



# WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
LONGSHORE CLUB PARK  
260 SOUTH COMPO ROAD  
WESTPORT, CT 06880

## RACQUETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FINAL Minutes  
February 4, 2020

### 1. Call to Order: 7:30 PM

This was the 23<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of the Racquets Advisory Committee (RAC), held in the Green Room at Town Hall, Westport, CT.

- Committee Members Present: David Acselrod, Chairperson; David Kaplan, Secretary; Beth Jaykus; Ward Doonan; Patti Brill; Denise Thomas. Absent: Lloyd Clareman
- Representing Westport Parks & Recreation (WP&R): Cyndi Palaia, Program Manager.

**Calendar:** Next meeting Tuesday, 4/7/2020, Town Hall, Room 212D

### 2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting were approved

### 3. Platform Update: League play has been successful and court usage is high. Some maintenance matters are being addressed by WP&R

### 4. Tennis Update: Nothing to address in winter season. David Kaplan and the RAC will put together a budget for LED light conversion on just courts 1-5 which is also the skating rink in comparison to all 9 of the tennis courts.

### 5. Pickle Ball (PB) Update and Public Comment

- a. There were 18 Westport residents in attendance to listen to and participate in the PB discussion.
- b. The consensus of views from the public attendees and the RAC is that PB play is growing in town and there is a desire to have more courts. Patti Brill offered to head to Town Hall to begin proposal process to obtain P&Z allowance for construction of 4 new courts. There was consensus that while Compo Beach is a beautiful setting, having an option with less wind and sand would be desirable. Public comments pointed out that Westport is behind other Fairfield County towns in terms of PB courts and adding facilities would be appreciated.
- c. Cyndi reviewed the success of the indoor season at Bedford which is enjoying strong participation and collecting resident and guest fees. Consensus of public attendees is that the courts have been well used and the WP&R support is appreciated.
- d. There were multiple public comments on anticipated summer play at Compo and reserved hours versus open play. The RAC informed that the PB survey results from 2019 showed there were votes for both formats.
- e. e.) A public comment request was made to look at converting more town tennis courts into pickleball, preferably avoiding school locations and the time limitations associated therein.

**6. Pickle Ball proposed fees at Compo Beach:** Fees at Compo Beach for the PB courts was an agenda item for this meeting and this discussion followed on after the public comments were completed and noted.

a.) Ward Doonan provided an update on the RAC's previous discussions where a \$40 pass fee and \$5 guest fee had been contemplated. The RAC felt the guest fee will be too difficult to collect as there is no monitor in person at the courts. In addition, and to provide clarity, the proposed PB pass allows for 5 day advance reservation for the Compo courts. Residents who choose not to buy the pass will still be able to play at Compo (as well as Doubleday) and will be able to make reservations 2 days in advance. The desire of the RAC is to illustrate that PB is growing in Westport. The income of the PB pass sales will not cover WP&R costs for maintenance and usage of the reservation system but they will prove interest in the sport and help support future expenditures into potential new courts.

b.) The RAC settled on a recommendation for a \$40 PB pass fee as well as a \$30 senior pass fee with no guest fees. A vote was taken and unanimously approved to put the proposed fees on the P&Z agenda.

**7. Items for Next Agenda:** Tennis LED light conversion, and potential to convert more tennis courts into PB courts.

**8. Meeting Adjourned:** 9:00 PM