

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

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

## **I. Call to order**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm via Zoom videoconference for the scheduled 32nd meeting of the Racquets Advisory Committee (“RAC”).

## **II. Roll call**

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

Representing Westport Parks and Recreation (“WP&R”): Carmen Roda, Manager

## **III. Approval of Minutes from April 3, 2023:** minutes were approved

## **IV. Public Comment:** Deferred to discussion of specific activities (below).

## **V. Parks and Recreation Update: (Carmen Roda)**

- a) Longshore capital plan: Carmen advises no news.
- b) Carmen advises that this has been a stellar year for tennis, with more usage than ever. The Chelsea reservation system has been working very well.
- c) The Committee and Carmen discussed the windscreen issue on Courts 6-9 (not high enough); and the drainage issue that occasionally prevents the courts from being playable due to specific, recurring wet spots, even though most of the courts are dry.
- d) There was discussion about the use of the courts but unapproved tennis pros. The staff has had to eject 50+ people giving unapproved lessons on the courts this year. There was much discussion about the appropriate policy for what constitutes a lesson and whether there should be an exemption for family members (i.e., someone teaching their child or other family member how to play).
- e) Patti Brill advises that the Compo pickleball courts are in bad shape. There is a similar problem on the pickleball courts with unapproved pros monopolizing a court for financial gain; the Committee and Carmen discussed the fact that we need people to monitor who is using the courts (i.e., attendants) in order to address this problem.

## **VI. Tennis Discussion**

- a) Carmen advised that on October 16, courts 1-5 will be closed for the annual conversion to a skating rink.
- b) The Committee reported that the Longshore 60+ and 50+ men's doubles teams won their respective leagues.

## **VII. Paddle Discussion**

- a) New heaters have been installed.
- b) There are paddle clinics being run by Xavier (last name?), formerly of Rolling Hills Country Club. A number of the Committee members are familiar with Xavier and are hopeful that he will greatly enhance the towns instructional capabilities.

## **VIII. Pickleball Discussion**

- a) Bedford: the courts aren't quite regulation size. There was discussion about whether one court should be eliminated in order to make those remaining full sized.
- b) Marion Kelly, public attendee, comments that she believes people in the pickleball community are willing to pay more for handpasses in exchange for better facilities. There was substantial consensus in favor of bringing pickleball fees to a level that would sustain self-funding, as is the case with tennis and paddle.

## **IX. Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 PM**