

**Minutes of the
2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
of the
Pickleball Mississauga Association (PMA)**

Date: Tuesday December 3rd, 2019
Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Location: Arbour Green Room – South Common Community Centre
2233 South Millway, Mississauga, Ontario

Board Members present: Rene St. Cyr, Jodi Lum, Henry Cerdeira, and Ian Campbell

Presiding Officer – Rene St. Cyr, President

Meeting Called to order at 7:09PM

Total Members in good standing present – 25

The Chair established that a Quorum was present and the AGM may proceed. The Chair will not vote on motions or elections and will cast the vote to decide any tie decisions.

Agenda

1. Confirm Notice of Meeting and appoint Secretary
2. Welcome Guests and affiliated representatives
3. Approval of the minutes for 2018 AGM
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Membership Director's Report
6. Program Director's Report
7. Vice-President's Report
8. President's Report
9. Constitutional Amendments
10. Election of new Board of Directors
11. Motions and New Business

The Chair requested that the Agenda for the 2019 AGM be approved. Agenda moved by Jon Brown and seconded by Brenda Charles. Motion approved.

The Chair requested that the minutes of the 2018 AGM be approved. Motion to accept moved by Linda Dubney and seconded by Bruce Buckingham. Motion approved.

No new business was noted arising from the 2018 minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Henry Cerdeira presented his report, which included an Income/Expense statement for 2019 and a comparative statement for 2018/2019. Here are the highlights:

At fiscal year end for 2018 (12-months) there was an operating profit of \$410.10 versus a loss of \$113.38 (for 13 months) as of November 30th, 2019. In 2019, PMA amended its fiscal year from October 31st to December 31st; therefore, we will be reporting 14-month figures to the City as at December 31st. As of December 31st, we will be showing a profit in excess of \$100.00, as some revenues were not captured as at November 30th. In 2019 the PMA received a grant of \$2,000 from the City of Mississauga for use in running an Open House event to bring Pickleball to new players. PMA would like to thank the City for their support to promote Pickleball in Mississauga. The grant allowed PMA to purchase assets that will be used for future events. PMA prepares its financial statements on a "Cash Basis". As at November 30th, the value of our assets (original purchase price) totalled \$2,384.88, which is made up of 2 portable outdoor nets, paddles, balls, paddle bag, ball trolley, an audio system, floor & table banner and a tablecloth. As at November 30th, PMA had no outstanding liabilities. As at November 30th, our bank balance stood at \$1,593.46 versus \$1,706.84 as at November 1st, 2018.

Al Bennett questioned the specific costs associated with facility rentals. These costs reflect the rental expenses incurred at Mississauga Valley CC for the City sponsored open house (Oct 12), PMA open house (June 22), District 20 Senior 55+ Games (June 4) and PMA's fun tournament (Sept 7). The City offers PMA a reduced rental cost as we are affiliated.

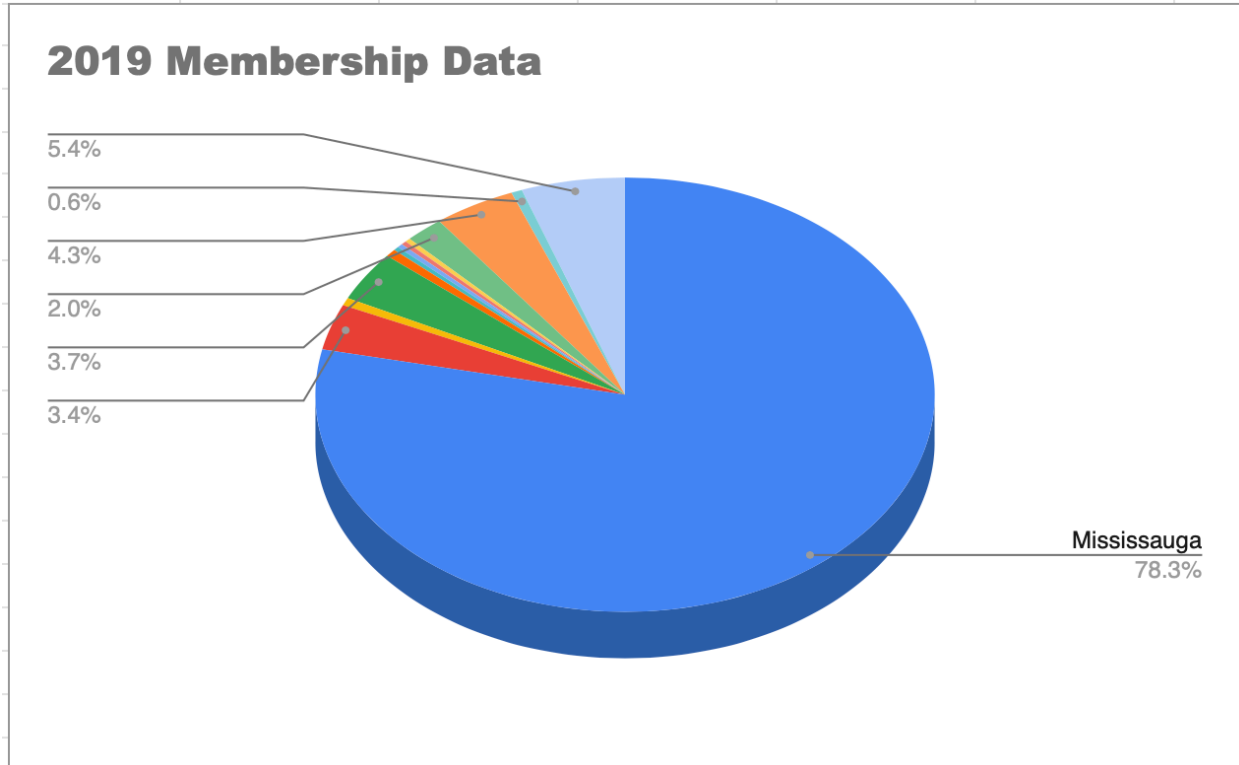
Ed Dragosits asked about the \$1,500 in assets acquired during the year. With the exception of the 2 outdoor Pickleball nets, these items are listed above.

The Chair requested that the Treasurer's interim report for 13 months ended November 30th, 2019 be approved. Motion moved by Jon Brown and seconded by Stacey Hurley. Motion approved.

Membership Director's Report

Jim Moore has been the Membership Director for several years. As Jim now spends 5 months of the year outside of the province, Jim elected to step down from the Board. The membership would like to thank Jim for all his dedicated hard work, which helped grow the membership substantially in 2019.

Rene St. Cyr noted that as of the AGM, PMA now has 350 members in good standing. This is an increase of 46% over 2018. 78.3% are residents of Mississauga. 53% of the membership are women. As of the AGM, 41% have already renewed their memberships for 2020. A new objective is to assign ambassadors to advocate on behalf of the PMA at the various community centres where Pickleball is played.



Stacey Hurley asked about how membership can be paid if not in cash or by cheque. Presently, Interac E-transfer is the preferred method. Instructions are sent to anyone signing up online. Over a certain volume of E-transfers, PMA incurs additional banking fees. Catherine Holland of Mississauga Sports Council advised that the fees might be cheaper through a web system known as EventBrite. Rene / Henry will investigate before the next Board meeting.

The Chair requested that the Membership Report be approved. Motion moved by Jane St. Cyr and seconded by Sylvia Sketchley. Motion approved.

Program Director’s Report

Ian Campbell spoke about the programs that PMA members ran this year.

PMA ran the OSGA District 55+ games in June. As a result of the success of these games, we were asked to tournament direct the Toronto Regional Games which comprised 9 full districts. Several PMA executives and members volunteered to help with the games at the Markham CC.

PMA hosted two Open Houses at Mississauga Valley CC this year. The first, in June, was a club sponsored event and the second in September, was the result of a City grant to allow PMA to bring new people into the game. Both were well attended by newcomers to the game and members of the club. Rene, Sylvia, and several other members of the PMA offered new people intro lessons over the two dates.

In September, we ran the annual PMA tournament; our 3rd year. This year, the gyms were rented for 12 hours and the event rapidly “sold out”. We even squeezed in a few extra games along with playoffs, which were not previously done. We had 52 teams competing in 6 divisions and PMA gave out official medals to the champions in each division.

Through Rene, Doug and Sylvia, and since 2018, the PMA has been holding free introductions to Pickleball at the South Common CC. These sessions have been a huge success by focusing on newcomers and allowing them to get the basics and move on to other facilities.

Future Goals:

1. Run and expand the annual PMA members tournament in 2020
2. Start to plan for an open tournament
3. Run our annual Fun Day
4. Based on demand, run new paid events like King of the Court or 3x3s.
5. Continue to pursue changes to be ready to form a Club once the City has outdoor Pickleball ONLY facilities

Pablo Pikelin inquired about how we marketed the Open Houses. Rene explained that we distributed flyers at the local Community Centres as well as being posted on the website. Other options such as road signs and newspaper ads were investigated but were considered too expensive. By way of email, we encouraged our membership to spread the word about the objectives of holding both Open Houses.

The Chair requested that the Program Director’s Report be approved. Motion moved by Bruce Buckingham and seconded by Deborah Woods. Motion approved.

Vice-President’s Report

Sherif Shalaby decided to step down from the Board. The membership would like to thank Sherif for all his support during his tenure as a member of the PMA Board. While in office, Sherif was instrumental in securing this year’s \$2,000.00 grant from the City.

Mio Vojnov asked whether the \$2,000 grant was a yearly disbursement from the City. It was explained that this was a one-time grant. We would need to apply for a future grant and for a specific purpose.

The Chair requested that the Vice-President’s Report be approved. Motion moved by Bruce Buckingham and seconded by Deborah Woods. Motion approved.

President’s Report

Since our last AGM held on October 23rd, 2018, PMA has been very busy and your Board of Directors continues to work tirelessly to profile and promote our great sport of Pickleball. So I would like to thank all our Board members for all the hard work they have done throughout the year. I would like to thank Ian and Jodi for running two tournaments and two Open Houses.

I would like to thank the growing support of our members, which now stands at 350 (239 at last AGM), before counting any new members who joined PMA this evening. With your ongoing support we can negotiate more effectively with the City. I would like to point out that the City has now “officially” recognized Pickleball, as we are included in their Future Directions Plan. Having said that, we are now required to comply with all the requirements expected of tennis clubs and we must be in full compliance before our next AGM in 2020.

As I mentioned last year, the City of Mississauga is Canada’s 6th largest city with a population of 730M. It’s the 2nd largest City in the GTA and we must accept that politics, bureaucracy, and the many stakeholders make it very difficult to achieve our objectives quickly. The existing infrastructure of community centres is not keeping pace with the population growth and/or the ever-increasing needs of residents. Financial resources remain scarce as the City tries to keep our taxes down and maintain the existing infrastructure while providing reasonable access to recreational facilities. PMA acknowledges these challenges.

This year, PMA was successful in obtaining a \$2,000.00 grant (a first) from the City to sponsor the Open House event held on October 12th to promote our great game to beginners and their Families. It was open to anyone 12 years old and up. The grant allowed PMA to purchase equipment that we can reuse for future events and those assets are listed in our financial statements. We believe the City funded Open House was a success with over 75 people in attendance plus our dedicated volunteers. The majority of attendees took advantage of the lessons and skill & drill sessions provided throughout the event. The Open House was provided free of charge (a condition of the grant) to any individual or Family attending to learn the game. Food and refreshments were provided. PMA sourced prizes from Life Time Athletics for a draw six (7-day passes).

I would like to thank all the volunteers who offered their services to help us host all four events; it’s truly a team effort.

PMA reached out to Mayor Crombie and Karen Ras, Councillor for Ward 2, who agreed to drop-in at Mississauga Valley CC on June 4th to experience playing Pickleball. Both were teamed up with experienced players and both played exceptionally well. Mayor Crombie addressed the players after having played and I truly believe both, Bonnie and Karen, will take up the game in the future.

So, what does it mean to be affiliated with the City? Annually, we must renew our affiliation status (90 days after our AGM) by submitting specific information to the City to qualify PMA. The following is a list of benefits:

- Rental Rate Category – a special rate
- Youth & Adult – affiliation status

- Community Services:
 - 12 free monthly room bookings for executive meetings
 - 1 free AGM room booking
- Permission to place a promotional sign on a City road allowance
- Special event Vendor licence – Community rate
- Groups may also receive allocation benefits under the Outdoor Sports Field Management Policy and the Arena Ice Allocation Policy
- Registered Group Civic Mark
- Free access to insurance benefits provided through the City

Now, let's focus on what PMA has been doing and what we accomplished in 2019.

Your Board held eight (8) Board meetings to plan and co-ordinate our activities.

PMA Directors attended various sessions hosted by the Mississauga Sports Council. Each session is specifically focused to assist and promote best practices for clubs and associations. Thank you Catherine Holland for your guidance.

Most note-able is our meeting with Mayor Crombie held on December 17th, 2018 after last year's AGM. Six City employees who work directly with the Mayor attended the meeting including others who were responsible for the delivery of community services and programs. Our formal / written presentation was well received as PMA submitted its case for more outdoor and indoor facilities. The big request was for outdoor Pickleball ONLY courts; preferably 12 courts and we assured Mayor Crombie that PMA could manage a designated location similar to any tennis club. We believe our membership base would meet the City's guidelines for tennis clubs.

A quote from the City's Future Directions Plan adopted in January 2019:

- For the Parks and Recreational department:
 - i. will include Pickleball lines where feasible when public tennis courts are being resurfaced. New tennis courts should be evaluated to determine opportunities to jointly meet tennis and Pickleball needs.
 - ii. Consider opportunities to provide a dedicated outdoor Pickleball facility. A location should be chosen that could accommodate between 6 to 8 Pickleball courts. Provision of amenities over and above court conversions should be jointly funded by the City and Pickleball organizations that would use the complex.
- For the Recreation Master Plan, it reads, the planning, construction and/or programming of park-based outdoor recreation facilities should be coordinated with implementing the recommendations of the 2019 Parks & Forestry Master Plan.

So where do we go from here? PMA continues to work closely with the City to articulate our needs and concerns for more and better facilities. PMA has been working with the Community

Program Manager to address our needs for indoor drop-in times. Especially for more “adequate” weekend and evening drop-in times.

We note again that the City “officially” recognizes Pickleball as a growing sport. Since last January more indoor facilities have been made available. As of today, we now have:

- 8 indoor locations to play
- the 8 locations provide access to 29 courts
- the 8 locations provide 22 different drop-in times
- In total, the 8 locations provide 49.5 hours of court time per week
- These numbers include the senior clubs at Mississauga Seniors Centre (9.5 hours) and Rivergrove (2.5 hours).
- As for outdoors, we now have 8 locations with access to 30 courts; most with lights
- You can check out our website for all the locations and hours of play

Most noteworthy of the City acknowledging Pickleball is a growing sport are the efforts and accommodations extended at South Common CC, which allows PMA to provide assistance to help beginners get into playing Pickleball. These efforts date back to January 2018 and with the assistance of Doug Charles and Sylvia Sketchley, we introduced many players to the game who are now active players at various community centres. At first, our efforts were to provide instructions to raise their skill level to say approximately 3.0. However, after discussions with the Program Manager at South Common our focus changed to provide only introductory assistance to allow players to assimilate more easily at various community centres.

At South Common CC and when we started, the turnout was remarkable. One day we had 37 drop-ins of which 18 participated in lessons using two courts. Trust me, it was a chaotic situation. Today, we continue to get 5 – 7 new players to the game on a weekly basis and some return to continue working on the basics.

I would like to acknowledge the many hours that Doug and Sylvia have devoted to providing assistance to so many players. Thanks You both.

As suggested by PMA, the City and again at South Common CC, offered a designated 11-week program for beginners. It started in October and 21 new players registered for the weekly one-hour program. I mean completely new to the game. The City plans to launch two more programs in 2020; again for beginners only.

As an FYI, Sylvia and I obtained our Level 1 IPTPA (International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association) coaching certificate in May. We are now the instructors for the above City program and we had to become employees of the City in order to do so. In order to become a City employee, we had to complete online e-learning courses (7), read policies and procedures

manuals (19), take a day long First Aid course (at our expense), pay for Police background check (at our expense) and attend employee training sessions specific to South Common CC.

As outlined earlier by our Program Director, we have hosted 4 events in 2019 and our plans for 2020 will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

PMA continues to seek out acceptable places to play in the evenings and weekends. Unfortunately, adequate space is virtually non-existent as larger well-funded sports groups are prepared to pay for the cost upfront. Given our limited financial resources, we are unable to commit up-front to pay for space that might not be considered convenient to potential players (i.e. time &/or location). We are also looking for partners to provide financial assistance and/or share the risk.

School Boards continue to reach out to PMA for assistance, as more schools actively promote and add Pickleball to their sports curriculum.

Monika Trueman continues to sponsor Pickleball on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings at Erin Mills Soccer Club; you can check out our website for details. The turnout has been very good and the facilities are most acceptable with few lines on regulation courts (4).

Outdoor tennis clubs are now beginning to recognize cash flow is “king” and they need new or returning members. Four years ago, Sheridan Tennis Club added Pickleball lines on four courts, Orchard Heights Tennis Club did two years ago offering two courts and now Erin Mills Tennis Club has done the same on two of their four courts. Let’s face it, the sports are somewhat complementary and the multiple lines, which run parallel the tennis lines using the same net (with adjustable straps) are not that intrusive.

Before closing, I need to discuss a few items:

1. For the 2020 year, PMA increased the price of membership to \$10.00. As noted earlier, PMA has very limited resources to take on any financial risk of pre-booking locations without prepaid commitments from interested players. Depending on the registration / renewal numbers, we might be able to book facilities and take on a little more risk? We note that the City also encouraged us to increase our fee to demonstrate membership commitment.
2. Some members would like to see competitive play sessions during City sponsored drop-in times. Competitive play during City drop-in times is simply not acceptable, as the City must remain inclusive to all levels of players.

3. On the related subject of being inclusive, the Code of Conduct as prescribed by the City and adopted by PMA, we must ensure all players are welcome to participate at all drop-in times no matter what skill level. Many have raised that concern with PMA and we must ALL remain accommodative and supportive, as these are City sponsored drop-in times.

In summary, 2019 has been an extremely productive year and we believe 2020 will be even better.

Given the ever-increasing level of interest of working adults and teens, we believe the City will need to refocus its efforts to provide more Pickleball facilities, both indoor or outdoor and during evenings or weekends. PMA will continue to seek out other venues, public or private.

As an FYI, in our December 2018 presentation to Mayor Crombie, PMA asked the City “Where do we go from here? We pointed out that Mississauga is uniquely situated in the largest most populated area of Canada and northeastern United States. An international airport is domiciled in the City where many amenities are readily available to host Regional, National or International tournaments. The City has the potential to become the “Pickleball Capital of Canada” just like Naples, FL where they host the US Open. Therefore; we must capitalize on this feature by providing first class facilities, both indoor and outdoor. PMA would be delighted to work with the City to investigate opportunities with private and/or public funding.

We thank you, our members, for your ongoing support and we encourage you to seek out new members so the City can more accurately measure just how popular Pickleball has become.

So many people ask me, “What do I get for my \$10.00”, well this is what you get. The many hours of hard work volunteered by so many dedicated Board members and volunteers.

Wishing everyone all the very best.

Mio Vojnov asked whether the PMA keeps records on who plays within the City of Mississauga. Rene explained that as an Association we have no control over the information that the City may or may not compile from their drop-in programs.

The Chair requested that the President’s Report be approved. Motion moved by Sylvia Sketchley and seconded by Jon Brown. Motion approved.

Changes to the Constitution

The Executive undertook a review of the current Constitution and have made some changes. Some of the changes have been made for better clarity in wording and some have been made to conform to directives prescribed by the City for Tennis & Pickleball, which were revised this year. The Club has now introduced and adopted a Code of Conduct Policy, a Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Policy and a Confidentiality Policy.

A copy of the new Constitution was sent to each registered member via email as part of the AGM agenda.

Highlights of the changes include but are not limited to:

1. Addition of the references to the Code of Conduct, Confidentiality on Conflict of Interest Policies
2. Removal of the Past President role on the Board and the addition of a Social Directors position.
3. Changes to the AGM Order

The Chair requested that the changes to the Constitution be approved. Motion moved by Bruce Buckingham and seconded by Mio Vojnov. Motion approved.

Club Elections

A call was made for nominations from the Nominating Committee. As of the start of the AGM, only one nomination was received for John Cameron for the position of Vice-President. The positions of Secretary will be vacated by the existing member and a new position of Social Director is available.

President

The Chair asked for any members present who wished to take on the role of President. Rene St. Cyr agreed to renew his one-year term as President and nominated himself. The motion was seconded by Sylvia Sketchley. Motion accepted.

Vice-President

The Chair asked for any members present who wished to take on the role of Vice-President. John Cameron's name was put forward by Ian Campbell. No other nominations were put forward. The motion was seconded by Jon Brown. Motion accepted.

Treasurer

The Chair asked for any members present who wished to take on the role of Treasurer. Henry Cerdeira agreed to renew his one-year term and nominated himself to continue as Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Jane St. Cyr. Motion accepted.

Secretary

The Chair asked for any members present who wished to take on the role of Secretary. Sylvia Sketchley nominated herself and the motion was seconded by Mio Vojnov. Motion accepted.

Program Director

The Chair asked for any members present who wished to take on the role of Program Director. Ian Campbell nominated himself to continue as Program Director. The motion was seconded by Mio Vojnov. Motion accepted.

Membership Director

The Chair asked for any members present who wished to take on the role of Membership Director. Ian Campbell nominated Jodi Lum as Membership Director. The motion was seconded by Brenda Charles. Jodi accepted the nomination. Motion accepted.

Social Director

The Chair asked for any members present who wished to take on the new role of Social Director. Jon Brown nominated himself and Jane St.Cyr also nominated herself. Jon graciously withdrew his nomination in favour of Jane. Brenda Charles seconded the motion. Motion accepted.

New Motions

No motions were brought forward.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the 2019 AGM and hopes to see everyone on the courts.

Meeting adjourned by Rene St. Cyr at 8:35PM.