

June 15, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board – Public Comment

Carole Farr, Peninsula Tennis Club Secretary

Peninsula Tennis Club (PTC) is home to over 500 members, an additional 1,000 nonmember users from all over San Diego County, the PLHS boys and girls tennis teams, and 16 league teams. We hold summer youth tennis camps, 12 instructional clinics per week, Drop-In tennis on Wednesday nights, private tennis instruction, and an annual tournament (which had a 58% increase in entries compared to 2022). We will also be hosting weekly Wounded Warrior clinics this summer. With all of these activities PTC is not underutilized.

Tennis clubs like PTC are managed and maintained by the permittees at no cost to the City. While permittees do not pay rent, they are required by the Parks & Rec Department to be nonprofit organizations and are required to staff, maintain and resurface the courts periodically under the permit. The City pays for none of the cost to operate and maintain the courts.

With regard to the utilization “data” that has been presented --- PASDs analysis ignores that most park facilities are not used during hours that people work or children are in school. The assumption that facilities with low utilization in the middle of the day are underutilized ignores the normal patterns of peoples lives. It’s reasonable to assume these patterns would apply to pickleball as well.

Finally, Barnes Tennis Center will soon have 19 dedicated, lighted and publicly available pickleball courts. The opening of these courts just 800 feet from Robb Field addresses PASDs request for a “temporary” pickleball solution until a dedicated pickleball center can be built at Robb Field. This is a WIN-WIN for PTC which can continue to thrive as a tennis club, and addresses the need for pickleball courts.

