



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

*Racquets Advisory Committee –
Westport Parks and Recreation
Final Meeting Minutes*

Monday, February 8, 2021

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom videoconference for the scheduled 24th 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; and Carmen Roda, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager.

III. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2020: minutes were approved.

IV. Public comment – four members of the public were present: Livy Howard, Walter Hlawitschka, Mark Stephens, and Jay Walshon.

Summary of their comments follows:

Livy Howard, 199 Bayberry Lane: he had high praise for the paddle courts. It is now difficult to get reservations, and he supports building additional courts. He notes that even when pandemic ends, the usage is likely to persist.

Mark Steffan, 4 Round Pond Road: he is delighted that so many people have discovered the paddle courts during the pandemic, but notes that it is now very difficult to get a reservation. He strongly supports building two additional courts.

Walter Hlawitschka, 8 Apache Trail: he too requests that the Town look into more paddle courts, especially in light of the pandemic having put a premium on outdoor facilities.



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Jay Walshon, 67 Roseville Road: Regarding Compo Beach pickleball, he comments that some people violate the clearly posted rules and wonders if there is some way to enforce them; he comments that there's a big sign regarding the appropriate use of the facilities (i.e., pickleball only, appropriate footwear, etc.) but the rules are ignored. He also wonders if post-covid there will be reservations again by summer using the Chelsea system. In response, Carmen comments that the staff will be instructed to see what's happening at the pickleball courts as part of their daily rounds and that there is someone at Compo daily. Jay responds that the staff at Compo has been excellent overall.

V. Parks and Recreation Update (Carmen Roda and Cyndi Palaia):

- a) Platform tennis: Ward reports that the courts have been great. Maintenance in the snow has been excellent. Usage of the courts is way up. All paddle ball players are very interested in the construction of additional courts to accommodate high demand; it is now very difficult to obtain reservations, as reported by the public commenters.
- b) Tennis: Carmen reports that the town contemplates working on some improvements, largely in the way of maintenance, for Town Center and Doubleday. He is studying how best to address the problem of excessive private lessons given by outside pros without permission or compensation to the town, for both tennis and pickleball. All Committee members who use the tennis facilities commented that the Longshore courts were exceptionally well maintained this season.
- c) Pickleball: There was discussion of the same issue of overuse by outside pros with respect to pickleball, and Carmen advised that this issue will be addressed for both tennis and pickleball. Patti Brill notes that there are no statistics available for pickleball usage, but from observation it is apparent that usage has greatly increased during the pandemic. The question of where to locate and build some additional pickleball courts in the town remains unresolved but is a matter of interest to the committee – as it is with respect to additional paddle courts.

VI. Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.