

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Monday, February 7, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

via Zoom

In Attendance

Connie McCann, President
Beverly De Haitre, Vice-President
Trish Main, Past President
Judy Langford, Treasurer
Damaris Brix, Secretary
Gilles Pellerin, Director

Regrets

Virginia Jacklin, Director
Gale Penner, Director

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as moved by Damaris and seconded by Giles.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report

- Island Savings balance \$24,196.56
- PayPal balance \$473.95
- Petty Cash balance \$20.27
- Trackie (PCO) balance \$430.00

Payables:

- Instructor fees of \$1380
- Pearkes rental for February \$2163
- Naden rental \$1934
- Purchase of 3 nets for program start up at Naden \$600

The treasurer's report was approved as moved by Judy and seconded by Gilles.

Membership Report

282 members

80 expired members – an email was sent encouraging them to renew. Anyone with an expired membership of more than 1 year has been removed from the system.

Bursary Program

Gilles advised that seven people applied for a bursary. (At this point Beverley removed herself from the discussion as she was one of the applicants).

Moved by Gilles and seconded by Judy

That based on the information received and the criteria of the Bursary program that all seven applicants receive the bursary: Daniel Audet, Beverly De Haitre, Wayne Forland, Denis Harrigan, Heather Hood, Alan Thompson, Mike Woodcock.
Approved.

However, proof of completion of the course must be sent to vicrpba@gmail.com before payment is made.

Gilles will update the bursary application form with the recommendations made at last month's meeting. Decisions on how many bursaries will be offered in future, and whether an individual who has already received a bursary can apply again for a different course will be discussed at a future meeting.

Website

Gilles had previously sent the committee a mock-up of the new website and asked for feedback on content and colour. Trish said her preference would be for the front page to not be too cluttered but rather have clear links to information. Judy suggested that there be a section on current news and local players. However, something like this would have to be updated regularly. Gilles pointed out that the cost of a website is based on size, and that pictures take up a lot of space. Any pictures must be of the right size, quality and shape to be used. Gilles will await further written feedback. Once the mock-up is finalized he will investigate costs and timeframe to move from our current website to a new one, and bring back to the committee for final decision.

June Tournament

Trish is willing to organize the play for a non-sanctioned round robin elimination tournament in June provided that someone else looks after all other aspects of the event such as food, prizes, medals, and finding sponsors. Pearkes is the best venue, but the price has gone up to \$32 hr/sport court which amounts to \$4,166 for the weekend, significantly more than in the past due to them no longer giving us a discount on the cost. We had been told in 2018 that this would be the case. Players will likely be charged \$40 to enter, plus \$10 per event. It is not possible to provide early registration to our members with the software used. Available spots in the tournament will be filled within a matter of hours. Connie will find

committee members to organize the event. Damaris will assist Trish with the draws.

Beverly expressed interest in being involved with a sanctioned event committee for Victoria in the future. Sanctioned events typically need 12 courts to run, which makes it difficult here.

BC 55 Plus Games

Connie has accepted the position of Games Sport Chair for the BC 55+ Games to be held in Victoria in September 2022. She is struggling to find a Tournament Director for the Pickleball event and finding a venue. 350 people are expected to register. The only place with 12 courts is UVIC and it is cost prohibitive at \$13,000. Registration for the games opens March 1, 2022.

Jan Bergen is the regional chair for the games. Send her an email to get updates. There may need to be playoffs to get on the Zone 1 South Island Team. Trish will put information on our website.

Programs

Connie reviewed the current programs on offer. We will not be renewing Naden or SD61 venues after March.

President's Report

Connie will be abroad from February 14 – March 15th. During her absence Gilles will be doing Program start-up visits, Damaris will monitor the VRPA gmail account, Judy will deal with financials, Trish will be the contact person for anything of a political nature, and issues regarding Tolmie and Oak Bay, Beverly will be the resource for players seeking players.

The Tolmie Park neighbours are asking Saanich to limit the hours at the park, and ultimately to close the courts down. While Saanich staff is not in favour of this, the political viewpoint can be different. VRPA is not in agreement with time limits on the courts as this impacts working individuals. A compromise would be to have 3 new courts built elsewhere before closing Tolmie.

When this item goes to council, speakers must pre-register. Trish will advise when the registration process is. McMinn is not under threat, but Saanich is looking at noise panels.

Beverly advised that Island Sports News is wanting to air a feature on Pickleball. Suggested it not be filmed at Tolmie.

Gilles, Jules and Connie are planning to approach the Westshore about building courts at Juan de Fuca. Westshore Parks and Recreation are interested in having more courts in the community.

Victoria Recreation staff are planning a tennis and pickleball court review in the fall and VRPA wants to be part of the review.

Topaz Park - 6 dedicated courts are planned. However the money has not been set aside in the budget and the new council could have other priorities. VRPA needs to advocate to get the money into the budget.

There has been talk municipally for a consultant to look at Pickleball on a regional basis. Suzanne Sambroski, Director Parks & Recreation Saanich, mentioned a perhaps soon 'pickleball' discussion at the BC Recreation Professionals Association meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday, March 21st at 3:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.