

The Board of Recreation Commission of The Borough of Chester

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting

5-22-18 7:00 pm Field House

Roll Call/Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and the Sunshine Law Statement was read.

Mike Ferrone, Kelly Kovacevic, Stacy Strum, Betsy Fila, Jim Buckley and Sandee Moroso-Fela in attendance. Dan Hartman joined us as a guest.

Minutes:

Stacy Strum motioned we approve the April 24th minutes and Kelly Kovacevic seconded. Minutes approved.

Guests/Public Input:

Dan Hartman, Chester Township resident, spoke about including Pickleball in our recreation plans. He proposed this idea to the Township too.

Pickleball is played on existing tennis courts or on a separate court. Dan will provide a proposal to the Commission for use of the courts on an "as needed" basis. Initially, the Commission would solicit interest in Pickleball through publicity and information on the websites. Depending on interest, instruction clinics would be then scheduled. We discussed the investment required, the necessary signage on the courts posting rules for usage of courts, and the gathering of feedback from Borough residents.

Discussion will continue and information on Pickleball is on file.

Correspondence/Applications:

Due to interest, the Extreme Volleyball Program requested adding 2 days to its use of the VB court. Now the clinics will be held M-Th 6:30-8:30 pm,

beginning June 4 - July 31. This was approved online. The group will pay \$100 for use of court for 2018 fall season.

Separately, Kelly Kovacevic recommended that the Commission review old guidelines and establish recommended fees to present to Council for use of park facilities that cover all uses equally to help in providing maintenance for the facilities.

Old Business:

1. Youth Tennis Classes (Tues) April 24 - June 19 @ 4 - 7 pm. Tennis Instructors practices (Wed) April 25 - June 13 @ 8:30-11am.
2. National Day of Prayer - May 3.
3. Food Truck Festival - May 5.
4. Spring Stampede 5k - May 12.
5. Mother's/Father's Day Ceramics at Field house - May 12. 30 children,17 families. ShopRite provided snack.
6. ShopRite taste of Summer class May 17 canceled due to low registration.
7. Art Class Summer Schedule is completed, including a Children's Class.
8. Art Program will be presenting a June Art Exhibit at the library.
9. Letter of Agreement has been established for persons who provide services/instruction (example, art teachers) and establishes fees. At request of the Commission, LOA will now be sent for review by the Borough attorney.

New Business

1. Memorial Day Event, May 28.
2. Dickerson Kindergarten Picnic - May 29 - 31.
3. HCBA Spring Craft Show - May 31- June 3.
4. Cub Scout Picnic- June 9.
5. Interscholastic Cycling Event - June 9 - 10.
6. 18th Annual Classic Car Show - June 10.
7. Chester Summer Basketball Program. Coach practices June 10 & 16. Program runs June 18 - July 25 (Mon - Thurs) 5:30-7:30 pm. This program will also be revisited for fees to be charged next year for use of court.
8. Little League Picnic - June 16 and 23.
9. Chester Farmers Market starting June 17. Every Sunday from 8 am-4 pm until 9/30.

10. Kids Can Cook Camp - June 25-29 @ Field house- 9 am-12:30 pm.
11. Summer Teen Improv will not be offered this summer. Representative canceled twice.
12. Summer Concert Series:
 - A. August 12 - Third Rail @ Gazebo.
 - B. Sept. 16 - TBD.
- *Santee will confirm whether or not bands are required to provide their own COI or if they are covered under Borough's COI.
13. Movie in the Park will be held July 21.
14. Assessment of Recreation programs and suggestions for new ideas from Borough residents. Commission will brainstorm in upcoming meeting(s) and to design tool for residents' feedback.
15. Welcome Wagon/Newcomers program. Commission will research what is currently available to welcome, inform and connect new families in our town. Commission will brainstorm ideas to include businesses and on hosting Welcome evenings/days.

Park Updates:

A. 2018

1. 25 tons of sand for VB court.
2. Silicone fill for cracks in tennis/basketball courts.
3. Gazebo - bluestone thread needs gluing.
4. 100 yards of mulch needed for playground when ground dries. Certified pesticide free, playground use.
5. New toys for sandbox.
6. Posting board clean up and notice included for Rec use only. Keep Park Clean signage, especially area around basketball court.
7. Dog waste and bag stations; 3 @ Grove St. Park and 1 @ Gazebo.
8. Fertilizer for grounds, costs of organic vs. non-organic will be reviewed.
9. Up-lighting and/or downlighting trees surrounding Gazebo.

B. 2019

1. Gazebo - brick lining on walkway needs repair.
2. New gate for tennis courts.
3. New garbage cans for parks.

C. Rockefeller House

1. Paint chip testing results.
2. Painters requested.

3. Funding from Recreation Commission and/or Historic Society? Commission is committed to completing repairs.

Next Meeting: June 26, 2018, 7pm at the Field House

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:45 pm.

Betsy Fila
Recreation Commission Secretary



Pickleball

Coming soon to a park near you

Chester Township

Parks and Recreation Meeting

October 10, 2017

Dan Hartman

Why I play Pickleball

- PB has numerous health benefits.
- Unlike tennis, where 2 or 4 players usually compete in a single match, PB has a club-like atmosphere where groups of players socialize and compete in larger numbers.
- PB does not have a steep learning curve. If you've played any racquet or paddle sport, you can learn it in a day.
- PB can be enjoyed by people of all ages.
 - Since PB attracts retired players, they will fill empty courts during week days.
- PB scoring is more intuitive than tennis.
- PB courts are much smaller than tennis, so players don't chase balls as much.
- PB has is fun, and it has a strong social aspect to it.
- PB can be very addictive.
- PB can be casual or competitive, whatever you like.
- PB is inexpensive to play.
- PB isn't about speed and power — it's about strategy and placement — so players of all ages and capabilities can play together.

Why Chester needs PB courts

- PB is the fastest growing sport in America.
- PB can be enjoyed by people of all ages.
 - Since PB attracts retired players, they will fill empty courts during week days.
- PB is a social sport, giving residents a new opportunity to make friends.
 - "Drop-in" format, where players stop by and join existing groups
- PB is a great couples and family sport.
- PB can be easily introduced into school physical education classes.
- Free clinics and tournaments will increase popularity and use of park resources.
- Create a "Chester Pickleball Club" to promote the sport
 - Info on Township website, and/or create Facebook page
- For the township, the financial investment, though not negligible, is relatively small.
 - Re-stripe existing tennis courts, or
 - Build dedicated PB courts (4 can fit in a tennis court's footprint)
- PB can be year-round, using a school gymnasium during the winter months.

Pickleball Overview — Chester Township

Pickleball is often compared to tennis, badminton, ping pong and paddleball. It's played with a solid paddle and a whiffle ball. The sport has been around for decades, but has gained popularity in recent years. Courts are most common in warmer climates, where PB can be played year-round. It's also played at resorts and vacation communities, like the Jersey Shore.

Snowbirds and other travelers have brought PB back to their hometowns, and more courts are being built to keep up with the demand. The USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) estimates that in 2016, an average of 31 new courts were built every day.

There's no way to know how many PB courts are in nearby towns. Some local PB courts that I'm aware of include:

- Nolan's Ridge community tennis court — Howard Blvd., Mt. Arlington
- Ridgeview community tennis court — Howard Blvd., Mt. Arlington
- Bertrand Island community tennis court — Bertrand Island Rd., Lake Hopatcong
- Morris school district
- Morristown YMCA
- Somerset — Castleton Park
- Somerset — Inman Park
- Somerset — Sampson Smith school
- Somerset Valley YMCA
- Randolph YMCA
- Numerous Jersey Shore communities

PB can be played as singles (2 people), but doubles is more common. PB clubs (formal or casual) often play at scheduled times, where members take turns playing and socializing. Some facilities offer lessons to promote the sport.

2016 demographics (source: USAPA)

58% Male

42% Female

39 and Under = 6.4%

40-59 = 27.5%

60+ = 66.1 %

PB in the local news:

Randolph Parks and Recreation:

- <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/randolph/articles/parks-and-recreation-discuss-pickleball-possibili>

New Jersey Monthly magazine article:

- <https://njmonthly.com/articles/jersey-living/sports/sweet-on-pickleball/>

NorthJersey.com article:

- <http://www.northjersey.com/story/news/passaic/north-haledon/2017/06/29/pickleball-finds-fans-north-jersey/423927001/>

Livingston:

- <https://www.mypaperonline.com/pickleball-spreads-throughout-livingston-with-more-courts-on-the-way.html>

Parsippany:

- https://patch.com/new-jersey/parsippany/pickleball-comes-to-jcc-metrowest-funny-namegreat-game_2cd43ddb

Randolph:

- <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/randolph/articles/pickleball-at-the-randolph-ymca>
- <http://www.dailyrecord.com/story/news/local/morris-county/2015/05/04/pickleball-played-randolph-ymca/26865297/>

Hillsborough:

- http://www.nj.com/messenger-gazette/index.ssf/2014/09/pickelball_comes_to_the_hillsborough_ymca.html

Asbury Park:

- <http://www.app.com/story/life/wellness/2017/03/14/youre-never-too-old-pickleball/99000676/>

Cherry Hill:

- <http://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/local/south-jersey/2016/08/25/passion-pickleball-sj/89201114/>

Fredon:

- <http://www.njherald.com/article/20160506/ARTICLE/305069989#/>

Sparta:

- <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/sparta/articles/lake-mohawk-tennis-club-wants-you-to-try-pickleba>

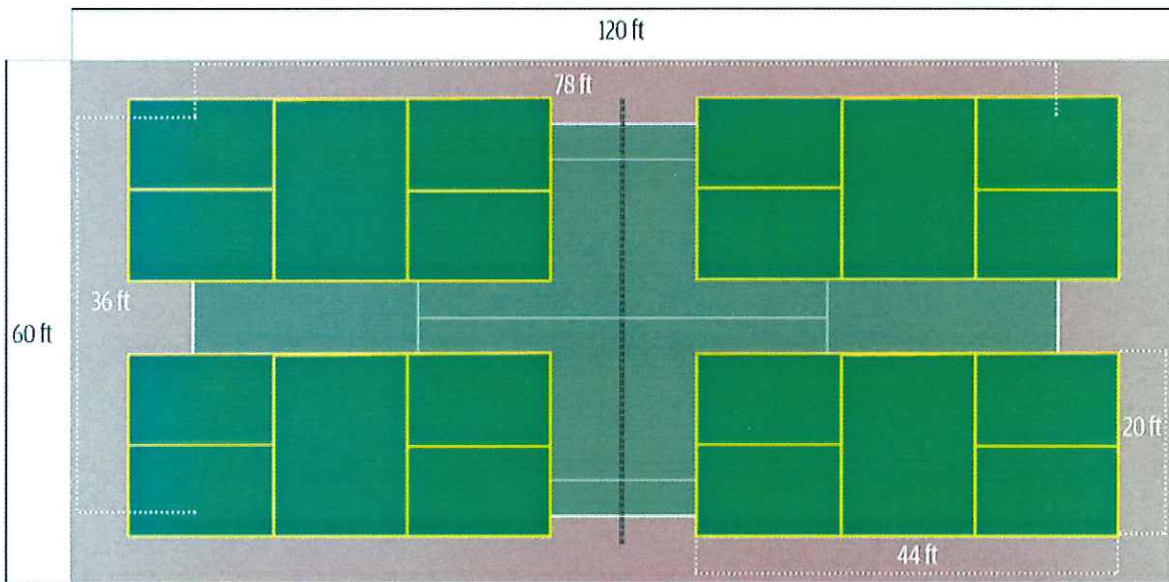
Monmouth:

- <http://tworivertimes.com/pickleball-its-kinda-like-tennis/>

Existing tennis court with blue PB lines added:



Four PB courts can fit within the footprint of one tennis court:



PB fencing is lower than tennis, since a PB ball doesn't travel as far as a tennis ball.

Example of perimeter only (no fence between courts) with lights



Example of fencing between each court

