

## VERO BEACH RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.

City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Brooke Malone; Vice Chairman, James “Rock” Tonkel; Members: Judy Jones, (arrived at 1:31 p.m.), Brooke Steinkamp, Samuel Lapeyre, Alternate Member #1, Steven Newman, and Alternate Member #2, Christopher Woodruff **Also Present:** Recreation Director, James O’Connell; Assistant Recreation Director, Patty Howard (arrived at 1:31 p.m.); Assistant City Attorney, Jenny Flanigan and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Malone called today’s meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and the Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

### 2. MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Malone read the Recreation Commission’s Mission Statement.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A) March 9, 2021

**Mr. Tonkel made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 Recreation Commission meeting. Mrs. Steinkamp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Malone asked if there are any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Ms. Jenny Flanigan stated that she would like to give a short presentation on the Florida Sunshine Law and social media at the end of the meeting after Member’s Matters.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### A) Proposal for Pickleball Courts at Riverside Park – Mr. Dick Haverland

Mr. Dick Haverland, Director of Pickleball University, said he is here today to encourage them to enhance Riverside Park by accommodating the fastest growing sport in the United States. They can do this with a proven partner, which is Pickleball University who will share the expenses. Pickleball came to Vero Beach six (6) years ago via Pocahontas Park with a small group of players. Currently there is a license agreement in place between Pickleball University and the City, which gives Pickleball University control of the courts including all of the expenses of maintaining them. This is a win-win for both sides. Pickleball University converted four (4) tennis courts into 12 Pickleball courts and invested \$240,000 of its money on this project. They fixed all the courts, added lighting, installed fencing, benches, etc. The club now has 745 members with more than 200 members added this year. The 12 court complex can accommodate 550 players, so with 745

members they have vastly exceeds that figure. They have allowed people to continue to join in hopes that they would be able to expand. During the peak periods there is a lot of waiting. If they add 100 players each year for the next four (4) years they will be over capacity of an additional 12 courts. They believe that Riverside Park is the best option because of the location. He does not believe there are any public or easily joined Pickleball clubs on the Island.

Mrs. Louise Arnold, resident of Indian River Shores, said she has been playing Pickleball at Pocahontas Park for a number of years. They do not have Pickleball courts on the Island unless you are a member of a private club. The seasonal residents want places to play when they are here and the Pocahontas courts are overwhelmed. The weekends and evenings are also busy because they have lighted courts. Now is the time to capitalize on this fast growing sport, especially on one (1) where the average age is 55. There are a lot of younger people playing the sport as well.

Mr. Haverland stated that Pickleball is attracting people to Vero Beach. People are considering Pickleball availability when they are visiting or buying a home.

Mrs. Sophia O'Donnell, City resident, said she recently purchased a home here and one (1) of the main reasons was for the Pickleball University community. There are many cultural and recreational activities here, but Pickleball sealed the deal for her. Having more courts with the Pickleball community behind them will draw more people to relocate here.

Mr. Haverland said if they are able to get courts at Riverside Park they will be used a lot. He explained that people do not have to have a set group to play, they can just show up and they put their paddles in a box and when a court opens up the next set of players play. There is a constant rotation and it is a very sociable sport. They also recognize there are some valid concerns with Pickleball. The first was expressed by homeowners concerning the noise. He reported that there was a definitive study done at a tennis club in Arizona. The city hired a consultant to study the sound and they found that a home 250 feet from the courts with some mitigation was acceptable. The nearest home to any of the courts in Riverside Park is 225 feet. There are options for mitigation including trees, shrubs, or an acoustic fence. The second concern came from the tennis community. They are not here to take away tennis courts if they don't have to and ideally they would like to have Pickleball courts built.

Mr. Rob Morris said he is a lifelong tennis player and he plays round robins in the mornings at Riverside Park, but he was looking for other opportunities to play tennis during the day. He was introduced to Pickleball and found that he can stop by anytime and he can play. He found several players like himself, who play both Pickleball and tennis. He would like to see Pickleball courts at Riverside Park because it will bring more people to the park that play Pickleball and those that play both sports.

Mr. Haverland said he believes a partnership between Pickleball University and the City would be good for Riverside Park. Pickleball University offers numerous benefits to its members at a minimal cost. Within a 50 mile radius there are 30 different Pickleball court complexes, but most of them are private. Pickleball University is more than just a place with courts. Their 100 volunteers, organization and leadership makes a huge difference. He said that Sebastian, Florida has eight (8) brand new Pickleball courts, but they are not used to their full capacity. The Pocahontas Park courts are always full and many people will be waiting to play. He explained that Pickleball University is planning on putting lights on the north courts at Pocahontas Park this year, at a cost of \$40,000 to \$50,000. Vero Beach has many attractive features, but Pickleball is under

facilitated. He hopes the Recreation Commission would recommend to City Council that they approve the introduction of Pickleball to Riverside Park. They delivered a couple of proposals and they would be fine with either one, but they are open to other options as well.

Mr. Newman stated that Mr. Ken Roberts attended their last meeting and he said they do not want to displace anyone, so why is their first choice to take tennis courts away from the tennis players. He would support them using the North West corner of Riverside Park to build Pickleball courts. During the mornings for round robins they often have more people signed up than they have courts, so they used to ask people if they would like to go play at Pocahontas Park. That is no longer an option, so they (Pickleball) have already displaced some tennis players.

Mr. Haverland replied that from the beginning he stated that they prefer to not disrupt tennis and their strong preference is to have new courts built. However, if it is determined that tennis is not as robust, they would like the option to convert some of the tennis courts.

Mrs. Steinkamp asked if Pickleball University is a nonprofit organization.

Mr. Haverland replied yes.

Mrs. Steinkamp asked if she wants to play Pickleball can she go there and play.

Mr. Haverland replied yes. Anyone can play there for a fee. If someone wants to join the club there is an initial \$100 fee and it is \$100 per year. The fee is \$10 if someone shows up to play, but does not want to join the club. All visitors are welcome and they have had over 1,200 visitors since January.

Mrs. Steinkamp asked can anyone use the courts when Pickleball University is not using them.

Mr. Haverland replied no, but in their proposal they will specify that the courts at Riverside Park will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the public to use free of charge.

Mr. Lapeyre asked if they got an answer regarding the contract with St. Edward's School and how Pickleball University would affect that.

Mr. O'Connell explained that the Saint Edwards contract allows them to use all 10 courts for their home tennis matches. It is a year to year contract that allows them to use the entire Riverside Park tennis facility.

Mr. Lapeyre asked if they are aware of the Pickleball University proposal.

Mr. O'Connell stated that they are probably aware of it, but he has not spoken to them directly about it. Their contract coincides with the school year and it will renew in August.

Mr. Tonkel asked if it is an automatic renewal each year.

Mr. O'Connell replied yes.

Mr. Newman explained that St. Edwards School allows the City to use their facility for summer camps and gymnastic programs. If they change the contract they would consider it a breach of their contract and not let the City use their facilities for free.

Mrs. Malone asked if there are other tennis court locations that Saint Edwards could use.

Mr. Newman stated there are tennis courts at The Moorings Yacht and Country Club, so they might be able to make some arrangements with them. He asked if the City gets the money that Pickleball University collects from its members.

Mr. Haverland replied no, it goes to Pickleball University for the maintenance and upgrades for the courts at Pocahontas Park.

Mrs. Steinkamp said that people have told her that they are not in favor of privatized sports or organizations taking away public land.

Mr. Haverland replied that they are public and they do not reject anyone who wants to purchase a membership or play Pickleball. Pickleball University will be responsible for maintaining the courts, if they are allowed to have them. There are a number of different places in Riverside Park that could accommodate courts to be built.

Mr. Tonkel stated that what Pickleball University is trying to do is extraordinary and unusual, because the burden is not being paid by the taxpayer. He asked if the City has looked at both tennis and Pickleball to get an idea on what contributions each group brings to the community.

Mr. O'Connell stated that they have not done a direct comparison. He explained that four (4) of the courts at Pocahontas Park were in such disrepair it would have cost the City a lot of money to get them back into playable shape. The agreement with Pickleball University was that they would have put in \$250,000 of their own money to get the courts into shape and maintain them. On the tennis side there is no arrangement like that. Tennis is the City's program and like most of the other Recreation Department's programs they do not generate a profit, but they offer a service.

Mr. Woodrow asked how much revenue comes from the summer camps.

Mrs. Howard explained that the summer camp registration fee is \$130 for County residents and \$95 for City residents. When they have the Aerial Antics Circus performances at St. Edward's School they charge a door or ticket fee.

Mrs. Steinkamp asked how many people are involved with the Aerial Antics Circus.

Mrs. Howard explained that in a normal (non-COVID) year there are 120 summer camp students, all of their gymnastic performers, and their year round performing students, so there is about a total of 250 people involved.

Mr. O'Connell explained that the fees they collect for all of their programming is not necessarily intended to completely offset or turn a profit for the City, but it will offset some of the costs.

Mr. Lapeyre asked if there was any update on the Mardy Fish Foundation proposal.

Mr. O'Connell replied that the Mardy Fish Foundation has started their efforts to raise funds towards their goal of approximately \$6 million to put towards the tennis facility. The City is open to talking with them as they move forward, but it will probably be years down the road.

Mrs. Malone asked if the City of Sebastian has a Pickleball club that plays on their new courts.

Mr. Haverland replied he is not sure. He just knows they provided the facilities.

Mrs. Malone stated that she has gone by the Pickleball courts at Pocahontas Park several times and they are manning the gates and a whole operation going on.

Mr. Haverland explained that they have 100 people that volunteer for their various activities throughout the year.

Mrs. Malone stated that with 745 members and 1,200 drop-ins that equates to them bringing in over \$86,000 per year for maintenance and to be able to save so they can grow. She asked if Pickleball University has enough money to complete the project they are proposing.

Mr. Haverland replied that they have enough money to complete the lights on the Pocahontas Park courts. They don't have nearly enough to resurface the south courts, which will probably need to be done in the next three (3) years. They would have enough money to convert the tennis courts at Riverside Park, but not to build them from scratch.

Mrs. Malone asked how long would it take them to get enough capital to build their own facility.

Mr. Haverland stated that it would take three (3) to four (4) years.

Mrs. Malone asked if he heard anything about the County building 12 Pickleball courts.

Mr. Haverland replied yes. They are building them in a different configuration than he would have preferred.

Mrs. Malone asked if Pickleball University is only a Vero Beach function.

Mr. Haverland replied yes, it is just in Vero Beach.

Mrs. Steinkamp asked if they know how many members are City residents.

Mr. Haverland replied no, he is not sure.

Mrs. Steinkamp said she asked because as they are trying to accommodate everyone. They might be taking tennis away from some and nullifying a contract the City has, which will affect students. People might want to know how many of their members are City residents, or are they serving mainly County or out of town residents.

Mr. Haverland said he is not sure on the figure, but they will be serving the City by creating an attractive feature for the City of Vero Beach. Pickleball could become an unattractive sport if members have to wait a half hour in between games.

Mrs. Steinkamp asked if it would nullify the contract with St. Edward's School if they painted Pickleball lines on two (2) of the tennis courts.

Ms. Flanigan explained that the breach of contract with the school is something the City Attorney's office would look at and determine what options are available. Their Commission should focus on whether the proposal makes sense. Their line of questioning is good, but she recommends avoiding the contract.

Mrs. Steinkamp said that they are making a decision that displaces certain individuals, so that is something she would like to know.

Mrs. Malone stated that they received many letters from people from both sports and they are very emotional. She said if they have an argument on the table concerning the sound, there are a lot of municipalities that have spent thousands of dollars on studies and lost lawsuits because they found that Pickleball falls well within the lines of an applicable noise level. Her concern is that they will create a ruckus and demand that the City spend money, which they don't have to spend on a study that has been done over and over by other municipalities. She said she was inquisitive, so she drove by the tennis courts four (4) to five (5) times a week and there was always a court or two (2) open, so there might be some validity on how to share the space. With Pickleball University having 745 members and growing, what other places are they exploring.

Mr. Haverland said that at the beginning of the year they had 500 members and people had to wait a few minutes to play, but it was manageable. With the explosion of growth they might not have planned appropriately. With all the other new courts being built in Sebastian and in the County that might help some. Their members might play at other locations, but the majority of the time they play at Pickleball University, because their program is set up in a pleasurable way to give them the best competition.

Mr. Woodruff asked why would Pickleball University not partner with the City of Sebastian or the County to organize their courts and bring their program there.

Mr. Haverland replied that he can only speak for the County, because he had a recent discussion with their recreational authorities and they made it clear that it was their deal and they did not need Pickleball University's help. Sebastian might be an option, but they might feel the same way.

Mrs. Steinkamp asked if Pickleball University has looked at purchasing their own property.

Mr. Haverland said they have done nothing. With the explosion, they are just trying to figure out the most logical alternatives. He believes that economically, Pickleball University has had a significant impact on the City of Vero Beach.

Mr. Morris said he does not want to show up in the mornings to play round robins and not be able to play. At the club house they have a list of how many people play round robins each day and that number ranges from five (5) to 20 players, so they are using one (1) to four (4) courts. They use to send people to Pocahontas Park when they had too many players, but that is not an option anymore.

Mr. Rick Gillespie, City resident, said that he loves both tennis and Pickleball and plays several times a week. Even through it would benefit him to have both sports at Riverside Park, he is

opposed to this proposal. It is simply a noise issue to an area that is a residential community. He has been to Sebastian and used their Pickleball courts several times, but their courts are near the airport and not near residential homes. They are beautiful courts, but they are under used.

Mrs. Steinkamp said there have been numerous lawsuits by residents against cities about Pickleball courts and they have lost because the decibel levels are lower than lawn equipment. There are options of installing fencing as sound barriers and quieter paddles and balls that can be used.

Mr. Gillespie said before they go any further, he would urge them to do the sound studies and have a remediation plan for the courts. To him, it is the sound issue and he has read all the lawsuits and the court cases and he does not want a lawsuit in Vero Beach.

Mr. Newman asked Mr. Gillespie if he would have a problem if the Pickleball courts were built in the North West corner of Riverside Park.

Mr. Gillespie said that would put them further away from the homes and more appealing to him.

Mrs. Carolyn Lange, City resident, said she lives near the park and has great concerns about Pickleball courts being built there. She asked if any of the acoustical or ambient light studies have been done at Riverside Park.

Mrs. Malone said she assumes there has to be some type of acoustical ruling regarding decibel levels for the City's Parks, but she would have to refer that question to the Planning and Development office.

Mrs. Lange said she would like to know what noise and ambient light studies have been done. She walked the Park and she knows where they want the Pickleball courts to go and she agrees it would be better if they were in another area. However, Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary is there and the sign states that it is a Sanctuary and a place to be quiet. She loves Pickleball, but she does not want it near her home. She said she has never been disturbed by the tennis courts. This is not just about the noise it is about property values decreasing and property taxes, so this has to be thought through.

Mr. Lapeyre asked if the lighting is different for Pickleball than tennis.

A member of the audience (no name given) stated that there are no lights on the tennis courts that are closest to the residential neighborhood.

Mr. Jeff Cooke, South Beach resident, stated that John's Island has eight (8) Pickleball courts right next to the tennis courts and it is surrounded by multimillion dollar condominiums and they have no problems with the noise. In Delray Beach they have both tennis and Pickleball courts that are played all year around and surrounded by condominiums with no problems, so they can coexist. He explained that when they built the Sebastian courts the developer went against all the recommendations they were given to build the courts facing north and south. They were built facing east and west and people cannot play on them from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., because the sun is blinding them.

Mrs. Steinkamp stated that some municipalities have banned the use of some types of paddles because they are louder. There are things they can do to reduce the noise level.

Mr. Bob Jones, City resident, said he and his wife play tennis at Riverside Park and people come from all over to play there. He thinks it is going to continue to grow. They need to keep their venue concentrated because people will drive several miles to go to a sport where their friends are. They need to find a campus for Pickleball that can accommodate their growth for all of Vero Beach. The 17,000 residents of the City of Vero Beach should not be funding this in terms of land. He believes this is a County issue that needs to be addressed. Pickleball University should be very active with the County and work that angle. Pocahontas Park is already maxed out and the City gave them a piece of very valuable property. They need to find a place in Indian River County that will make everyone happy.

Mr. Nathan Polackwich, City resident, said that he spoke with City Council in 2019 when this issue was brought up before. He has no issue with building more Pickleball courts, but living just a few houses from Riverside Park he does not want to see that happen. Even if the sound falls under a certain decibel level, the sound is still annoying. It is irrelevant on how many people play each sport, the noise from Pickleball would significantly degrade peoples enjoyment of using the exercise and walking trail at Riverside Park. Riverside Park is the center piece of the City and it is the most beautiful place other than the beaches. He said they could potentially expand the area at Pocahontas Park, or build some in the County. This sport is going to continue to grow and they will outgrow the few courts at Riverside Park in no time.

Mrs. Christy Polackwich, City Resident, stated that this proposal is definitely about the location. She said she is a mother of two (2) former soccer players and they drove out to the Indian River County Fairgrounds for many years. She said that many parents would agree that it was not the most convenient location, but it accommodates the massive number of players. She said she spoke with the trail walkers and they were more concerned about displacing the tennis players than the noise. She also spoke with some of her neighbors and some of them are Pickleball players and they were concerned about the noise pollution. The County is building 12 additional courts, Vero Beach Fitness has eight (8) courts that are available to the public, and many private clubs have built Pickleball courts. She hopes that the Pickleball group can work with the community on these issues to find an appropriate location. She encourages City Council to deny this proposal.

Mr. Leonard Markir, City Resident, said that he lives right in front of the tennis courts at Riverside Park. He said that the immediate growth of Pickleball overcrowded Pocahontas Park, so he would like to know why they don't stop their enrollment. He said Mr. Haverland stated that they have not explored any other locations, but there are loads of locations that could accommodate courts away from neighborhoods. It is clear that the courts will be busy both day and night and his particular concern is that they already have traffic problems around Riverside Park and on Mockingbird Drive. This will create more traffic and there are no sidewalks or street lights along the flower named streets and it will overcrowd the Park and cause disruptions in the neighborhood.

Mrs. Steinkamp asked what time does Riverside Park close.

Mr. O'Connell replied that the Park is open from 7:00 a.m. till 10:00 p.m. and the tennis courts with lights are open until 9:00 p.m.

Mrs. Suzy McCoy, City resident, said she bought a home near Riverside Park because of the tranquility and beauty of the Park. Something they have not looked at is the environmental impact

of the wildlife in the Park. She loves Pickleball and has played it at Pocahontas Park, but it is a noisy sport. She thinks they can find a more appropriate location other than Riverside Park.

Mr. Ken Roberts, member of Pickleball University, said one (1) important thing to look at is the number of players at Pocahontas Park versus the number of tennis players at Riverside Park. Riverside tennis has 55 members with 10 courts. Pocahontas Park has four (4) tennis courts converted into 12 Pickleball courts, so if they are comparing just tennis courts they have 185 Pickleball players for each tennis court. He has not seen all the tennis courts being used at the same time between 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The breakdown on Pickleball players is about 20% City resident and the rest are from elsewhere. He said he is part of a group of six (6) people who call themselves Vero Beach Pickleball and they do not want a long term lease. They have already talked with the Mardy Fish Foundation and they would allow them to use the Pickleball courts for their youth tennis program. He said that they can convert up to eight (8) tennis courts over to Pickleball for about \$50,000, but they cannot build one (1) new court for under \$20,000.

Mr. Tonkel asked if they have any type of agreement with the Mardy Fish Foundation.

Mr. Roberts replied no, but it would be put in the lease. The money that they would be using to convert the courts would be private money and not a donation. They would need at least a three (3) year agreement to pay that back.

Mrs. Ruth Stevens, City resident, said that she has three (3) exhibits she will leave for the Commission. The first one (1) is a petition opposing converting tennis courts or building courts for Pickleball in Riverside Park. The second exhibit is the St. Edward's School tennis schedule that shows their use of the tennis courts. The last item is a rendition of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) National Campus that shows the location of their Pickleball courts and tennis courts. They are separated, but still in close proximity.

Mrs. Susan Vitunac, City resident, said in response to taxpayer's money, this proposal will devalue the taxpayer's homes in that area as a result of the noise. She said the sound characteristics produced by Pickleball is drastically different and unique from that of tennis. She said she would like to reference an article from *Spendiarian & Willis Acoustics and Noise Control*. She said the article talks about the particular sound characteristics of Pickleball. It states "*The sound produced between the Pickleball and the paddle is characterized by a sudden onset and brief duration, typically on the order of two (2) milliseconds for the direct path sound*". For that reason, she does not think that decibel readings are the relevant measure of sound for neighborhood noise. She said this company also wrote "*They recommend that Pickleball courts located within 500 to 600 feet of residential properties or other noise sensitive areas be reviewed by an acoustical engineer during the site selection phase in order to avoid choosing a site that is expensive to mitigate, results in unexpected limitations on court use, or leads to ongoing disputes with neighbors*". They would like to ask the Pickleball players to be good neighbors and choose a site that is more appropriate, less disruptive of the neighborhood, the wild life, and the other activities that are important to the community.

Mr. Cooke asked if the City receives anything from St. Edward's School for allowing them to use the tennis courts.

Mr. O'Connell replied that it is a reciprocal agreement where St. Edward's School uses the tennis courts and the City uses their gymnasium for summer camps and their Aerial Antics Circus performance.

Mr. Newman said if there are new courts being built, he would suggest they wait to see how they are used before considering other locations.

Mr. Woodruff said he would like to know more about the relationship with St. Edward's School, because they do not want to displace any of the children or summer camps. He would prefer they explore other options like Sebastian, the County, and other locations, before taking anything away.

Mrs. Malone asked if any of the Commission members feel that they are in a position to make any recommendations.

Mrs. Steinkamp replied that there are a lot of opinions and issues being discussed, so she does not feel comfortable making any recommendations yet. Her biggest concern is that the Pickleball group has outgrown Pocahontas Park, so how long will it be before they outgrow Riverside Park. She feels that they should take another month and have Pickleball University look at some other options.

Mrs. Malone said she is interested in finding out how many of the Pickleball University members are City residents. She would also like to verify how many tennis players they have per court and they will probably have to reach out to Planning and Development department regarding the sound issue.

Ms. Flanigan replied that there is limited information on decibel restrictions, but they can verify if there is anything specific to Riverside Park.

Mr. Tonkel said it is apparent that the only way to satisfy the people who object to this is to find another location. He is not prepared to make any decision today, but he is interested in finding a way to resolve the issue of providing more recreational opportunities for the Pickleball players. They need to look at what their choices are, what are other possible locations and if it is possible to work with the City or in conjunction with the County.

Mr. Lapeyre stated that he is interested in hearing the reasons why they cannot utilize the new 12 courts in the County.

Mrs. Marion Kennedy, City resident, said she learned to play tennis at Riverside Park. She has been taking her grandchildren to Pocahontas Park for 12 years. The tennis courts were in disarray and they had been vandalized. It was not a great place because there were a lot of homeless people hanging around by the restrooms. Since Pickleball has been there the improvements have been huge. They have changed the image, the aesthetics, and the safety of the Park. It has managed to help the downtown area and restaurants thrive. The Pickleball group is doing their own thing and it is working. The City neglected Pocahontas Park for 20 years and now they are complaining that it is too noisy and too busy. She thinks it is ridiculous that people say the two (2) sports cannot coexist.

Mr. Tonkel said they have a responsibility to try to find a solution for the Pickleball players in the community and he does not want that to get lost. The objections can be dealt with easily. At this point they need to take additional steps to see if a balance can be achieved with a different location. Mrs. Sally Smith, City resident, said she is part of Vero Beach Pickleball with Mr. Ken Roberts. She clarified that they have met with the Mardy Fish Foundation and their design plan includes four (4) courts to be used for Pickleball and children's tennis at Riverside Park. Vero Beach Pickleball would like to convert two (2) of the tennis courts until the Mardy Fish Foundation has raised the money for their project. Vero Beach Pickleball is willing to give the two (2) courts back to the Mardy Fish Foundation when they have the money to renovate the facility. If Vero Beach Pickleball has not made their money back by that time, the Mardy Fish Foundation is willing to reimburse them for what they spent.

Mr. Jeff Cook suggested that the Commission get feedback from the City of Delray Beach and Johns Island on how their tennis and Pickleball programs coexist.

Mr. Haverland said the Pickleball University was originally talking about converting two (2) tennis courts, but they are in the area where they are concerned about the noise. He would like to suggest an alternative. They could convert the four (4) courts closest to the tennis house and that way the noise will be away from everyone.

**Mr. Tonkel made a motion to defer coming to any conclusions and ask the City Council to explore sites that might be acceptable options to provide additional courts.**

Ms. Flanigan asked if the motion is to postpone a decision to a specific time, or is it to table it indefinitely. She asked if there is a consensus to make a recommendation to City Council on this proposal.

Mr. Tonkel replied that there needs to be more discussions with City Officials to find out if it is even feasible. If it not, then they can turn around and pursue dealing with the issues they were presented with today and find an alternate solution.

Mr. Tonkel's motion died for a lack of a second.

**Mrs. Steinkamp made a motion to defer the Pickleball discussion to next month's Recreation Commission meeting. Mrs. Malone seconded the motion.**

Mrs. Malone asked Mr. Haverland to be prepared to provide the Commission with a report on how many of their members are City of Vero Beach residents. She said she apologizes for delaying this another month, but the Commission members have a lot to think about and they want to make sure they can make a worthy recommendation that is best for everyone.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **7. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**

Mr. O'Connell reported that the Easter Egg hunt took place on March 27<sup>th</sup> and they had about 500 participants. He thanked Mulligan's and their other sponsors and staff for their support. The number of summer camp registrations is at 60, which is the maximum. The tennis court resurfacing work will start at Charles Park next week and then they will do the six (6) courts at Riverside Park. He stated that the Humiston Park bathroom project is expected to be completed by the end of the month and there is an item on the City Council's next meeting agenda to approve the contract for the remodeling of the Community Center's bathrooms.

## **8. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

Mrs. Malone encouraged the Commission members to do their due diligence, ask questions, think outside the box, and try to bring back some information so they can make a recommendation on a solution for the Pickleball group.

## **9. MEMBER'S MATTERS**

Mr. Newman asked when will the youth sports discussion be on their agenda.

Mrs. Malone explained that they struck it from today's agenda, because they knew it would be a full meeting. It is scheduled to be on next month's agenda.

Ms. Flanigan stated that there is a lot of eyes and attention on this decision and others they are making, so she would like to give a brief Power Point presentation on the Florida Sunshine Law and as it pertains to social media (attached to the original minutes). She said if they have any questions to please reach out to the City Attorney's office.

## **10. NEXT MEETING DATE**

### **A) May 11, 2021**

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Today's meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

/rh