The Saanich staff tried to discourage him. There has not been any continuing complaint about debris being left in the park area. The municipality is proposing to bring in a consultant to determine the noise level. The staff also suggested that it would be necessary to place an acoustic barrier directly near the backyards of houses immediately adjacent. Finally, the staff suggested that voluntary time limits on the use of the park be established and suggested play be limited to 9 am to 8 pm, 7 days per week. If there is non-compliance, the next step would be to lock the gates outside those times.
- The board considers these steps unnecessary or premature. By next spring there will be 6 PB courts available at McMinn and believes the preferred course is to wait until the impact of the additional courts is known. The reality is that courts should be located as far from homes as possible. It was noted that similar complaints have come forward at Carnarvon in Oak Bay.
- The Board decided to discourage any active steps by Saanich while we focus on finding a site for a larger number of courts in an area where less impact is likely. The Board also agreed to suggest that, if time limits are imposed, they should permit play as follows:
June, July and August: 8 am – 8 pm Monday to Friday; weekends June, July and August: 9 am - 8 pm; Rest of year: 9 am – 8 pm.

9. **Old Business:**

- See discussion of Wednesday afternoon play at Pearkes above.

10. **New Business:**

Re tournaments.

- The Board agreed to sponsor a Fun-Scramble Tournament on Saturday, December 16, 2017.
- Robin Milliken is willing to run the tournament. It will be open to members and non-members but we will try to give notice to active members first. The proposed cost is \$20 per player, including the cost of medals, prizes and food. The VRPA will fund any resulting shortfall.
- MM will discuss the financial arrangements for splitting revenue with Pearkes.

Re Code of Conduct

- The Board agreed that codes of conduct for outdoor play on public courts should be expressed in positive rather than negative shall-not terms and TM, on behalf of the Board, will suggest wording to Saanich.
In our discussion with members, we can later outline some of the particular problem areas that have been reported.
- Re membership drive
- TM will forward a further message to inactive members encouraging them to renew.
- Re USAPA ambassador position (local contact person)
- TM reported that Bev de Haitre has volunteered
- June tournament
- JB agreed to find a date that won't conflict with other tournaments (such as Centralia - May; Gibsons - early June; Nanaimo - late June)
- To avoid the Father's Day weekend, the proposed dates at this time are June 8, 9 and 10, 2018.
- Because at least 12 courts are required for a sanctioned tournament, it is unlikely that the event will be sanctioned.

11. **Next Meeting:**

- To be a virtual rather than face to face meeting - TM to determine date and time.

12. **Adjournment:**

- 4:05 pm.