

Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors of Pickleball BC

Held at 6:00PM, June 10th, 2020, via ZOOM.com

Call to Order: President, Walter Knecht, called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.
Attendees: Walter Knecht, Ken Holman, Karen Watson, Heather Hood, Greg Smart, Al Thomson, Tricia Timmermans
Regrets: Brian Shum

1. *Approval of Agenda*

The Agenda as presented was adopted. M/Karen; S/Tricia. **Carried.**

2. *Minutes of the previous Meeting*

Minutes of the April 8, 2020 meeting were approved. M/Ken; S/Al. **Carried.**

3. *Financial Status*

Brian emailed the following financial report:

Bank Balance (Jun 10/20)	9,021
Unrecorded expenditures (Est) PCO	930
Walter's Expenses (Mail Chimp Apr-Jun)	340
Bank Balance after est expenditures	7,751
GIC's	<u>13,000</u>
Net Bank Balance	20,751

4. *Membership Update*

Registrations continue to come in, however we are still in a downward position, even though the numbers according to the PCO website say otherwise. Some members are expected to return. BC now has more than 6,500 members on the list, representing about 27% of the national total. Two or three clubs are about to join up.

5. *Return to Play*

ViaSport has put out a 40-page "Return to Sport" guidelines document which sporting bodies can modify for their own use. We are not affiliated with *ViaSport*, so we are not 100% bound by what they say. Many players/clubs are looking to PBC to give some guidance.

Walter has convinced PCO to 'clean up' its document on play during the pandemic, especially considering the fact that every province has a different set of circumstances. Much discussion followed, notably:

- Agreement that it is useful to have an official document, especially if the municipalities approach you. Our document, which is still being worked on, is fairly generic; in the end, locals have to do the "policing".
- Some players are advocating disregarding signs such as "Singles Only" on court gates – exhibiting a "wild-west" mentality. One member played where some courts had ~15 playing at once, with foursome interchanges happening.
- Some clubs are doing online court reservations; there's a mixture of reactions to how we should proceed. Many claim that there is no virus in their area, but places such as Fort St. John, which hasn't had a case, is following a strict format. If we see incidences of risky behavior, we can choose not to play.
- There are some cases of players travelling from communities where policing is stricter, to areas where blind eyes are turned. In Saanich, an officer comes by twice a day, takes photos, etc. West Kelowna has hired an extra bylaw control officer to patrol the parks.

Are we ready for Phases 2 and 3? Consensus was to stay fairly generic in the document and not make the mistake PCO has made such as definitively stating that we can only play singles and do drills. It may have been better to simply tell clubs/players to follow local ordinances. We don't need to be telling people how to wash their hands, wear masks, use their own ball, etc. Some clubs do not want a document and would rather let sleeping dogs lie. Our present document should not need to change much. We may want to take our document to municipalities, with a specific reference to ViaSport's guidelines. Karen offered to take on the task of drafting a new PBC document, which she will send to board members in the next couple of days for input. Walter will note at the top of the final document who the email is being sent to - either the 6600+ membership, or to his leadership list of about 80 people.

Topics from Walter's "Ideas" document:

- Heather has had about four Zoom meetings re ***under-18 pickleball*** with a 14-year-old boy (Matthew) and a teacher (Evelyn). She has interviewed a few people to determine what the best practices should be regarding: school district partnerships, grants, prototypes, etc., and to discover anything already in place. Schools don't always have equipment, or courts may not be available. If a group is to be working with schools, they will need adequate equipment. Tricia told Heather of the Nelson High School's tennis and pickleball sports program that was underway last year. The High School had a definitive role in the construction and funding of new tennis and dedicated pickleball courts. Heather will continue to talk to school superintendents to come up with a coordinated plan.
- Walter will get an update on the ***PCO Youth Program*** (under 35).
- Al reports that things are "starting to roll" re ***officiating***. A "wanted" ad went out asking for Level 2 qualified referees who may be available to train people. This would be followed by a start on the Level 1 and Level 2 officiating program put out by PCO.
- Provincial and Regional ***tournaments*** have been cancelled until 2021.
- Discussion held on a new ***innovative tech program*** that will "do everything" or will be linked to something that will do what it cannot. Ratings' calculations would be built in. If club memberships are under a certain number, the system will not work. Some of the better players do not want to be part of it, as they feel it makes their rating go down. Consensus seems to be that we do not want two rating systems – one for Canada and one for USA, as happened in table tennis – it turned into a nightmare for players who wanted to compete in both USA and Canadian tournaments. PCO is balking at the cost of using pickleballratings.com, which has an agreement with USAPA that ratings will only be released to members. There is a need for Canada to have a conversation with USAPA about using the same ratings system. There does not seem to be a lot of confidence in what PCO will come up with – the process seems to be more important than the results. Generally it is felt that players are willing to pay more to be part of the ratings system that USAPA uses, in fact to have a worldwide system - a separate Canadian system will have chaotic results. At this stage we are waiting to see what PCO will come up with.
- There was some discussion on what ***affiliations*** PBC should have – ViaSport, etc. At this stage we have no affiliation with any sporting body in BC. We have a general "arrangement" with BC55+. We meet the criteria for belonging to various organizations, but need to incorporate a "Sport for Life" concept into our mission. These items will comprise part of our next meeting, which will be held on **July 8th, 2020 at 6PM. Please mark your calendars.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Tricia Timmermans

July 8, 2020

Secretary

Date of Approval