

Town of Provincetown
Recreation Commission Meeting
REMOTE PARTICIPATION MEETING
Minutes of Wednesday, October 13th, 2021

Members Present, Robert Enos, Cathy Nagorski, Lucy McKernan.; and Kristin Hatch

Members Absent: David Oliver, Brandon Quesnell and Michael Miller

Also in attendance: Brandon Motta, Recreation Director; Caroline Thompson; Assistant Recreation Director

Call to order: Cathy calls meeting to order at 5:32 pm

Public comment: Members of the public will be allowed to speak in the order they have called in. All public comments will be limited to 3 minutes, and this is the only section that the public will be allowed to comment on.

Daniel B. -"Lives on the Intersection of Nickerson and Tremont Street. I'm well aware that Pickleball has become a new sensation in the country and I'm fully supportive of the town, providing residents with locations to play the sport. But placing pickleball courts in a small residential neighborhood is a really bad idea. I could say that as someone who lives here. There's just no sugarcoating this. The noise from the 2 pickleball courts. On Nickerson Street is extremely intrusive, it lasts all day long from morning until night. As you know the sport is played with a hard plastic ball and a hard solid paddle the popping noise is relentless. In addition to the noise from the sport itself is the noise coming from those playing the sport. This also lasts all day long. Nickerson street itself is narrow and one way because of the pickle ball court or often lines of people waiting to play their cars are often parked outside of marked spaces and their bikes are often chained to the fenced area obstructing the street and making it difficult to pass. This situation has not improved whatsoever since the so-called season has ended. While I absolutely want Provincetown residents to be able to play a sport that is so obviously enjoyed, the placement of a pickleball court in a residential neighborhood is completely inappropriate and disturbing to the people who live close to it.

Donna Cooper- Supports the pickle ball courts. A playground and basketball court have been there and hopes the courts can remain.

Lourdes Rodriguez- Support the pickle ball courts at Nickerson St. Play at Motta Field when they are full. The problem with the Motta Field courts is they are not in great condition. Maybe more courts would help alleviate the noise. Cover the side of Nickerson courts with a material that can help with sound. In agreement with Donna that there have always been courts there.

Mary Glach.- Live at the Willows behind the courts. Netting would help as well as more courts throughout town. In support and maybe have some recognized rules.

Joel Shaw- Live on Mechanic St. In support of leaving the pickle ball courts. Happens more between 8 10-12 4-6pm. Getting the sound barriers will be helpful and developing the courts at Motta Field.

Sherry- Played at Nickerson before it was fixed up. Very grateful for the courts but more is better, would like to add some more at Motta Field and a sound barrier.

Kim Cromwell- Live off of Nickerson, pickleball player. Town has done a nice job getting people to play a sport. Understands both sides. Accelerate the courts of Motta Field, the quiet balls do not work as well, it is a different game. 9am start time possibly.

Roberto Caldera- Live on the corner of West Vine and Bradford. Played for a few years before courts were fixed. Sympathizes with the neighbors and echoes Kim's comment about the development of pickleball courts near the high school.

Kevin O'Connor- New player, love the sport and feel for the neighbors. Dual strategizing for neighbors and players. Never been more innamered with a community when he goes to Nickerson St. Met people he would have never met before going there.

Brandon Motta reads a series of letters that will be attached to these minutes

Board Member statements: Board members will be taken by alphabetical order by last name followed by the chair being last:

Robert Enos II- Thank you to the public for their comments on the pickleball courts. Lets everybody know that we did put a lot of thought and effort into these courts and you certainly have a lot to think about and as we move forward and we discuss this as a board will certainly take your opinions into consideration and and you know try to do what's best for the community as a whole so just thank you everyone

Kristin Hatch- It is October and excited to see what the Recreation Department will be offering for Halloween.

Lucy McKernan- Brought up in Provincetown and has two children in the school system, excited to be on the commission.

Michael Miller- Not Present

David Oliver- Not Present

Brandon Quesnell- Not Present

Cathy Nagorski- Welcomes Lucy to the board and she is excited to have her on board. Reminds the board that it is important that alternates attend the meetings as well. Reiterates Robers statement about the pickleball courts.

3) New Business - Votes May Be Taken

A) Motta Field Tennis Courts- Votes may be taken

Brandon Motta shares an image of the current Tennis Courts at Motta Field. Looking to the board for a discussion on fixing the courts. Brandon shares the cost and what routes/options are available for the board to take in regards to fixing the courts for public safety as the number one reason.

Brandon mentions the tennis courts because the CPA Grants will be accepting applications and wants to know what the commission's thoughts are about fixing the courts and possibly using CPA funds to do so if awarded.

Robert Enos asks about each route and what it would cost. Robert also asks about if they were to fix the courts that would affect the Motta Field project later on. Would not like the tennis courts to hinder the park design in the future if they need to be moved.

Kristin asks if Tennis Courts and pickleball courts can be used interchangeably. After hearing yes, she asks about if Brandon Motta would want to use the potentially "awarded" CPA funds on this project. She believes regardless of the future design of Motta Field using the CPA money to fix the courts would be well worth it because it would help alleviate some of the Pickleball noise.

Brandon Motta mentions the West End Playground as another project but knows currently that is out of the question, so yes the Tennis Courts would be his priority at the moment.

Lucy had the same question as Kristin about the use of the Tennis Courts being used interchangeably with pickleball. Lucy also asks about a warranty for the company that would refinish the tennis courts.

Kristin shares again her thoughts about putting the money into the tennis courts regardless if they will be dug up again in three years. She thinks it is money well worth it.

Cathy shares her thoughts about the status of the tennis courts and definitely thinks safety is priority. Although she is partially concerned about the future design of the field and how it may affect the money spent on the tennis courts now, she believes that we may be able to possibly work with the design firm and have them leave them and use the plenty of open space to design. However, if they replace them now it will be instant use and money well worth it.

Brandon Motta shares his thoughts and reservations he has as well about putting money into the courts with the potential for them to get torn up during the design process, but also understands we would be fixing and creating a vital resource.

B) Potential CPA FY 23 Request- Votes may be taken

In reference to the previous agenda item, the commission discusses applying for a CPA grant to help fund the renovation of the Motta Field Tennis Courts.

Kristin motions the recreation commission moves with a CPA application for \$95,000 for the restoration/slash renovation of the tennis courts that are located on model field.

Robert seconds

4-0-0

4) Sub Committee Reports: Votes May be Taken

A) 387 Commercial Street Working Group Update

Brandon and Cathy share the new plan that Weston and Sampson have proposed. The design they have recently updated is a culmination of all the public feedback from the previous meetings and select board as well as the request for a restroom facility.

Robert thinks the rendering looks good, asks about the unit and the weather.

Kristin is not happy about the bathrooms. Does not think it is fair of the town to put the needs of bathrooms in the East End. She is hoping that if this is what the town wants they will help fund the bathrooms for the cost of \$210,000,00.

Lucy, although has just joined the commission, shares her input about being able to see both sides of the public's input in regards to the overall design and the restrooms. Appreciates everyone's feedback and opinions and is split on the bathroom idea and how not having restrooms in that area of town is certainly a problem. Skeptical of the proposed bathroom at first she can now understand from a public health point of view that it is an understandable facility. She is in favor but understands the trepidation.

Brandon and the commission discuss the next Working Group meeting with Weston and Sampson and the design will be presented at the third community meeting Wednesday, October 20th at 6pm.

5) Old Business:

A) West End Athletic Court Discussion-Votes may be taken

The board continues to discuss the noise at the West End Courts. Members discuss the possibility of adding noise mitigation barriers. The board discusses maybe limiting hours instead of purchasing the barriers at 8k. The board decides to move forward with the change of hours with the winter months coming up and daylight savings time.

Kristin motions to restrict the hours for pickleball playing on the West End playground from 9-5pm with the ability to review and make changes as needed.

Robert seconds

4-0-0

B) Budget discussion-Votes may be taken

Brandon shows the board the flow charts he and Caroline had created to show the board exactly what their day to day responsibilities are. Brandon and Caroline share a lot of the same responsibilities in the office as they are the only two full time staff of the Recreation Department. Due to a lot of shared responsibility and then individual responsibilities as well, Brandon is looking to budget for a part time staff member to come in and help with Adult Programming, since he believes is the area where more time needs to be put into.

The commission supports Brandon in the endeavor to budget for an additional staff.

Brandon Motta and the commission then take a look at the overall budget increase and the line items. A majority of the line items remain level-funded with a few increases being made in personnel, transportation and additional equipment.

The commission thanks Brandon Motta for sharing the budget .

C) Wedding event at 387 Com St Votes may be taken

No update on this event at this time. The commission decides to keep it on the agenda moving forward and will report on it when more details come forth.

6) Directors Report:

A) Update on naming Process of 387 Commercial Street- Votes May be Taken

Brandon shares the current status of the survey results with the Provincetown Recreation Commission. 247 responses total, Hall Park is leading with 110 votes, East End Waterfront Park is second and Cannery Wharf is third with 57 points. A few write-ins have also been made, but not as much as expected.

Brandon reminds the commission that the public will also have the opportunity to vote in-person at the third community meeting and they will go through all the votes and names at the next recreation commission meeting before opening survey two.

B) Friend of Recreation-votes may be taken

As projects come up and funds are going to be needed, Brandon stresses the importance of creating a "Friends of Recreation" group that could help fundraise. Currently we are able to accept donations however; it is not something the public can write-off on their taxes. Brandon says if he knows of anyone who would be willing to start up this group to get intouch with him.

Kristin Hatch mentioned former board member Heather Rogers, stating that she has expressed interest before. Brandon Motta asks Kristin if he can get intouch with her and then we will go from there.

7) Assistant Director Report:

A) Halloween Events-

Caroline shares the two Halloween events that the Recreation Department will be doing this Halloween. The first is the 7th Annual Greet N' Treat for children and their families. This event will be October 29th from 4:30-6:30 pm outdoors at Motta Field. To help mitigate larger gatherings, there will be two time slots that families will need to sign up in advance for. As of right now they have a handful of businesses but would like more to make it as fun as possible.

The second program/event is the Spook-tac-u-tour which was created last year during COVID. It is an interactive QR code tour/scavenger hunt throughout town sharing some of the local history and ghost stories. It is free and accessible to all. This year's tour will include some more "spooky" content as well for adults who asked to make it more spookier.

8) **Other:** Other matters that may legally come before the board not known at the time of posting - Votes May be Taken

Approval of September 29th, 2021 Minutes

Kristin motions as written

Robert seconds

4-0-0

9. Tentative Meeting Schedule

November 3rd

Meeting adjourned

Kristin motions

Mike Seconds

7:49pm

Brandon Motta

From: Grace Ryder-O'Malley <gryderomalley@paam.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Brandon Motta
Subject: East End Park Need for Restrooms

Hi Brandon,
I hope this email finds you well.

I've personally completed a survey on the east end park but also wanted to comment on behalf of PAAM. It was relayed to us that at the last meeting the question of the need of restrooms came up. Restrooms are such a necessity! As it is, there are not enough bathrooms in town and to offer a park without facilities makes no sense. It means people are going to find other ways to relieve themselves out in the open and no one wants that. Plus, if there is anything we've learned since March of 2020 it's the necessity to be able to wash our hands and decrease germs in order to keep our community healthy and safe.

While we are mandated by the town as public restrooms and of course do offer these facilities to the public when we're open, our days and hours really aren't conducive to the needs of our community and visitors. PAAM is open 4-6 days per week depending on the time of year and 5-6 hours per day, from either 11 or Noon until 5pm. This leaves out multiple days, mornings and nights where there won't be a bathroom two blocks away for people to use. PAAM's 2 stalls of restrooms during limited hours are not the answer.

Please feel free to pass this along and to encourage anyone working on this project to recognize the necessity of providing facilities on site to have a fully functioning public space.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Grace

Grace Ryder-O'Malley (she/her/hers)
Chief Operating Officer
Provincetown Art Association and Museum
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508.487.1750 ext 20
gryderomalley@paam.org
www.paam.org

Brandon Motta

From: Daniel Brennan <dbrennan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 5:27 PM
To: Brandon Motta; Alex Morse
Subject: Re: Nickerson Pickle Ball Courts

Hi Brandon. I'm sorry I couldn't join the 9/29 meeting at 5:30, but I had work obligations that carried me into the evening. I keep looking for minutes or outcomes, but I didn't see them.

Certainly you are free to share my email with others on the commission.

I will do my best to join a future meeting. Meanwhile, I'm writing you at 5:09 pm on 10/6. I'm sitting outside trying to enjoy a work reprieve in my tiny backyard. The pop-pop-pop noise has been incessant since early this morning. It's continuing through this moment, only briefly interrupted by players yelling and screaming as they play.

I was in the mid-September minutes several comments that I wanted to address (and I'll paraphrase):

- "It's about to be October, so things will settle/quiet down." Not true. Not remotely true. The noise and constant traffic remains non-stop since October 1 with no sign of abatement. Moreover, I don't think this level and type of residential noise is appropriate even during "the season." This is a loud sport played with hard paddles and hard whiffle balls. It is designed to be noisy and loud. There's no way this sport should be played or situated in a residential neighborhood.
- "People can use soft balls and soft paddles" as a mitigation effort. This is nonsense, honestly. One of the neighbors put up a sign to suggest this. Guess how many have done it? Zero. Zilch. Nada. They are playing with the loudest possible equipment. There's no reason whatsoever to expect anybody will change this behavior.
- "People who bought near the playground and sport court knew they were buying near a playground and sport court." In our case, not true. We knew there was a sport court, but it was most definitely not identified as a pickle ball court. The occasional basketball game or tennis game might have been expected. This constant thwacking was NOT. It's obnoxious and interferes with our ability to enjoy our property from early morning til late night. There is no reprieve from it.
- "Maybe we can put up signs" or "Maybe we can change the hours to reduce impact." Neither of these things will work, have worked, or are acceptable. The reality is that you've allowed a LOUD, plastic, constant-thwacking sport in a valuable residential neighborhood. Rachel Maddow has to listen to this noise (and is apparently moving). There's no escape. It's all day. From early til late. I don't want to hear this from 9-5 or 8-4 or any time.

My point is simply that there's no mitigating this particular noise. It's the nature of the sport. I'm not trying to impugn the sport of pickle ball or people's interest in playing it. Seems like an obsession. And I'm all for it. But this particular sport is about as INTRUSIVE and NOISE POLLUTING a sport as you can find, and it simply should not be anywhere near a residential area.

We've been saddened by our ability to enjoy our outdoors. To open our windows without noise assault. The traffic is another issue. The loud and inconsiderate voices and yelling are others.

Please, please, please relocate the pickle ball courts to another more appropriate area. I want people to be able to play a sport they enjoy. Just not right here in the middle of a lovely residential area.

Brandon Motta

From: Jean Fogg Brock <jeanfoggbrock@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:14 AM
To: Brandon Motta
Subject: Fwd: West End Basket-Ball Court

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jean Fogg Brock <jeanfoggbrock@gmail.com>
Date: October 13, 2021 at 11:13:28 AM EDT
To: "T. Kim Cromwell" <tkcromwell@mac.com>
Subject: West End Basket-Ball Court

My name is Jean Brock and our property is next to the West End Basket Ball Court. We have lived here for over 26 years now and have never been terribly bothered by any activity that took place in this court area. Whether it be the big full-court holiday Basket-Ball games or huge numbers of kids for school visits playing relay races, or the regular exercise group with loud music, or any of the comings and goings of groups of people over the years...All of the activities and noises emanating throughout the neighborhood have only been a joyful sound of people enjoying themselves.

It was a happy sound.

But then the games would be over, or the exercise session would end, and the people would be on their way.

The dull pounding and non-pervasive background noise was always short-lived.

The Pickle Ball World is different.

Very very different.

Basket-Ball playing has gone by the wayside, there are no more exercise groups, there's no more student field trips spending time there.

Now that two finely constructed pickle-ball courts have been provided, the word is out...people from far and wide, Truro, Wellfleet and beyond seek out this particular site. There is a consistent stream of people from morning till night. With a hard paddle forcefully hitting against a hard plastic ball, there is a constant —thwack-thwack-thwack sound —all day—every day, accompanied by boisterous howling and pronouncement of scores. It's the nature of the game to cheer on a persons successful hit.

And it goes on and on —endlessly.

Tennis has a racket with a mesh surface that hits against a felt covered ball, badminton is soft sounding as well.

Changes to the pickle-ball paddles people are using, (wood vs fiberglass) have made only a slight improvement to the decibels piercing the brain...but there are no 'soft' balls on the market that

seem to work.

It is simply the mechanics of pickle-ball, the sound it makes, a much amplified version of ping-pong, that just does not make it conducive for coexisting next to homes. It should either be enclosed or off from a residential area.

The court is in a neighborhood. I have heard it has been very hard on all the neighbors that live here.

We have had to deal psychologically with the impact of the constant sharp crack sound and the exclamations that follow in a myriad of ways. We have had to change our lifestyle.

The aggressive intensity of the games throughout the summer months was one thing and now the off-season has brought no reprieve. Off-season, use to be, such a cherished quiet time for those that live here year round. Now we have to continue still to wear ear plugs, we have to close our windows, no longer able to listen to the birds in our trees, no longer able to have conversations over tea outside in our gardens. We have to turn on music in hopes of drowning out the unnatural intrusive and penetrating racket.

We are artists and writers and readers and nappers and gardeners working at home and trying to live a good life, needing respite from these crazy times we live in, only to find no escape from our Pickle-Ball burden.

Though I haven't the back for it, I've played, it's fun. I even have a set for my guests. This popular and growing sport is not a phase, it is addictive and I know it is here to stay.

I have fought for this people space over the years since buying this property, hoping it would remain a place for people to gather and play. At one point, making sure it did not get turned into another parking lot.

And to think our tax dollars and the Community Preservation Act will insure that it stays a people space,

I never thought I'd be wishing I lived next to a parking lot.

The signage for the court has too small lettering that asks people to refrain from yelling and suggests people use softer equipment.

I supplied foam balls to a few groups but they were quickly rejected.

Perhaps accelerate the creation of pickle-ball courts at Motta that are equally as nice and have nets available all the time.

Perhaps, with this eventuality, to offering the games only on the weekends here in the west end and only during the week at Motta.

The hours could be changed.

8:00 is way too early and

8:00 is too late.

Starting later at the very least!

Help!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter and being open to listening to our concerns.

Sent from my iPhone