



# CITY OF PIEDMONT

Recreation Commission Agenda  
Wednesday, November 20, 2019  
7:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 120 Vista Avenue, Piedmont, CA

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## Call to Order

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**Public Forum** This is an opportunity for members of the audience to speak on an item not on the agenda.

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## Regular Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes – October 16, 2019
  2. Chair's Report
  3. Director's Report
  4. Review of Maintenance Practices on City Sports Fields
  5. Receipt of a Report from the Subcommittee on Tennis Court Use and Pickle ball and Consideration of a Recommendation to the City Council on Next Steps
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## Announcements, old business and consideration of future agenda items

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## Adjourn

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Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Recreation Commission are available for public inspection in the Recreation Department during normal business hours.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (510) 420-3040. Notification at least two business days preceding the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

In accordance with G.C. Sec. 54954.2 (a) this notice and agenda were posted on the City Hall bulletin board and in the Piedmont Police Department on November 15, 2019

**DRAFT**

**PIEDMONT RECREATION COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 16, 2019

A Regular Session of the Piedmont Recreation Commission was held October 16, 2019, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a) the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on October 11, 2019.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Steve Roland called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Steve Roland, Vice Chair Conna McCarthy; Commissioners Glyn Burge, Dick Carter, Vincent Fisher and Carrie Graham Lee

Absent: Commissioner Jeff Dorman

Staff: Interim Recreation Director Erin Rivera

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Members of Girl Scout Troop 30713 introduced themselves and indicated that they are present to earn their citizenship badge.

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**Minutes**

**Resolved**, that the Recreation Commission approves its Recreation Commission Meeting minutes of September 18, 2019, as submitted.

Moved by Carter, Seconded by McCarthy

Ayes: Carter, Fisher, Graham-Lee, McCarthy, Roland

Noes: None

Absent: Dorman

Abstain: Burge

**Chair's Report**

Chair Roland had no report.

**Director's Report**

Interim Recreation Director Erin Rivera provided a report on Department programming including Schoolmates, Preschool, Rental Facilities, Halloween events, and flag football programming, among others.

**Program/Staff Spotlight**

Ms. Rivera introduced Middle School Cross Country Coaches Christine Chapon and Minori Tsuge. Coach Chapon and Coach Tsuge provided information about the goals, schedule, and achievements of the program. They discussed the cross country meets with 23 schools participating. They also highlighted the inclusionary nature of the program.

There was no **Public Testimony** received.

Commissioners recognized achievements of the program. They thanked the coaches for their work and congratulated them on the breadth of the program.

**Pickleball Trial**

Chair Roland indicated that the Subcommittee on Tennis Court Use and Pickleball held a public meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> to receive feedback from residents on the eight month pickleball trial approved by the City Council. He indicated that the subcommittee will make its recommendation to the Commission at its November meeting.

Chair Roland reported that the pickleball trial period has been a huge success and the program is working well. He stated that approximately 167 people had participated in Pickleball programming during the trial. Chair Roland outlined the subcommittee's preliminary recommendations as follows:

1. Increase pickleball hours during weekdays after school at the middle school and use the blacktop courts for that purpose. The school district is receptive and further coordination is needed on operational issues relating to hours and whether there will be play during the winter. The Commission recommends the Recreation Department continue to work on this and come up with a program.
2. With regards to existing hours, the Commission supports hours for weekend play as Saturday, 10AM to 1PM and Sunday, 1PM to 4PM.
3. There has been a request to extend hours slightly at Beach. Current hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10AM to 12:30PM. There are very few tennis players using the courts at 12:30PM as compared to Hampton's courts and the recommendation is to extend pickleball from 12:30 to 1PM.
4. The subcommittee recommends the Recreation Department look into professional instruction or other more formal programming to supplement the open or free play which is dominating pickleball times now. There are enough players and enough different levels such that there is room for instruction and classes. Pickleball players have asked for this and staff is currently working on it.

Chair Roland indicated that the subcommittee considered, but decided not to make recommendations on the color of pickleball lines on the Hampton Tennis Courts, the location of pickleball lines on the Middle School sport courts, a reservation system for pickleball play, and permanent pickleball courts as a part of the Linda Beach Master Plan.

Commissioners asked questions about the organization of pickleball play as a part of the current trial. They also confirmed there is an organized group of pickleball players who communicate regularly.

Commissioners inquired whether survey respondents had indicated issues with the noise of the game. Chair Roland indicated that neighbors surveyed had not indicated noise was an issue.

There was no **Public Testimony** received.

Chair Roland stated that the Commission will receive and consider the subcommittee's written recommendations at its November meeting and would forward a recommendation to the City Council.

**Corey Reich Tennis  
Center**

Ms. Rivera reported that since the Commission's last meeting, the water bottle filling station and stadium bleachers have been installed. She indicated that reconstruction of the entryway for ADA accessibility was the next item to be completed. She stated that updated lights are scheduled to be installed in the summer of 2020.

Commissioner Burge reported that community members have been extremely generous in their donations to the project.

There was no **Public Testimony** received.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioners requested an update on the recruitment for Recreation Director.

**NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Roland adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

DRAFT

# **REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON PICKLEBALL TRIAL PROGRAM**

(Presented November 20, 2019)  
(Jeff Dorman, Conna McCarthy and Steve Roland)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Tennis and Pickleball Subcommittee's report of January 16, 2019 and associated recommendations, adopted and referred to City Council by the Recreation Commission, and subsequently adopted by City Council, provides:

“The Subcommittee will reactivate to begin review of the pickleball program prior to the end of the 8 month trial period to consider if the program is running smoothly and consistent with the needs of community constituents or if adjustments are needed.”

The Subcommittee has reconvened in accord with this charter, and provides its further report here.

## **RECENT SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITY**

The Subcommittee initiated review of the Trial Program with a meeting in September, 2019. Subsequently, notice of a public meeting was posted, and the notice was also specifically distributed to concerned communities, including neighbors of Beach and Hampton Parks, and the pickleball and tennis communities. A public meeting was held on October 7, 2019, at which open comment regarding the Trial Program was solicited. Written comments were also received from the public. The Subcommittee provided a tentative set of conclusions and recommendations at the Recreation Commission's October, 2019 hearing and solicited public comment, and announcement was made at the October hearing that a final set of conclusions and recommendations would be presented for consideration at the Recreation Commission's November, 2019 meeting.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The Subcommittee declares the Pickleball Trial Program a success, and finds that the Program is working well and consistent with expectations. There is a rapidly growing pickleball community in Piedmont, with the number of players on the pickleball email list having grown by over 50% in 8 months, from just over 100 players at the beginning of the Trial Period to some 166 players at present. There is a broad sense of satisfaction and excitement over pickleball in the community, including both the physical and social engagement benefits afforded to players.

Significantly, both the pickleball and tennis communities report positive and respectful relations in the sharing of the hardcourts at Beach and Hampton, at which designated weekday times for pickleball play have been established. During Summer 2019, the hardcourts at the Middle School

were resurfaced and re-lined, and pickleball is active on weekends at the Middle School. There is significant and ongoing usage of the courts at all three facilities during designated hours of play.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The 8 month Pickleball Trial Program period concludes in November. The Subcommittee recommends that the existing pickleball program be made permanent, with the following adjustments:

1. Pickleball usage at the Middle School courts should be expanded to include weekdays after school and school holidays (including summer weekdays). Current availability is weekend only. There has been significant communication between the Recreation Department and the School District regarding expanded use of the Middle School courts and the Subcommittee understands the School District is receptive to after-school and holiday play, and discussions regarding logistics for expanded play continue.
2. Pickleball play at Beach on Tuesdays and Thursdays is currently 10 am to 12:30 pm; recommendation is made to extend play to 1 pm, as there does not appear to be significant tennis demand at that time on the Beach courts.
3. Weekend play at the Middle School courts should be established as 10 am to 1 pm on Saturdays and 1 pm to 4 pm on Sundays.
4. The Recreation Department should sponsor and support professional instruction and formal programming to expand and foster pickleball play among different age groups and expertise levels. The Subcommittee understands the Recreation Department has already begun researching and evaluating such activities.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

The Subcommittee evaluated various suggestions and comments of members of the public which did not result in recommended changes, and to assure the public that all such suggestions and comments have been fairly considered and evaluated, the Subcommittee briefly takes note of these comments and provides responses.

1. Suggestion was made that the pickleball lines at Hampton are difficult to see and should be made darker or otherwise more prominent. The Subcommittee finds that the current lines, while somewhat faint, are an appropriate compromise between the needs of tennis and pickleball players. The tennis community has accepted the addition of pickleball lines on the tennis courts, but the lines do create confusion. The next darker shade on the professional color palette for such lines would be considerably darker than the present lines. The Subcommittee believes the current lines, while not ideal for either sport, provide a compromise which best serves the needs of both.
2. Suggestion was made by one individual that the lines at the Middle School courts are too close to the basketball standards. There appears to be no consensus among pickleball players that this is the case, and the Subcommittee considers the expense of re-lining newly lined courts not to be warranted.

3. Suggestion has been made that a pickleball court reservation system be employed to allow pickleball players to reserve courts outside the designated pickleball hours at Beach and Hampton. Note is taken that there is not consensus among pickleball players that this would be a desirable use of hardcourt facilities. The Subcommittee recommends against this suggestion. This would result in side by side play of tennis and pickleball. The Subcommittee believes this could potentially create disruption. Pickleball is a social as well as physical activity, there is noise during set-up and takedown of the nets, and pickleball play involves a different set of sounds than tennis. As a general matter, tennis involves a more muffled noise ethic. It is recommended that pickleball play on the Beach and Hampton courts be restricted to the pre-set times.
4. Suggestion has been made that a reservation system be set to allow reservations for pickleball courts during designated times for pickleball play. The Subcommittee finds that there is no consensus among pickleball players that such a reservation system will provide advantages, and indeed, there is concern among pickleball players that a reservation system could diminish efficient use of the courts and diminish the social aspects of the game that are coveted by many players. The Subcommittee recommends against a reservation system at this time, but notes that with possible expanded play time at the Middle School courts, this suggestion could be re-visited.
5. The Subcommittee acknowledges comments of some pickleball players that the idea of permanent pickleball courts at Beach as part of the Beach Master Plan should be re-visited. The Subcommittee takes note that this idea was carefully evaluated during the planning process, and the Subcommittee declines to make any recommendations for alteration of the planning process or results.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Subcommittee recommends that the present pickleball program in Piedmont be continued, subject to the recommended adjustments and actions stated herein.