



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: May 1, 2026 from 1:30-3:30 PM at the Newbury Park Library Meeting Room

Call to Order: Allan Linderman

Roll Call:

- **2026 Board Members:** Allan Linderman – President, Dave Dolnick – First VP, *Ken Ferrell – Second VP (absent)*, Gari Ann Douglass – Treasurer, Kathi Byington - Secretary
- **Members at large:** Dan Bozymowski, Jennifer Clark, Bill Gaffney, Adam Gilbert, Sheri Leiken, Carole Linderman, Marilyn Passanante, Lou Patalano, Mark Radocay, and Valerie Radocay.

Minutes approved from last meeting: Approved

Finances: This financial report was made during the executive board session with no issues shared.

Membership: There are currently 338 members.

Follow-Up from April Meeting:

- Dave shared the three local options for CPR/AED trainings.
 - **American Red Cross:** Offers various classes daily and weekends at different price points (\$67-\$129) in Camarillo. Classes can be online, classroom only, or blended.
 - The Red Cross certification is digital
 - **American Heart Association:** Offers training in Simi Valley through a private company, Safety Unlimited. The Heartsaver CPR class is blended instruction, beginning with the self-guided portion of the course with an in-person CPR component following.
 - CPR/AED class costs \$85, and the First Aid/CPR/AED class costs \$100.
 - Each participant would get a 2-year American Heart Association card as well as a 2-year access to the online training to go back and review as needed.
 - **CRPD Adult and Pediatric CPR/First Aid:** This American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED has a blended program. The online modules take about 2 hours to complete, and the cost is \$100 (with a \$15 cancellation fee.)
 - This certification is valid for 2 years from the date of the course completion.
- Next steps regarding AED training:
 - Choose the program to begin training of VCPC members.
 - Decide how many VCPC members need to be trained to be sure to have coverage during a tournament weekend.
 - Possibly see which members/volunteers are already certified.
 - Reach out to insurance carrier to see what liability VCPC might have with regard to use of an AED by volunteers at a tournament.

Tournaments:

- **Spring Fling Review:** There were 77 doubles participants and 8 singles players at the Spring Fling. This is

down about a third from the Monster Smash which had 110 doubles participants and 23 singles players. This could be due to the moving of the tournament's dates due to weather. Allan asked the group if there were any points, both positive and constructive, to share about the tournament in general. These were some of the questions/suggestions:

- A question was raised about teams who self-rated for one division (in this case, 2.5) and were moved up to the next higher level (in this case 3.0). The seeding committee moved them up based on observed play, and the team was notified before the tournament of this change.
 - It was suggested to maybe add to the vetting method used (maybe a coach to observe in more detail players who are not known to the seeding committee).
- In the 2.5 mixed doubles bracket, a question was asked about the youngest age allowed as a middle school team was allowed to play with the adults in that group.
 - It was suggested than maybe a "floor" of 16+ years should be used as this is what CRPD uses in determining which age is appropriate for the classes they offer.
 - It was also suggested that maybe we go back to a 2.5 scramble instead of set partners.
- When there are small number of teams, like the 5 teams in the 3.0 women's doubles, maybe there should be 4 games played to 11 points and a playoff system used.
 - However, this may take too much time to complete and could delay brackets that play after this group.
- Some participating players in the Men's Singles division asked that there not be an open division, but that each bracket be set by DUPR ratings, age, or both.
- It was suggested that the people who play in the last bracket of both days either get a coupon from Twisted Meats to get their free lunch/dinner at their store as many who were in the last bracket on Sunday did not get their free meal due to the fact that twisted Meats had cleaned up and left before that whole bracket was completed.
 - If there is no ticket given, then maybe a list can be given to Twisted Meats.
 - Players also need to be told that they have this option, especially if they are in the last bracket as most players do not want to eat a meal before they play.
- Some players said the courts felt "slick," reinforcing their need to be resurfaced. There is no update from CRPD as when that will happen, but they were waiting for our tournament to be complete before revisiting that project.
- Summer Slam: VCPC will be sponsoring a Summer Slam at the Pickleball Athletic Club (PAC) on July 25th-26th from 12:00-9:00 PM. Due to the 9-hour time limit, Dave has come up with some overall organizational ideas for each day:
 - All Gender Doubles will play on Saturday with no age bracket, using 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 rating divisions.
 - All mixed doubles will play on Sunday with age brackets, using 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 rating divisions.
 - Dave will post the tournament on Swish on May 25th.
 - Lori Vreeke will help Dave with Swish, but since she will be out of town the week before the tournament, Melissa Camacho will help Dave during this time.
 - Ken Ferrell and Ruben from Twisted Meats will tour PAC to check on outlets, etc.
 - A tournament director is still needed for this event.

Committees:

- Social – Carol Linderman and Cindy Wallace will head up this committee. They have come up with a few ideas to help gather VCPC members socially as this is something that most members favored based on the annual survey. Some ideas are:
 - Possibly August 18th – A Beginners’ Pickleball and Pizza Party at Rancho Conejo.
 - Help connect new players with each other.
 - Possibly have a few more experienced players on hand to give tips and introduce the newer players to how playing at Rancho is set up (paddle saddle, etc.)
 - This will support the 2.5 players’ desire to continue to learn and play outside of any classes they take.
 - Possibly September 9th – Cocktail Party maybe at someone’s home.
 - VCPC caters it?
 - Possibly November 14th or 15th - November Party/Annual Election of 2027 VCPC Board
 - Carol and Cindy are exploring places to hold this 50+ person party
 - Sunland Winery
 - Tilted Kilt
 - Other places are being looked into as well.
- Charities – Gari Ann
 - Gari Ann touched bases with Kyle Verdi, a Westlake High School senior, and his co-partner, Gavin, on how their building an awareness for the need of pickleball as a high school sport is progressing.
 - She still needs to set up a meeting with the student(s) who will be leading this group next year as Kyle and Gavin are graduating seniors this June.
- Clinic with Kelly Mada – Marilyn
 - The clinic will be June 20th with each of the 3 sessions being 90 minutes long with 10-minute breaks between each session. There will be 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5 sessions offered.
 - VCPC has a permit for 1 court at Rancho Conejo for 5 hours.
 - Kathi will help Marilyn with email communication for this event explaining what the clinic is, who it benefits, what skills will be reviewed, etc. plus a bio of Kelly.
 - It was suggested that there be a link in the email to the VCPC website with all the detailed information.
 - A lottery will be used to chose who will participate in the clinic.
 - If it is successful, then those who are on the waitlist will get priority in the next clinic offer.
 - Valerie will set up an email for Marilyn on the VCPC Outlook listed as clinics@venturacountypickleballclub.com
- Sponsorships – Ken (*absent*)
 - There is no report at this time.
- Grants – Kathi
 - Kathi updated her progress on the 3 grants she shared at the last meeting:
 - CRPD Capital Improvement Fund Grant – After reviewing VCPC’s idea of replacing

the posts and nets at Del Prado by sharing an explanation of their non-compliance with USA Pickleball standards plus receiving cost input from Tanner Richards from First Serve Tennis Courts, Andrew Mooney and his CRPD staff determined that they felt this removal would incur possible structural integrity issues of the existing courts' concrete slab as well as court surfacing issues due to the new posts' installation. Because of this, CRPD does not support our proposal at this time but suggested to resubmit this plan when these courts will require resurfacing and striping in the future.

- The City of Thousand Oaks 2026-2027 Community Sports Grant – The application period is from 8/31/26-10/1/2026. The grant (with a minimum of \$2,000 and a maximum of \$10,000) would be awarded in mid-December 2026 with the grant funds being used between 1/1/27 through 12/31/27.
 - This may be a good grant to use to work with the high school students or may be something VCPC could use during a beginner clinic where the equipment (free paddles and balls) can be given to participants.
 - This application will not be available until September 2026.
- USA Pickleball Grow the Game Grant – This grant provides nets, paddles, and balls to help expand pickleball access throughout the United States.
 - This grant could also benefit our partnership with the WHS students or other schools/students in the local area.
 - This application is not available yet.

Conejo Creek West: Allan shared what was presented by CRPD at the 2 Community Meetings during the last week of April about the Conejo Creek West master plan.

- Basically, CRPD's goal of including pickleball is in the master plan, and we should continue to do what we are doing to ensure that they do so.
- It has been a 6-year process of showing up at board meetings to support the goal of building more courts in the local area due to the huge interest in our community of learning and enjoying playing the sport of pickleball.
- There is no need for us to engage with other interest groups who also want to use this area (such as the equestrian group). It is up to CRPD to see how Conejo Creek West's space can best serve the entire district and will do their due diligence to make sure the plan is safe and accessible to all.

Next meeting: Friday, 6/5/2026, 1:30-3:30 at the Newbury Park Library Meeting Room.

Meeting adjourned at 3:52 PM.