

RESIDENTS OF CORNELL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

Lewis & Justine Sampson
(925) 997-3232

Eric & Heather Item
(408) 489-3275

June 20, 2018

Dear Parks & Recreation & CSD:

We are concerned homeowners and residents of the Cornell Park Neighborhood, and we submit this letter regarding the proposed modification of the Cornell Park tennis court into a pickle court. We are not writing to tell you that we dislike pickle ball; rather we want to voice our concerns and encourage a dialogue whereby a resolution beneficial to all parties can be reached.

Our concerns, and frankly, our fears, of having a second pickle ball court in Cornell Park, are as follows:

1) Unregulated use of the existing pickle ball court creates elevated noise levels that disturb the quiet enjoyment and peaceful use of our surrounding properties. For instance, it is not uncommon for a game of pickle ball to commence as early as 7 a.m. any day of the week, and continue until 7 p.m.. The game can be loud, the noise generated from the hard paddles repeated impact on the hard plastic ball can be absolutely obnoxious when heard over and over again, for 12 hours a day. Tennis does not generate this type of noise or frustration, and we are concerned that the CSD and Parks & Recreation is not giving enough weight or attention to this legitimate concern.

2) Use & enjoyment of our properties is impaired by the lack of parking available for our guests. In addition, our privacy is being imposed, such as last weekend when the pickle ball players brought a drone to the court and flew it over our houses, potentially invading our privacy and our ability to enjoy our yards without interference from surveillance.

3) Lack of input from the CSD and the Parks & Recreation

a) Opinions & Concern. When the original court was approved, neither Parks & Recreation, nor the CSD ever came to the homeowners and asked us our input. When the second court was proposed, again, nothing was sent to the homeowner's asking us our views or input. Only the pickle players asked.

b) Barriers to control noise. Some homes back right up to the courts. The sounds permeate from the courts and disrupt the quiet enjoyment of residents, and nothing has ever put into place for noise control. This includes any indoor or outdoor enjoyment throughout any given day when there is pickle ball being played. Creating a fence with a sound barrier or padding that can keep the sound inside the courts would be helpful.

Residents of Cornell Park Neighborhood
June 20, 2018
Page 2

The definition of quiet enjoyment is, "A covenant, usually inserted in leases and conveyances on the part of the grantor, promising that the tenant or grantee shall enjoy the possession of the premises in peace and without disturbance." We feel as homeowners and tenants, we are not being able to enjoy our "quiet enjoyment" at this time, and would like a resolve to this issue, amicably.

c) **Established set hours.** There have been no reasonably established or set hours (including holiday times) for the pickle players to enjoy times. When the original pickle ball court was approved by the Parks & Recreation and the CSD, there was an established start time of 9 am, which is not followed. Entertaining and pickle ball do not always go hand in hand, there need to be peaceful times when families and guests can be entertained without the loud sounds of pickle ball.

d) **Parking on the street.** On occasion, there is no availability for the guests of, or residents on Willow Lake to park their own vehicles.

e) **Response to previous letters.** No reply from the CSD or Parks & Recreation to a letter that a concerned resident submitted with questions in an email on September 13, 2017 has been done. Attached is a copy of the letter.

Many of us have lived here upward of 20 years before the pickle ball was ever here. To take away the second court would simply be unfair. We moved to this area of Discovery Bay specifically for the amenities that were offered. There is no reason to build a second court, and to lose the amenity of the tennis court that we and our families have grown to love would be unfair

This is not about winning or losing for either side. This is about coming up with a solution. This is about making it work for everybody. We are a community. We all matter, well all are affected, and we need to be heard.

We the surrounding neighbors feel that the games can be played just fine, as is with the temporary nets when needed, and leave the tennis court as is. We want to come up with structured hours and days that work for everybody. We want sound control. We want to work together.

Sincerely,

Residents of Cornell Park neighborhood

Attachments

pickle ball

Justine Sampson

Wed 9/13/2017 11:40 AM

Sent Items

To: Bill Pease <bpease@sbcglobal.net>; Bob & Joanne Leete <rjleete@comcast.net>;

1 attachments (4 MB)

pickle ball.pdf;

Good day Bob and Bill

Attached is a letter regarding the additional pickle ball court. Our apologies for not getting this sooner. Lewis had a heart procedure and is going to have another. We had family visit in the middle of all of this as well. Then, to add to everything, we lost our beloved fur baby of 15 years. Been quite a few weeks.

Thank you and take care. Call me if you need anything. (925) 997-3232. Also, if you would like to sit in our backyard to hear how the impact of the pickle balls can be, please let us know. We would be happy to have you.

We aren't crabby people. We would just like to have enjoyment of our backyard also.

Thanks,

Justine

Bill Pease
Parks and Recreation

Robert Leete
CSD

Re: Additional Pickle Ball Court
Cornell Park Tennis Courts

Dear Mr. Pease & Mr. Leete:

We are writing to you today to express our concerns regarding the additional pickle ball court at the Cornell Park Tennis Courts.

We are not writing to send a message that we dislike the pickle ball. That is not the case at all. We are just in opposition of a second court being built. We certainly do enjoy hearing people happy and having fun in our community.

We have lived backed up to the tennis courts since 1998. We have always enjoyed hearing the soft quiet games of tennis.

We believe that when the courts were originally designed and built, they were built with the intentions of having tennis played. The sound difference between a pickle ball and a tennis ball is quite different. One clanks and one is soft and muted. This magnitude of continual clanking can take our backyard enjoyment to a level that becomes unenjoyable if you were to add a second court.

We are sure that it is not just us that can hear the sound of the hard plastic ball hitting the paddle. The echo chamber that the corridor creates generates sound throughout the entire area.

There are people that enjoy using the tennis court to play tennis. What will happen to them? We have children that come home to visit that enjoy going to the tennis courts to play.

We do enjoy our outdoor living space, and have a concern that 2 courts and that amount of activity will cause us our serenity and enjoyment.

There has been an agreement that there would not be pickle ball starting until 8 a.m. On too many occasions, they are starting earlier than agreed. For instance, these are just 2 of the examples, Wednesday, 8/16/17, pickle ball began at 7 am. and Saturday 8/19/17 began before 8 a.m. Outside of the times, we were notified of early starts, the agreement is 8 a.m. When we are notified, we are happy to work out an arrangement.

What is the time Pickle Ball will be ending on the days of operation?

How many days of the week will they be playing pickle ball?

Will both courts be used at the same time?

How often will there be pickle ball tournaments?

Will there be tarps put up on both courts like there currently are when you play?

The streets are clogged with cars for just one court for pickle ball. Please see the attached pictures. How will they be able to accommodate 2 courts? How is this fair to the residents? See attached pictures.

What is the cost for the additional pickle court?

What is the cost for upkeep of the pickle ball court?

What is the cost to renovate into a pickle ball court?

Who is paying for the pickle ball court?

Why would we need to add a pickle court at the park when we have a pickle court already at the rec/community center? Tennis players should only be using 4 cars at the most. Why are they not using the parking lot? Or, why is it taking all of those parking lot spots and Willow Lake as well to park?

The cheering, cussing and groaning is not like anything that occurs at a tennis match. I do not believe that this is the way the courts were originally designed when the courts were built for the enjoyment of our community.

Sincerely,

Lewis & Justine Sampson







