



**Recreation Committee Minutes
Tuesday, August 2, 2023
6 P.M.
Via Teleconference – Zoom**

Members Present: Ifeolu Claytor, Council Member Chairperson
Earl Williams, City Council Member
Alexandria Nichols, Recreation Department Director
Sean Malone, City Council Member
Jeri Chaikin, CAO

Others Present: Jan Devereaux, League of Women Voters Representative

CALL TO ORDER

Ifeolu Claytor, Council Member Chairperson
The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Council Chairperson, Ifeolu Claytor

Review and Approval July 11, 2023 Minutes

The minutes from July 2023 were unable to be approved as there was no quorum.

Recreation Department Pickleball Discussion

[Pickleball Discussion](#)

The recreation committee continues to have discussions on pickleball and how to best serve the requests and needs of the players while still maintaining the requests and needs of the tennis players and other residents involved. The complaints from the residents living near the Sussex Courts have continued to increase due to the noise level that pickleball creates and the hours that the players are continuing to ignore despite signs being clearly placed at the courts. The recreation department and the city continue to have conversations on what other options there are for increasing space for pickleball courts.

Questions:

What is the protocol for other activities that have similar noise issues with players or situations on the court?

Answer: Basketball courts are perhaps the most similar option in comparison to potential noise complaints on the court. The basketball courts are located at Thornton Park so the recreation department supervisors are able to manage the courts. The pickleball courts are not staffed so it makes it impossible for the recreation department or city to manage the noise or any situation that

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arises on the courts.

How can the noise and parking complaints be addressed?

Answer: Unfortunately there is no great option for anyone involved. The only real option is enforcement by the city on the courts, but that requires manpower that the city does not currently have. Most of the requests about the hours of playing on the court have been ignored by the players themselves. They have typically shown up before the courts open and stayed after they closed at sunset

What hours are the courts open?

Answer: The courts are open daily from 9 am to dusk.

Is there a better long term solution to the noise problem and complaints that pickleball is causing?

Answer: The long term solution would be to find a better location for the courts and start locking and unlocking the courts based on the permitted hours of operation that are currently in place for the courts.

Do any neighboring communities currently have outdoor pickleball facilities?

Answer: Yes, Beachwood just invested a million dollars in pickleball courts. They are located near the community building and away from houses. Mentor also has great pickleball courts that are heavily used by residents and non-residents.

Is Woodbury still being utilized for indoor play?

Answer: Yes, the recreation department continues to try and use Woodbury as a viable indoor option but it comes with day and time restrictions. Pickleball may only be able to use the gym on weekday evenings and some weekend days that are available when the gym is not being used by other sports teams.

Is there an option to convert any of the tennis courts at the high school into pickleball courts?

Answer: The short answer is no, the schools own those courts and while they are starting to do some pickleball activities in the schools they would have to be the ones to convert the high school courts.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Ifeolu Claytor, Council Member
Chairperson, Recreation Committee