

WESTPORT CONNECTICUT  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
LONGSHORE CLUB PARK  
260 SOUTH COMPO

**FINAL MINUTES**

RACQUETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, August 14, 2018

**1. Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.** New members Lloyd Clareman and David Kaplan were introduced.

This was the fourteenth regular meeting of the Racquets Advisory Committee (“RAC”), held in Room 212D at Town Hall, Westport, CT.

- Committee Members Present: David Acselrod, Chairman; Lloyd Clareman (acted as Secretary); Joe DiMiceli; Ward Doonan; David Kaplan; Tom Lowry; Nadine Tanen.
- Representing Westport Parks & Recreation (“WP&R”): Cyndi Palaia, Program Manager.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the April 10, 2018 meeting were approved.

**3. Public Comment:** No public comment on items not on the agenda.

**4. Parks & Recreation Update:**

Longshore Tennis:

- Calcium chloride was put down in mid-July to good effect, as the courts are now retaining moisture much more effectively.
- Puddles that had been caused by poor drainage in the back of courts 6-9 have been eliminated as drainage has been significantly improved.
- The tennis courts have been very busy in the 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. time slots; there was discussion of whether it would be possible to open some number of courts earlier than 8:00 a.m. as soon as morning maintenance is completed on them.
- The Westport men’s doubles team won the D-3 league and will move up to D-2.

Pickleball:

- Pickleball has been added to the online reservation system.
- Two courts at Doubleday have been relined for pickleball.
- Drainage on the Compo pickleball courts has been a problem; Ms. Palaia will investigate and arrange for repair as appropriate.

**5. Platform Tennis Update:**

- The maintenance company will be coming shortly for the annual tune-up of the courts and various repairs.
- It was noted that the heating system is somewhat inadequate. There should be four heaters whereas there are only three.

## **6. Longshore Tennis Guest Pass Proposal**

- A proposal to implement as guest pass for the Longshore Tennis courts for individuals who do not have hand passes for unlimited play, including non-residents, was approved. This is intended to provide both convenience and a modest discount to frequent guest users of the courts. WP&R will issue guest passes that provide 11 playing sessions for the price of 10. The passes will be valid only for the season in which they are issued, *e.g.*, any unused sessions on a pass that was issued in 2018 would not be carried over into 2019.

## **7. Pickleball Discussion**

- Also present at the meeting for a discussion of pickleball facilities and related issues were a number of members of the public with a strong interest in pickleball.
- There was discussion of the existing pickleball facilities, consisting of 2 courts at each of Compo, Doubleday, and the platform tennis courts; and of the desire of the pickleball community to add more courts. Various potential locations were discussed but the strong preference expressed at the meeting by the various pickleball players who attended was for 2 additional courts to be added at Compo.
- Mr. Lowrie presented some general estimates regarding the cost of pickleball courts in a variety of construction scenarios, but these were not tailored to the particular conditions of the potential Compo site. Mr. Acselrod asked him to obtain figures for a proposal specific to the construction of two additional courts at Compo. Mr. Lowrie undertook to investigate and obtain proposals from contractors for the construction of two additional courts there. It is understood by all concerned that the RAC has no power to approve or appropriate funds for such a project, and can only pass along information and/or a recommendation to the Town.
- Mr. Lowrie and others from the pickleball community also expressed dismay at the proposed construction of a new bathroom facility at Compo that they assert would obstruct the view of the Sound from the courts, as well as limiting the potential space available for subsequent expansion beyond four courts. However it was explained that the RAC lacks jurisdiction over this project, and has no information concerning the considerations that led to the selection of the proposed site.

## **8. Strategic Focus**

- In view of the lengthy discussion of pickleball-related subjects, discussion of strategic focus going forward was tabled until the next meeting.

## **9. Items for Next Agenda**

- A discussion of the tennis program at Longshore, including opening hours and staffing, is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **10. Meeting adjourned: 9:00 p.m.**