



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

FINAL MINUTES

RACQUETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – WESTPORT PARKS & RECREATION

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

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

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

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting were approved.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Parks & Recreation Update:

Longshore Tennis:

- The nets are anticipated to go up on the hard courts (Doubleday, Town Farms and Staples) this coming weekend (March 16-17); and Longshore is on track for a May 4 opening weekend.

Pickleball:

- Pickleball is closed at Compo until the bathroom construction is completed
- Pickleball clinics will start May 13. They will be held on weekdays at Compo during May through June. Saturday clinics will be at Doubleday. When the school year is finished, all clinics will be held at Doubleday.

Platform Tennis:

- Discussed later; see below.

5. Pickleball Fee Discussion:

- The Committee felt that an appropriate fee structure for indoor play at Bedford Middle School would be, for town residents, \$5 per session and \$50 per season (October through March); and for non-residents, \$5 per session and \$75 per season. Passes would be available for purchase at the Parks and Recreation Department office.
- No fees would be charged at the current time for outdoor play at Compo or Doubleday.
- The Committee noted that this fee structure is projected to be short of covering costs for the pickleball program (court and equipment maintenance).
- A question was raised as to whether the indoor season at Bedford could be extended through April; Cyndi will inquire.
- Tom Lowrie has developed a proposed redesign of the Compo courts that would feature moving the picnic area to a new location; however, if implemented, the picnic area would replace part of the current skate park. Tom will discuss his idea with Parks and Recreation Department officers to get their input on feasibility and will report back to the Committee regarding their assessment.

6. Tennis/Skating Lighting Update

- David Kaplan reported on his meeting with Dan DeVito of Parks and Recreation. The estimated cost of installation of new LED lighting would be \$150,000. However, it is not known whether any kind of cost-sharing or rebate is available from Eversource that would lower the net cost of installation. Mr. DeVito advises that there is an estimated savings of \$10,000-\$20,000 per year on the cost of operating LED lighting compared to the current system.
- David Kaplan will go back to Mr. DeVito to determine how to get a firm proposal from Eversource that would account for any cost-sharing/rebates, and find out whether the annual savings can be quantified with any more precision.

7. Paddle Discussion

- There was discussion of the need for a pathway to the paddle courts to be cleared during heavy snowfall.
- The blowers are working slightly better.

9. Meeting adjourned: 8:30 p.m.