

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

FINAL MINUTES

RACQUETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – WESTPORT PARKS & RECREATION
Tuesday, October 9, 2018

1. Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

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

- Committee Members Present: David Acelrod, Chairman; Lloyd Clareman (acted as Secretary); Joe DiMiceli; Ward Doonan.
- Representing Westport Parks & Recreation (“WP&R”): Cyndi Palaia, Program Manager.
- Also Present: Patty Brill and Jay Walshen

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the August 14, 2018 meeting were approved.

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

4. Parks & Recreation Update:

Longshore Tennis:

- Tennis usage was up substantially in 2018 versus 2017. Handpass sales were up 50%; guest fees were \$16,000 versus \$14,000 last year.
- Courts were used heavily, particularly mornings and weekends, but stayed in excellent condition throughout the summer thanks to improved maintenance.

Pickleball:

- Tom Lowry did not attend and therefore there was no update on potential proposal for additional courts.
- Pickleball went on the reservation system in July.

5. Platform Tennis Update:

- Ward Donovan reported that Green Mountain has performed regular maintenance of the courts, including power washing. Green Mountain will be returning to tighten wires. Two new fans for heaters to improve player safety will also be installed.
- Platform pass sales were down year over year.

6. Long Term Issues

- There was discussion of potentially implementing an integrated rackets pass that would cover tennis, paddle and pickleball as a package. Whether or not this would replace passes for individual activities, and the price structure, were tabled.
- The primary platform tennis objective is to construct two more courts and a hut. This has already been proposed and would be self-funded.
- Key tennis objectives for the long term are better lights; potential bubbling of some of the courts during the winter season; and construction of a backboard.
- Pickleball's main objective is the construction of two more courts at Compo; and potentially additional courts at the senior center.

7. Pickleball Discussion

- Jay Walshen has a list of items aimed at increasing familiarity with and participation in pickleball, as to which he'd appreciate input from tennis and platform players.

8. Items for Next Agenda

- A discussion of some or all of the long term issues specified in item 6 above is anticipated for the next meeting.
- Fee discussion, with emphasis on pickleball.

9. Meeting adjourned: 8:40 p.m.