

Minutes
Victoria Region Pickleball Association Board
July 20, 2020

Attending: Trish, Gale, John McL., Jan. Judy
Guests Corinne Reid, Angus Stewart
Regrets: Malcolm, John P.

Call to Order 4:00pm.

1. **Minutes** from June 22 approved with one correction to Bylaw conversation.
Re: cheque signing authority
Point 1,2
Add “plus one board member”.

2. President’s Report
Advocacy/Outdoor Courts

We are working with Saanich Peninsula Pickleball Association to gather information requested by North Saanich Council regarding actual use of the courts at Wain Park. Two surveys are underway – one for picklers who are not SPPA members and one for SPPA members. N. Saanich Council deferred making a decision on addressing neighbor complaints and asked the SPPA and neighbors to meet again to come up with a solution. Following data gathering, Trish Main will join a small SPPA board contingent to meet with the neighbors. Following that meeting, SPPA will report to N Saanich Council who will make decisions at their Aug. 13 meeting.

View Royal Development

View Royal Council approved the Invictus Developments application for rezoning and the development process will proceed. At some point, amenities funds in excess of \$800,000 will be advanced by Invictus to View Royal and the pickleball community will need to renew advocacy efforts to persuade VR Council to redevelop Helmcken Centennial Park to include pickleball courts. Next steps (achieving a development permit) could take up to six months. Thanks to all who have participated so far.

Outdoor Play

Trish Main has been contacted by Saanich with respect to neighbor complaints about noise and parking issues at Tolmie Park. The email was quite positive with regard to benefits of the activity on the courts but ask picklers to obey the posted hours, watch

noise levels, and try to maximize the limited parking space by parking efficiently. Bylaw officers are patrolling and some traffic analysis will be undertaken in the next few weeks, especially on Leslie.

Wouldbe court users have continued to voice frustration with (a) large group(s) of players at McMinn who are perceived to have been less than welcoming, and monopolizing large blocks of time, and refusing to give way after the posted 30 min. limit when someone is waiting.

Other reports have come in about other parks where folks are doing the right thing and giving way when a group has waited for 30 minutes. Good on those observing the posted etiquette!

Kings Rd (City of Victoria) courts are now available to reserve 7 days a week.

Indoor Play at Pearkes and VRPA's Contract

Pearkes contract and facility access

There is no indoor play currently in Saanich (or any other as far as we are aware) municipal facilities. Saanich/Pearkes has been completely focused on getting kids' summer day camps started. To what extent, if any, drop-in or rentals of courts at Pearkes will be available in September has not been determined. VRPA is in conversation with Pearkes and PBBC regarding the contractors' (VRPA and any other group using a Saanich facility under contract) responsibilities with respect to a Safety Plan. The requirements are rigorous and Pickleball BC is not a member of Viasport – the sports body to which municipalities are turning to vet safety plans. Consequently, the onus is currently on the VRPA to develop a Safety Plan independently. Trish requests help with this endeavor.

3. Treasurer's Report

Island Savings balance	\$ 20,048.54
PayPal balance	378.68
Petty Cash balance	75.70

Island Savings activity - chq to Trish Main o/s \$75.06

PayPal activity - membership fees income, payments to Lone Wolf Technologies re: Authenti-sign annual fee and BCP for membership fees

Petty Cash activity - none.

4. Membership Report

140 players are currently on our Membership Roll.

5. Correspondence

- a) We have received the first of what may be many emails from Canadian Snowbirds who will be making Victoria home this winter instead of their usual place in the US. They want to know where, with whom, and when they can play. Perhaps we need to work on some sort of registry for them?
- b) Oak Bay racquet sport coordinator updated the signage at Carnarvon, following our suggestion, to clarify how players can book courts online.

6. Bylaw amendment notes from Malcolm

Memorandum to VRPA Board re proposed Bylaw amendments

1. Add Bylaws 5.5 and 5.6 as follows:

5.5 The Board may, at any time, appoint up to 3 additional (“persons” or “voting members”) as a director.

5.6 A director appointed by the Board under Bylaw 5.5 is not eligible to be elected an officer of the VRPA and ceases to be a director on the date of the next Annual General Meeting.

Rationale: The object of the proposed amendment is to permit the Board to appoint additional directors as necessary to ensure regional representation on the Board. As all voting members of the VRPA are entitled to stand for election to the Board or as an officer, it is expected that any appointments under Bylaw 5.5 will be short term and expire at the time of the next AGM when the appointed director (provided he or she is a member in good standing) may run for election in the ordinary course.

Note: On further reflection, my personal view is that any director appointed under 5.5 should be a voting member in good standing. Such a requirement is more compatible with the existing bylaws and the statutory scheme which is intended to ensure that all directors will act in the best interests of the members.

2. Amend Bylaw 9.3 by adding “or any one of the treasurer, president and vice-president and any other director.”

Rationale: The object of the proposed amendment is to provide greater flexibility on the rare occasions that there are not two officers available to sign cheques as required by the current bylaw which reads in its entirety:

9.3 A cheque to be signed by the Society must be signed on behalf of the VRPA by any two of the treasurer, president and vice-president.

Financial institutions all require that any director with signing authority must fill out forms at the institution. From a practical perspective, the need for an additional director to sign a cheque will only arise when there is a single officer available to sign as well.

Note: I have varied slightly from the drafting instructions that I recorded at the June 22 meeting. At that time, we agreed that one officer would be required to sign but added possibly adding two other directors who were not officers to sign as well. We did not discuss why we would ever want 3 people to sign a cheque instead of the usual 2 so we probably were just thinking of how many additional persons would need to have signing authority at the bank in case 1 of them was needed to sign the particular cheque. In the result, I suggest maintaining 2 people signing each cheque, either 2 officers or 1 officer and another director who has signing authority at the bank.

3. I think we should consider another Bylaw amendment that we have not yet fully discussed. If COVID emergency measures continue at the time of our September AGM, we will be able to rely on those insofar as they permit an electronic meeting. If the measures are no longer in place, we will not be able hold an electronic general meeting because there is no provision in our bylaw that permits us to do so. Our Bylaw 6.1 permits the directors “regulate their meetings and proceedings as they deem fit” but here is no mention of electronic meetings.

Rationale:

The following amendments are to expressly permit electronic meetings in our Bylaws in case the pandemic continues and the emergency orders, for whatever reason, run out. Any change we make in this regard would only affect future Directors’ and General meetings and all other requirements relating to the conduct of meetings continue to apply.

My suggestions:

- A. Amend Bylaw 3.1 which reads: A general meeting must be held at the time and place the Board determines. By adding: “or by electronic means as” before “the Board determines.

The amended Bylaw 3.1, in its entirety, reads: A general meeting must be held at the time and place or electronically as the Board determines.

B. Add Bylaw 6.6 as follows: The directors may meet at the time and place or electronically as they determine.

Bylaw amendments regarding appointing directors and cheque signing were discussed. Further discussion is needed before settling on language for resolutions. Trish noted that the intention that the amendment should not be about adding the requirement for a third signer, but rather, the amendment should broaden the language around who could sign. Possibly "...that those authorized to sign should be at least one of President, Vice President or Treasurer and one other Board member".

7. New Business

Letters to Municipal Councils

In response to a suggestion that a letter writing campaign be launched to our 13 municipal Councils regarding the need for more courts, Angus will supply contact information for the Western Communities and Sooke and Corinne will supply contact information for the Peninsula municipalities. Trish has contact information for the Capital Region Councils. She will include the suggestion in a note to all VRPA members.

Annual Meeting

It is our understanding that as long as the Provincial Emergency State is still on, the VRPA AGM in September will be valid via electronic meeting.

Next Meeting:

Monday August 17, 4pm at Jan's home.