

Portsmouth Recreation Boar, Community Campus, 6/25/24

Attendance:

Rich Duddy, Chair

Rich Blalock

Jackie Cali Pitts

Kathie Lynch (late arrival)

Kory Sirmaian

Amy Mae Court

Todd Henley (Rec Director)

Lauren Krans

Brinn Sullivan (Asst. Rec Director)

Call to Order

Roll Call to determine Quota

Introduce Amy-Mae Court

Amy-Mae Court gave an introduction of herself, explaining that she was involve with the development of the Portsmouth Skateboard Park.

Public Comment

Maria Sillari

171 Jones Avenue

Suggested that 4 courts at each location be reserved for rotational play, leaving the remaining courts first come first served. She now recommends all courts be leave all courts be changed to first come first served.

Claire Emerson, 332 Jones Avenue

Speaking in regards to pickleball courts. She is fully in favor of the existing rotational play. Rotational play for the designated amount of time limits many other users. Referenced that Mill Pond Courts are walkable/bikeable for many unlike Community Campus Courts. Requesting more access for groups wo do not want rotational play.

Arol Eaton, 155 Pinehurst Road

The rules were changed. Has had negative experience with rotational play participants. Has joined the New England Pickleball club to avoid this. Sees challenges with the current parking situations. Has experienced many days where the parking lot is consumed by rotational players. Questioned the 7 days a week from 7am-11pm as rotational play. Feels that these rules are unfair to residents.

Nancy Lehoux, 53 Wibird Street

When she plays she sets a timer for an hour. Has experienced other groups playing for longer. The rotational players tend to be very competitive and this can be unwelcoming for other players. Referenced the walkability/bike ability to Mill Pond Courts. Has heard that rotational play is taking place at Community Center Courts.

Brenda 73 Taft Road

Would like to know how and when these type of decisions are made and how can the public give their input. Has experienced other towns where there is better organized play, typically involves volunteer management.

Jackie Cali Pitts made a motion to move 5 A forward on the Agenda.

Rick Blalock second.

All members in favor.

Director Henley gave a summary of what rotational play is. Director Henley explained that the changes in rules were made in the winter after that last pickleball season.

Director Henley suggested an annual review of Pickleball rules.

Motion to change rules to 7am-9am open court first, with an hour limitation 9-12pm rotational play, Monday-Friday, Saturdays and Sunday will remain open court first come first served with an hour limitation.

All but Kory in favor. Motion passes 5-1

Rich Blalock made a motion to revisit the rules every April and to solicit community feedback each season when reviewing feedback about pickleball court use. Amy-Mae Court second.

Unanimous support, motion passes 6-0.

Letters/Communications

Reading of Bob Bogardus' letter of resignation. Rich motion to accept, Corey second.

Old Unfinished Business

5b. ½ Court Basketball Court at Plans Ballfield Review

Rich Duddy explained that this project was the result of one letter. Director Henley explained this is currently sitting in the FY26 CIP Plan for \$85,000.

Lauren Krans explained her concerns about this project.

Jackie Cali Pitts motion to send a letter to the City Council on behalf of the Recreation Board stating that At this time the Recreation Board has given consideration to the half basketball court at Plains Park and does not support its inclusion in the FY26 Capital Improvement Project Plan.

Second by Corey. Lauren Krans abstains from the vote.

Unanimous vote to support motion. 6-0, 1 abstain.

New Business

Director Henley gave a summary of the FY25 Budget for the Recreation Department. The total increase was 2.74%

Director Henley gave an update on the outdoor pool projects. After summer season renovations will resume. There was a kickoff meeting for the South Mill Pond playground project. Community Campus Turf Field is in the design phase. Community Campus projects will be completed by August of next year, remaining projects in building to start mid-summer.

Discussion pertaining to the continued addition of lighted facilities and impacts on utility costs.
Discussion pertaining to a tiered fee system for light use.

Director Henley explained that Serious Summer Basketball will be returning to the South Mill Pond basketball courts.

Board will not meet in summer. Next meeting will be in September.

Rich Duddy motion to adjourn. Rich Blalock second.