



**Racquets Advisory Committee
Westport Parks and Recreation
FINAL Minutes**

Monday, November 8, 2021

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom videoconference for the scheduled 27th meeting of the Racquets Advisory Committee (“RAC”).

II. Roll call

Committee Members Present: David Acselrod, Lloyd Clareman, Ward Doonan, Patti Brill, David Kaplan, and Beth Jaykus.

Representing Westport Parks and Recreation (“WP&R”): Carmen Roda. Charlie Haberstroh also present informally.

III. Approval of Minutes from June 7, 2021: minutes were approved.

IV. Public Comment

Jay Walshon, Amy Schafrann Tom Lowry and Larry Schwartz were present.

Jay Walshon complimented Carmen on his responsiveness to pickleball concerns. He asked about the status of maintenance at the Compo courts; Carmen explained that that was deferred pending the appointment of a new superintendent. Jay also expressed concern over cracking in the Compo pickleball courts. Jay thanked Carmen for posting placards regarding open play, as that proved to be very popular. Jay also raised questions about the feasibility of adding Doubleday to the Chelsea system. Carmen advised that the Chelsea technology people are still working on it and seeing if that is possible.

Tom Lowry asked for help lining the Bedford courts; Carmen responded that he has passed along this request. Tom also informed Carmen that the foam barriers are missing from Bedford.

Charlie Haberstroh was present in an informal capacity. He advised that the contract has been signed for the Longshore master plan. The contractors will be listening to the input from the public. Charlie thanked the Committee for its input over the years.

Jay Walshon requested that the meetings of the RAC be held at least every other month. He also requested that the meetings be recorded.

Larry Schwartz advised that there is great interest in creating more pickleball courts.

Tom Lowrie advocated creating more pickleball courts at Town Center as an interim measure. David Acselrod advised that this would have to be discussed as a separate agenda item.

Jay Walshon and Tom Lowrie requested an “official” endorsement of the Longshore location from the RAC. Jay also asked for clear guidance regarding the mask requirement at Bedford. David Acselrod advised that Parks and Rec has advised that masks are required. Carmen advised that masks are required, largely driven by the Board of Education.

Charles Weisman stated that he was unsure about the mask mandate at Bedford. Carmen will confirm his understanding.

V. Parks and Recreation Update (Carmen Roda):

- a) Tennis: Carmen will be recommending extending the hours for attendants at the courts. An additional calcium chloride treatment will also be recommended (total of three times). Nets will be kept up until Thanksgiving.
- b) Platform Tennis: Carmen will be reaching out to platform tennis participants to see what kind of improvements are desired.
- c) Pickleball: Carmen will be reaching out to pickleball and platform tennis to see what kind of improvements are desired. There was a technical glitch at Chelsea that precluded reservations.

VI. Discussion of RAC Priorities

- a) Tennis: New LED lighting is the overwhelming priority.
- b) Platform tennis: The clear priority is the construction of the two additional courts and the hut that were previously approved.
- c) Pickleball: Patti Brill discussed that there is a need for a dedicated facility for pickleball. Six courts would be ideal. David Acselrod advised that he requested that the Longshore dirt parking lot be considered for the site of a pickleball facility.

VII. Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.