

Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Minutes

Monday, November 22, at 2:30 p.m.

861 Genevieve Rd and via Zoom

In Attendance

Connie McCann, President
Trish Main, Past President
Judy Langford, Treasurer (via zoom)
Damaris Brix, Secretary (via zoom)
Gilles Pellerin, Director (via zoom)
Virginia Jacklin, Director (via zoom)
Gale Penner, Director (via zoom)

Regrets

Beverly De Haitre, Vice-President

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

Financial Report

Judy presented the Treasurer's Report.

- Island Savings balance \$18,900.51
- PayPal balance \$5,163.18
- Petty Cash balance \$31.25
- Trackie (PCO) balance \$475.00

Membership

Gale reported that there are 289 active members. During the period of November 1 – 19 we gained 40 new members. Trish noted that when we put on new programs/tournaments it always drives new membership. Trish continues to act as the administrator for the national membership system. She can send out emails to the members via this system. Trish will give the instructions on this to Gail, Virginia and Connie.

The question was raised as to whether out of town players should be allowed to join VRPA to gain access to programs and tournaments. As this is a rare occurrence the committee was fully supportive of new members regardless of where they live. This policy may be revisited if large numbers of out-of-town players seek to join.

Christmas Tournament Update

Trish advised that 57 spots were filled within the first hour of the tournament registration. There are now 24 people on the waitlist. In the past we have had up to ten people pull out. Refunds will only be given for medical reasons. Proof of double vaccination is required for entry, and masks must be worn when not on court. Spectators will not be allowed at the event. A small grab bag of snacks will be provided. Mustard Seed donations will be collected.

Pickleball BC and Tennis BC

Trish has been part of a joint task force between Tennis BC and Pickleball BC to promote adequate public facilities for each. They have recently published a paper entitled "Tennis and Pickleball: A Solution that Meets the Needs of Both Sports". Their joint recommendation for municipalities is to build dedicated pickleball courts or Pickleball Hubs. They recognize that putting pickleball lines on tennis courts is unsatisfactory for both sports, but they have made recommendations on how best to line a court and preferred colour to use if necessary.

Website

Gilles has done some preliminary work towards the development of an updated website. He asked the committee to give him feedback on things such as layout, content and colour scheme. Once this is decided a quote will be obtained for building, managing and updating the website.

Program Update

Cedar Hill – the Thursday evening session filled up quickly. Unfortunately, the school district has since cancelled one of the sessions so refunds will be issued.

Naden Gym – Saturday afternoons are available for VRPA programs starting on December 18th. The committee discussed whether to run beginner drills and supervised play, advanced play, or a combination of both. Virginia will check and see if our rental could be extended to 4 hours which would enable us to run two 2-hour programs.

PISE – would be available on a weeknight and Sundays for VRPA program rentals. Some drawbacks there are the cost, the sun glaring through windows, and pay parking during the week.

Pacific Christian School – could be used for tournaments as it has 6 courts. It is cheaper than SD61 rates.

Bursary Program

Connie put forward a recommendation that we implement a bursary for the National Coaching Certificate program. The cost of the coaching course is \$269.

Bursaries would be a benefit to members, assist younger members who might not have the financial resources needed for the tuition, and hopefully increase the numbers of qualified coaches. Although Connie's proposal was for a \$50 bursary, Gilles suggested the bursary be for \$100. The committee supported his recommendation. Connie and Virginia will finalize the Bursary Program application and parameters. The applications will be reviewed by a committee of two, and the Bursary Program will be reviewed every three years.

Strategic Plan

Connie presented a working paper to begin the creation of a strategic plan and a mission statement. It's important for VRPA to have clearly identified goals. Getting more courts is one of the main objectives but this is a long-term process which requires getting in the municipal budget cycle, being cognizant of election years and being at the table with the municipalities. The Strategic Plan would build upon our constitution that says VRPA will support, develop, advocate for, and represent pickleball players in the Greater Victoria Region.

Media

Media skills are a special skillset. Connie felt it would be worthwhile to find someone in our membership that could help us with media relations. If anybody knows of someone who could fill this role, please let her know.

Carnarvon Courts

If Oak Bay Council puts Pickleball on its agenda, it was agreed that Connie will attend the meeting and offer \$4,000 from VRPA to be put towards noise panels at Carnarvon.

Christmas Cards

Connie is having some VRPA Christmas cards made up which she will send to Mayor and Council, and our instructions.

Next meeting to be held January 10, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm