



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
LONGSHORE CLUB PARK
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***Racquets Advisory Committee
Final Meeting Minutes***

Tuesday November 12, 2019

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm at Town Hall, Westport, CT in the Green Room for the scheduled 22nd meeting of the Racquets Advisory Committee ("RAC").

II. Roll call

Committee Members Present: David Acselrod, Chairman; Lloyd Clareman, Ward Doonan, Patti Brill, David Kaplan.

Representing Westport Parks and Recreation ("WP&R"): Cyndi Palaia, Program Manager

III. Approval of Minutes from September 10, 2019: minutes were approved

IV. Public comment – one member of the public (Tara Lieberman) was present and reserved her comments for discussion of pickleball later in the meeting.

V. Parks and Recreation Update:

- a) Pickleball nets are still available at Doubleday, and the Town will try to keep them available through Thanksgiving. High winds at Compo have blown the windscreens off the fences, and the fences were damaged. Indoor pickleball at Bedford Middle School has started. 31 resident passes and 6 non-resident passes have been sold. The courts at Bedford will be cleaned and re-lined this weekend.
- b) Tennis: Courts 1-5 are closed as the ice rink is being installed. Courts 6-9 will remain open as long as weather permits. The lights were made available on Courts 6-9 through October 31 by having the marina attendant operate the lights, but that availability has ended and thus the lighting is no longer being operated.
- c) Paddle: Some minor repairs are needed – net strap, flickering light, and heater in need of repair. The heater issue is more a matter of reconfiguration than repair.

VI. Tennis Discussion

- a) There was extensive discussion of the 2019 revenues and expenses year to date relating to each of the racquet sports.
- b) Tennis generated guest fees of \$25,444, up substantially from \$17,590 in 2018. Seasonal court rentals were near flat at \$4,882 (vs. \$4,951 in 2018). Ball sales also flat, \$800 vs. \$795. Tournament receipts were up substantially to approximately \$10,000 vs. \$5,000 last year. Premium handpass sales were down slightly to 305 from 321 last year, generating approximately \$33,000, whereas combined golf and tennis passes were up slightly to 151 from 144, generating

another \$33,000. All in all, handpasses generated \$66,715 this year versus \$70,070 last year. Youth tennis programs produced \$1,500-2,500 in net revenues (from \$40-50,000 gross programming revenues) this year and adult tennis about \$2,700 in net revenue.

- c) On the expense side, tennis consumes the bulk of Cheebo's time, although he also services pickleball; his annual salary expense is \$43,900. There are also relatively modest expenses for the Longshore attendants. Tennis is clearly producing revenues far in excess of the associated expenses.

VII. Paddle Discussion

- a) Paddle sold 137 passes in 2019 versus 129 in the prior year, generating \$9,850 in revenues. Seasonal platform court rentals are currently at \$6,400 for the season.
- b) There are no significant expenses for paddle beyond the debt service which is covered by the above revenues.
- c) In conjunction with the revenue-expense discussions across all sports, there was dissatisfaction expressed with some of the limitations of the Chelsea reservation system from a functionality standpoint, and the general sentiment was that the feasibility of finding a similarly priced vendor with a more customizable platform should be explored.

VIII. Pickleball Discussion

- a) Pickleball had 94 participants in its programs, generating revenues for the programs of \$10,825. The expenses associated with those programs were \$7,128, yielding net revenue of \$3,697. Pickleball also incurred about \$6,000 in expenses for the Doubleday courts, for court repair, lining of courts 2 and 3, side netting, and nets.
- b) The Committee recommended that a handpass (\$40.00) be required on a mandatory basis going forward for residents to play pickleball. For non-residents, a \$5 guest fee should be charged.

IX. Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 PM