

The Ventnor city recreation board of commissioners held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at the recreational complex located at Balfour & Surrey Avenues. Meeting began at 6:30pm.

Present: Jeff Moore, Diane Birkbeck, Mike Cahill, Joa Iannuzzelli, Heather Furca.

Mayor Kriebel attended as well.

Motion was made to approve June 2026 minutes by Jeff Moore and seconded by Heather Furca. Motion carried

Application was submitted by Brian Squilla and his 2 sons want to use the batting cages at Surrey Ave for Thursday, 7/16 and that Saturday from 10-11am. No charge to use. Motion was made by Mike Cahill and seconded by Joe Iannuzzelli to approve. Motion carries.

Application submitted for 5k on the boardwalk. Start at the Taj Mahal and go to Fredericksburg Ave. It will happen in August. Not approved by the Board and organizer decided to utilize the AC part of the Boardwalk not Ventnor

Mile run we had 373 registrants. Profit was \$9,120.00. Highest profit for the run. The St Leonard's Track Association provided a donation to purchase the t shirts for the runners.

A camp refund was issued due to the rec department having to change the location of the camp and person that signed up for the camp has no transportation to get there. Motion was made to approve the refund.

Pickleball and Tennis: No show fees were discussed. Board agreed that the no show fee is the cost of what you would rent the court for. Motion made by Joe Iannuzzelli and second by Mike Cahill. Needs to be approved by Administration before implementation.

Rec Leader Logue Informed the Board of changes that have been made to help the pickleball program

- Separated the High Intermediate/ Advanced session to now one session only high intermediate and one session only advanced levels
 - By doing this more people can be accommodated and not as many now on a waitlist
- Changing the times we offer sessions during the week, so each level gets a chance to play at 8, 9:30, and 11 for morning open play
- Added a 4.2 Higher Advanced Session
- Moved the paddle racks from right next to the court to the waiting area by Court G Fence to avoid congestion of people near the nets

Complaints to the Rec Dept were received about no free play Saturday and Sunday from the pickleball community. Board will revisit policies after the season as right now Board is still firm on pay to play on the weekends. Those that have the pickleball membership have the opportunity for the am slots to book 3 days before the date they wish to play, all other non-members must wait 24 hours.

Rec Leader Logue also informed the public of feedback she received from the public and attendants:

- Some want a tiered system like a country club with different prices and privileges; Below are their suggestions
 - \$300- 7 Days a week of unlimited play and not required to rent court
 - \$250- 7 days a week of unlimited morning play but has to pay to rent court
 - \$200- 5 days a week unlimited play and not required to rent court
 - \$150- 5 days a week unlimited play but can rent court for free on the weekends only
- Wants more benches to be ordered and awnings to be put up
- Wants outside AED and water fountain
- Wants special rules for Ventnor Taxpayer and to prove require tax information to be sent to the City
- Wants to know why the pickleball players were not included in making the design of the new courts

In the public

Lou Silverman and Marc Ratnowsky are members of pickleball community and thought that rec board should hear from other than the VPAC members about some changes they think would help with the courts. Both gentlemen met with the mayor couple weeks earlier to bring him some things they thought would be beneficial to the pickleball courts.

They thought it would be a good idea to have a “pickleball liaison” to give feedback to the rec board. They would be available for the board to bounce things off them as being pickleball members and they hear from other members. They said the court Staff is great and acknowledged they have a tough job dealing with the public.

Presently they can book 5 days out of 7 days for the week, Monday- Sunday. The weekends there is no free play from 1pm-4pm. Anyone that wants to play must rent a court. Wants to have it go back to being free play. The reason the free play was removed was due to the last two years the free play period was overwhelmed with the same groups getting the courts

which wasn't allowing nonmembers or families with children to try to be active a chance to play. The question of allowing pickleball members to reserve a morning session 7 days a week instead of 5 was brought up.

It was said that sometimes a session is not full and a few people may have to wait to play on a court. They want to know if that happens can the Court Attendants override the rule and ask one of the players that just finished playing to stay back and join in another session, so no one has to rotate on a court. The Board has a concern about who would be asked and would it be the same person each time.

Also, staff are not permitted to make a Manuel change on Open play in the am slot so that if the next slot only has 3 people and there is someone finishing a game and would stay as a holdover. Presently on court reserve the slots are booked based on skill levels.

Issues: Can something like "on deck" be placed on court reserve? Rec leader says they must look at the system and see if they can manipulate it in any way to do that. Lou believes the players should pick who stays after to hop in on the next session that there are spots open.

Can they be given 24 hours in advance to book over a non-member and give them 20 hours in advance? After 3 days in advance sign up and override the 5 sessions a week rule if spots are open.

Big issue on weekends is 1pm-4pm to reserve a court must pay for the court. Wants to know why if the court is open, they cannot just walk on. Mayor Kriebel stated that it is revenue neutral. That for it to be empty vs the wear and tear on the court for someone to play on it, he would prefer it to be empty.

Suggestion – 5 courts for free play, 1-4pm and the other 5 courts charge for them?

Questions about the above: How do you determine who gets the free courts and who has to pay? The people that played a morning session may start saving the free courts where someone that wasn't able to get in a morning session and tries to play in the afternoon (who also paid the same membership) will now be charged to play. Who will monitor the length of time a group is playing on the free courts and what the parameters are? The statement was made that on Team reach a group of 20 people could show up and play and now cannot Play due to the courts not being free. The response from one board member was that if this is a payment issue the policy is not changing. If there are 20 people wanting to play and the cost for one hour is

\$20 that is one dollar per person. No one is barred from playing, and everyone can afford to pitch in a dollar that plays at the courts.

It is also important to note that the membership allows you to reserve a morning session and drop in at night for the season without having to pay a daily fee every day you play (tennis is currently where they pay every time, they use a court). If a group wants to play with just their group a court must be rented.

Shades and awnings are not up yet. PW will not be putting them up as the City did not purchase those awnings (VPAC did), therefore not authorized to hang them. They also will pull the new fencing as they are very heavy. A shade system is scheduled to be installed in Fall 2026 during the second phase of remodeling.

Lou and Mark will attend the September 8th meeting after the season.

Funky pickleball event. This is the last year of their contract. The board is against any barrels, stakes etc. on the new surfaces. Organizer asked about using marking tape. Rec Leader will let organizer know this is not allowed either.

Camps-

Soccer in the last week. Went great

Volleyball- 36 spots filled out of 40. Going well.

Marine science 3 weeks and very successful

Field hockey& softball – going slow. Thinks the prices of the softball camp are a factor. Field hockey was late in August and possibly a conflict with kid's schedules.

Rec department is going to order 2 picnic tables for the field. Board agrees and approved purchase and if needed they can be moved to different areas.

Matt McCarron new pirate president. Michele Masterman has retired from that position.

Snack stand- FD members have stated since it's not used that the Ansul system should be removed. They will have to meet over there with fire prevention to discuss.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Jeff Moore and seconded by Joe Iannuzzelli. All were in favor