



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

FINAL MINUTES

RACQUETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – WESTPORT PARKS & RECREATION

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

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

This was the seventeenth 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); David Kaplan; Tom Lowrie; Patti Brill.
- Representing Westport Parks & Recreation (“WP&R”): Cyndi Palaia, Program Manager.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting, as amended, were approved.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. 2019 Meeting Dates: It was proposed and agreed that the Committee meet on the following additional dates in 2019: March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10, and November 12.

5. Parks & Recreation Update:

Longshore Tennis:

- The courts are now closed for the winter and accordingly there is nothing current to report.

Pickleball:

- Nets were taken down at Compo last month.
- Indoor pickleball is proceeding on Sundays and Wednesday night. Both programs are well attended.

Platform Tennis:

- The lighting is functioning well.
- Additional work remains to be done to connect an additional blower

6. Longshore Lighting Upgrade Report:

- Dave Kaplan reported on his meeting with Dan DeVito aimed at determining the feasibility of an upgrade to the lighting for the Longshore tennis courts, which would also serve to improve the lighting of the skating rink during the winter months assuming Courts 1-5 were upgraded. Mr. DeVito advised that he has discussed this possibility preliminarily with Eversource, and that the estimated cost of the job is \$140,000. However, that figure does not appear to include the value of incentives that are available through Eversource; nor does it net out the savings that would be achieved from conversion to LED lighting, which is significantly less expensive to run. Dave Kaplan agreed to look into the economics in further detail, to find out (a) what incentives are available from Eversource or elsewhere to defray the cost; and (b) whether the existing lights are currently on a separate meter that would identify the annual spend on electricity for the current tennis court lighting system (or if the tennis court lighting is aggregated for billing purposes with other equipment, how a reasonable estimate of the tennis court lighting amount could be derived); and (c) what percentage of savings on that annual cost could be expected from the conversion to LED. Based on those answers a more accurate estimate of the true cost of the conversion will be developed.

7. Pickleball Discussion

- Pickleball fees will be implemented in the 2019 season.
- There was general discussion of the pickleball clinics and their location (currently at Compo). The possibility of moving the clinics to the Town Farm or Doubleday tennis courts was raised by Tom Lowrie, but is not feasible as Ms. Palaia advised that this would conflict with tennis instruction at those locations. Mr. Lowrie also shared with the Committee a design he has developed for what he described as a 5-year plan for Compo, which would involve shrinking the skating park. The first phase of this plan would involve reconfiguring the gate and moving the picnic tables. No formal action was taken by the Committee with respect to these ideas.
- Tom Lowrie and Patti Brill will take attendance at the Wednesday and Sunday pickleball sessions over the winter, chiefly to determine how many participants are Westport residents versus non-residents.

8. Platform Tennis Court Addition and Warming Hut

- David Ayselrod discussed the fact that despite approval from the Parks & Recreation Department, there is no ongoing movement towards construction of two additional paddle courts and a warming hut at Longshore.
- The delay appears to be caused by the fact that the Town is in the midst of developing an overall redesign plan for Longshore. David Ayselrod, David Kaplan, and Ward Doonan will follow up with Charley Haberstroh and Jen Fava.

9. Meeting adjourned: 8:35 p.m.