



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

**FINAL
MINUTES
RACQUETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – WESTPORT PARKS & RECREATION
Tuesday, November 13, 2018**

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

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

Committee Members Present: David Acselrod, Chairman; Lloyd Clareman (acted as Secretary); Ward Doonan; David Kaplan.

Representing Westport Parks & Recreation (“P&R”): Cyndi Palaia, Program Manager.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October 9, 2018 meeting were approved.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Parks & Recreation Update:

Longshore Tennis:

- Tennis nets (and pickleball nets) are going to be taken down in the first or second week of December. The tennis courts that remained available (Courts 6-9) have been well used during the fall and remained in very good condition.
- The group expressed high satisfaction with the maintenance performed by P&R employee Jose Soto.
- We will find out why some windscreens were removed early, whether by design or by mistake. Absent compelling reason, they should remain up on Courts 6-9 as long as the nets do.

Pickleball:

- As noted above, nets will come down at Compo in early December.
- Indoor pickleball is available once a week on Wednesday night for approximately 2 hours at Bedford Middle School. There will be a Sunday program as well starting in January. Storage of equipment there has been a problem due to extreme space constraints resulting from Coley Middle School closure; Cyndi is hoping to get some space so that equipment can be left there.

5. Platform Tennis Update:

- Green Mountain redid the cables for the windscreens on the paddle courts. Maintenance was performed on the heaters and fans. We are still expecting an additional fan to be installed, and may need another heater.

6. Fee Structure

- In line with the Committee's prior consideration of the issue, the RAC is proposing the use of "10-trip" guest passes, whereby a guest or resident can purchase a ticket valid for 11 plays for the price of 10. All play must occur in the season in which the pass is issued; unused plays will not be usable in a subsequent season, nor will they be refunded. The Committee believes this will be both a convenience for those who are frequent users of guest passes, and revenue-positive.
- Platform tennis fees will remain at \$85/season, which at the current level of sales has been sufficient to carry the cost of servicing the debt incurred for court construction, and annual maintenance. The concept of a bundled racket sports pass was not viewed as productive.
- Regarding pickleball, there was discussion of the fact that there have been no permits required, yet the courts incur costs of approximately \$6,000/year for equipment and maintenance, plus another \$2,000 every two years for resurfacing. The Committee thinks it would be sensible to start requiring residents to purchase a pickleball pass for \$50/season, and see what levels of sales are generated; with the general goal of having pickleball becoming cash flow neutral over time.

7. Long Term Issues

- RAC member David Kaplan was delegated the task of initiating discussion with the Town (specifically Dan DeVito) regarding the possibility of installing LED lighting at the tennis courts. It was noted that Courts 1-5 require lighting year-round due to the annual conversion to a skating rink, and therefore conversion to LED should save significantly on energy costs while enhancing visibility for night play. It was noted that the existing lighting system is quite old and that ideally the entire lighting system, including but not limited to the LED element (e.g. wiring, on/off mechanism), should be re-evaluated.
- The feasibility of a tennis backboard/wall should be explored.
- The platform tennis objective for the long term is to construct two more courts and a hut. This has already been proposed and would be self-funded.
- Pickleball's main objective remains the construction of two more courts at Compo; however no further information has been furnished to the Committee regarding a specific proposal for construction.

8. Items for Next Agenda

- Update on tennis court lighting discussion with Town.
- 2019 meeting schedule will be set.

9. Meeting adjourned: 8:20 p.m.