

Cyndie Martel

From: Barbara and Joel Renbaum <bjrenbaum@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2024 2:05 PM
To: CouncilAll
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Preserving Pickleball in the town of Ross

Dear Council Members,

It has come to my attention that the issue of Pickleball is going to be discussed at the next town meeting. I will be out of town at that time, and will be unable to attend in person. However, I would like my opinions to be heard and counted. Hence, this email.

1. Pickleball is a growing sport, which people of all ages can play and enjoy. It is a social game, and can bring a community together in a healthy way. While some like to hike on Phoenix Lake, others like me, like racquet sports. I find it an easy, accessible, healthy way to socialize with neighbors. I am 79 years old, but I can play with young mothers and even children. I love that!

2. Broad restrictions, like the ones mentioned, are not good governance. Ross has received very few, if any, complaints about existing pickleball courts. Restrictions should be based on actual data and complaints, not on hypothetical scenarios. Banning courts within 250 ft. of neighboring property lines would mean that virtually no properties could accommodate PB courts. Noise issues with PB courts and other outdoor recreation facilities (pools, basketball oops, etc.,) can be handled by limiting times of use rather than total bans, i.e., allowing PB 9am-5pm weekdays and Saturdays, and 10 am - 3:00 pm on Sundays.

3. Other communities, like Tiburon, Corte Madera, and Greenbrae have successfully managed PB noise without resorting to a ban. They have only asked for noise studies when there have been many complaints. There is also already a noise ordinance in Ross which should be sufficient to address noise complaints when and if they arise. Also, PB courts can enhance the attractiveness of properties, potentially increasing property values. By restricting or banning PB, the town may inadvertently lower the desirability of homes with existing sports courts, which could have broader economic implication for residents and the town.

4. PB is a highly popular and rapidly evolving sport. It does not make sense to ban it entirely from Ross residents. Why not take a flexible, compromise based approach that will enable residents to enjoy the game, as other communities have done, while still addressing noise concerns--like implementing soundproofing measures, restricting time of play if neighbors report unduly noise, or implementing the already noise ordinance on the books. As it is, PB can only be played about 9 months of the year, and only for a few hours a day in most homes.

5. Ross Rec has pickleball courts that are in high demand, indicating that this is a sport that is growing in popularity. The clinics are full, and the round robins on the weekend are highly attended, making for great community spirit.

Please take all these issues into account when voting on this issue---and come out and try the game for yourselves! You will love it!

Sincerely,
Barbara Renbaum
72 Shady Lane, #1077
Ross, CA 94957
(415) 608-1132 (cell)