



## MINUTES OF THE PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Thursday September 19th, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

Location: UberConference

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Present:	Jim Parrott	President
	Fiona MacGregor	Vice-President
	Peter Sennett	Treasurer
	Peter Milovanovic	Secretary
	Allen Class	Director-at-Large
	Cathy Lone-Dawson	Director-at-Large
	Gail Prior	Director-at-Large
	Jeff Rooney	Director-at-Large
	Pam Joslin	Director-at-Large

Apologies:

Junior Bent	Director-at-Large
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### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The President welcomed all Pickleball Ontario Members and called the Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. In addition to the Board, 25 Voting Members were present.

### 2. INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD

The president introduced the Board Members in attendance. Members and guests introduced themselves to the meeting.

### 3. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Vice-President asked if there were any nominations from the floor of the meeting. None were received.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was reviewed by the Members. One change the Recognition Event for the Trillium Fund is removed as representatives from Trillium were not able to attend

On a Motion made by P. Sennett and seconded by P. Joslin, it was resolved that:

**The Agenda of the September 19th, 2019 Annual General Meeting be approved. The Motion was unanimously carried.**

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF September 14, 2018**

The President inquired if the Members had reviewed the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of September 14th, 2018. There being no errors or omissions, the Chair sought approval of the Minutes of the September 14th, 2018 Annual General Meeting.

On a Motion made by G. Prior and seconded by F. MacGregor, it was resolved that:

**The Minutes of the September 14th, 2018 Annual General Meeting be approved. The Motion was unanimously carried.**

**6. Volunteer Awards**

Pickleball Ontario is an organization that depends entirely on the volunteer contributions of members. It would not exist without the work that they do.

The president announced the names of the recipient in each of the four categories and highlighted some of their accomplishments. The recipients are:

Wayne Roswell Builder Award	Bill Gohn
Official Award	Karen Hill
Community Award	Suzanne Penner and Marilyn Strain
	Dennis Carter
Ambassador Award	Merrie Lee
Merrie Lee Ambassador Award	David Werry and Richard Sogawa

The Awards are to be presented individually over the coming weeks.

## 7. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Treasurer presented the Unaudited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 as circulated.

The Treasurer reviewed the 2018-2019 operating results. Pickleball Ontario ended the year with close to 2500 members which generated nearly to \$24,000 in revenue. This was above budget. We had budgeted for 2100 members. In terms of expenses we spent roughly \$16,000. About half of this was for advertising and promotions. We had \$3,000 in website costs, banking fees and awards and other expenses. This left a net surplus \$8,000 even though our budget had projected a deficit of \$6,000. We had planned to spend more money to promote the sport through Open Houses and in audit fees for the PSO certification.

In terms of the balance sheet we are in a good position. Our cash position increased by \$8,000 year over year because of the surplus. On June 30, we had a bank balance of \$45,000.

Our budget supports the initiatives identified in our strategic plan. The Treasurer reviewed these items:

Open Houses and Youth Days	\$5,000
Referee Clinics	\$2,000
Youth Travel	\$2,000
Youth Skills Development	\$2,000
Marketing	\$13,000
Social Media – Refresh	\$2,000
Social Media – Maintenance	\$2,000
Ambassador Forum and Awards	\$1,000
Tournament Support	\$1,500

For the 2019-2020 operating budget, our assumption is that we will have an average of 2,750 members with a closing membership of 3,000. We are budgeting \$21,000 for advertising and promotion related activities. We are not budgeting for an audit next year but will need to complete one prior to applying to become recognized as a PSO. Travel includes money for Karen Hill's referee clinics and school and youth programs.

In sum, we are projecting \$9,000 deficit with revenue of \$27,500 and operating expenses of \$37,000. This might be alarming but being a non-profit we have a mandate to not continue to grow the cash balance and to put the money to use to grow the sport.

The Treasurer reported on the funding from the province of Ontario relative to the Trillium grant. \$198k was secured plus an additional \$12k from Pickleball Ontario/ Pickleball Canada contributions. Last year we received a partial payment of \$117k from the Province and we have expended \$49,000 for consulting fees, travel, videographer leaving a balance of \$80k in a separate bank account.

On a Motion made by P. Milovanovic seconded by F. MacGregor it was resolved that:

**The Pickleball Ontario 2019-2020 Budget be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.**

On a Motion made by G. Prior seconded by A. Class it was resolved that:

**The Pickleball Ontario Unaudited Financial Statements of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 be approved as presented. The Motion was unanimously carried.**

## **8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President reported that it has been a very busy year for the association.

Our strategic plan guides our association in prioritizing what we need to do, and it is focused on a few main categories, in addition to running the day-to-day operations.

- Provincial Sport Organization recognition
- Growing pickleball throughout Ontario
- Creating a value proposition for the members

The major, and the most difficult to complete, element of the PSO recognition requirements is the need for a National Coaching Certification Program. Thanks to our successful application for a Trillium Grow Grant, we are well on our way to complete the required programs needed to apply for certification.

We are one year into the two-year project, and we are proud to have accomplished the following as part of the project:

- completion of the Long-Term Player Development model for pickleball. To my knowledge there is no other LTPD for pickleball that exists world-wide. We are thankful to have a great group of Ontario players and coaches being led by a world class consultant in LTPD philosophies to have completed this excellent model.
- Development of a core group of Learning Facilitators to guide coach candidates through their training

- Development of course content for Introduction to Competition coaching stream specific to Pickleball. The first pilot workshop to test the content was held in Cambridge last weekend.
- Creation of 40 some videos, focused on providing coaches with appropriate instruction on how to demonstrate and teach all the various pickleball skills, techniques and strategies that are relevant to an Introduction to Competition player and Community Initiation (recreational) player.

We are very thankful that the Ontario Trillium Foundation saw the value in our application for certified coaches, that will support the Active People outcome, and benefit many coaches and the multitude of players they influence, through a structured NCCP framework.

There are additional criteria for PSO recognition, and the Board is actively working on those, but the longest lead time item is the NCCP certification. We expect to apply for certification at this time next year. It is unknown how long the certification process with Coaching Association of Canada will take.

In support of the LTPD, we have also completed an Exceptional Youth Exemption process, aimed at providing our highly skilled youth players the opportunity to compete against adults in adult tournaments, on a controlled basis per the LTPD philosophies. This process is needed more now as there aren't enough opportunities for meaningful competition in the youth categories.

One area of focus is growing our sport throughout Ontario and Canada. Specifically, in Ontario, we have been creating more and more of a presence in the public eye and in media. Our players and sport have been featured on CBC and CTV at a provincial level, and in numerous media streams at the local level.

One key element in our growth is at the grass roots, being recreational play at the club level. Pam Joslin is working with Clubs to help them grow and share ideas. Our website is very popular, including Places to Play where we regularly get over 10,000 hits per month over the non-summer months.

Our membership numbers are steadily growing, now at about 2400, with a 28% growth from this time last year. Cathy Lone-Dawson is doing a phenomenal job in tracking our membership, resolving concerns and raising key issues that the membership is experiencing.

Lastly, one of most difficult areas we have is in the value proposition for our members. We are very conscious and mindful that it is your money we are spending, and we want to spend it effectively on all of the initiatives in support of our strategic plan. As you can see in the financial report, we ended the last fiscal year with a profit. In terms of your \$10 fee, \$7 went to operating expenses, with \$3 unspent, which will be used to fund future initiatives in the coming year or years. You will also see that the current year budget is planned to run at a deficit, in order to spend down our cash position, and focus funds on growth initiatives.

Jeff Rooney, and the marketing/membership committee have been working at creating various programs for value add, including Partner Perks (where if you take advantage of one deal, could pay for your annual membership).

Included in our strategic plan there are dedicated funds and equipment to sponsor a number of clinics targeted to recreational players, with an emphasis on targeting youth. Pickleball Ontario (directors Fiona, Gail and Pam,) will arrange instructional clinics to elementary and high schools students and teachers to enhance the awareness of our sport to this young, up & coming demographic of pickleball players.

Also related to growing our youth contingent, Pickleball Ontario will be working with Pickleball Canada, with me sitting on the Youth Strategy committee, to develop and implement initiatives to grow the youth pickleball population in Ontario and across Canada. PCO has approved \$68,000 over the next 12 months to fund the National Youth Strategic Plan.

One of the requirements for a PSO is that we have a provincial tournament every year. This year's tournament in North Bay was a success, and according to the survey, the participants enjoyed the event. Kudos to the North Bay Pickleball club for all their efforts, and they have set an example for community involvement for our future tournaments.

For the 2020 tournament, our selection committee has recommended, and the Board approved, the Town of Cobourg as the site of our next Provincial Championships. The tournament is scheduled for May 8-10, 2020. I look forward to seeing many of you there next year.

We have one of our directors who is retiring after his 3-year term. Allen Class has been one of the hardest working, if not THE hardest working director we'd had in the past 3 years. He led our technology initiatives with great fervor and provided very insightful analyses. He volunteered for numerous assignments inside and outside his jurisdiction. Allen, you will be missed. I wish you the best as you fade away into the pickleball courts of the future. You live up to your name, as a "Class" guy.

Lastly, I would like to say that Pickleball Ontario is committed to the growth of our sport both provincially and at the national level with Pickleball Canada. Many of our members are playing key roles at the national level, towards the pursuit of our PSO status and their NSO status. As written in both sets of requirements, we need Pickleball Canada and they need us. We will continue to work together.

## **9. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

The President informed the Members that the next item of business was The Report of the Nominations Committee and turned the meeting over to F. MacGregor. She noted that the Pickleball Ontario Board has five open positions. These consist of three positions where a Director has completed his term and two positions where a Director has resigned.

Accordingly, the Nominations Committee recommended

The appointment of the following nominees who have agreed to let their name stand for a three year Term of Office to fill the current four Director vacancies. The nominees are:

Jim Parrott  
Karen Hill  
Deanna Hanes

Peter Sennett  
Mark Cossarin

The biography of each Nominee was circulated to the Members by email as per Bylaws. All nominees were members in good standing as per Bylaws.

No additional nominations were received from the floor:

The Chair then called for a Motion to accept the Report of the Nominations Committee.

On a Motion made by G. Prior and seconded by C. Lone-Dawson, it was resolved that:

**The nominated candidates be appointed to the Board for up to 3 years  
The Motion was unanimously carried.**

The President then assumed the role of Chair.

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS

The President then called for any other business items to be raised at the meeting.

Joseline Sikorski introduced a motion to recognize Donna Leung-Kramer as a Level 4 Certified Canadian Referee. Andrew Ling seconded the motion.

GIVEN THAT: In 2015, DONNA LEUNG - KRAMER SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE USAPA ONLINE REFEREE CERTIFICATION EXAM AND WAS LISTED AS A USAPA CERTIFIED REFEREE, AND FURTHER, has provided her time and talent as the Chief Referee of Several PAO & other Ont. Provincial Tournaments since 2011,  
I MOVE THAT: DONNA LEUNG – KRAMER be ACKNOWLEDGED and APPROVED as a Level 4 Certified Canadian Referee.

Joseline asked the President, as the spokesperson for Ontario, to take the motion forward to PCO on behalf of Donna and other referees with prior knowledge, skills and experience.

The context of the motion was discussed. Questions were raised about the requirements for Canadian certifications of Level 3 and 4 referees as the criteria are currently under development and about the appropriateness of Pickleball Ontario recommending an individual for Level 4 certification. The President offered to work with the Pickleball Canada committee to ensure that the recognition of people's contribution and prior experience be considered when certifying referees.

The vote was called and the motion was defeated.

The President offered to take on fairness for all experienced referees. On a motion made by J Parrott and seconded by G Prior.

**The President and members of PO will work with officiating committee at PCO to recognize the existing referee pool and their prior experience, skills and ability along with the yet to be developed PCO criteria for Referees.**

The motion was carried with two abstentions.

There being no further business, the President then moved to the final Agenda item.

**11. CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

The President stated that the business of the meeting was now concluded and adjourned the 2019 Annual General Meeting at 8:52.

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J Parrott, President  
Pickleball Ontario

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Date