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Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: June 15, 2023 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting - Public Comments
Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 11:53:09 AM
Attachments: [new-usta-logo_SCTA_SD-It-bl w skyline.jpg](#)

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Hello everyone,

I would like to share an interview with you which discusses the announcement of the 19 pickleball courts at Barnes Tennis Center and the reaction by the PASD organization (KUSI Good Morning San Diego Interview from 6/19/23).

https://www.kusi.com/barnes-tennis-center-announces-addition-of-19-pickleball-courts/?fbclid=IwAR2rwxJ4e6nraxK8hS_Y7jhEAW12tRWDolQcwbKOnnFD7uJCghMyPLSOQF8

I will also be doing a follow-up interview with Allie Wagner this coming Sunday morning between 7-7:30 a.m. which should further clarify the situation and help educate the public. I'm hopeful these interviews will contribute in some way by helping to alleviate further pressure placed on the city by PASD.

In case you were not aware, Barnes Tennis Center announced new pricing yesterday which will make it among the most affordable pickleball facilities in San Diego. There are no membership fees to play pickleball at Barnes and the courts are available to the general public. It should also be noted, these courts are dedicated for pickleball. Each court is self contained and of the highest quality. In addition, the LED lighting is state of the art and 17 of the 19 courts will face north-south which was a concern mentioned by one of the PASD supporters in last Thursday's workshop at Balboa Park.

It's important to note the Pickleball-SD now PASD organization during the Mission Bay Parks CRG meeting at Santa Clara Rec Center in April, 2022 used the Bobby Riggs facility located in Encinitas as a model for what was needed for San Diego proper.

Barnes Tennis Center

Bobby Riggs

19 dedicated PB courts
\$5 for 3 hours of open play
\$15 per court per hour

21 dedicated PB courts
\$7 for 2-3 hours of open play
\$14 per court per hour

**Barnes additional 12 courts are scheduled to be operational by the end of July 2023. **

Bobby Riggs is owned and operated by Steve and Jennifer Dawson whose background up until 2012 was completely tennis oriented. They now run a premiere pickleball facility.

<https://www.barnestenniscenter.com/pickleball>

The question of Barnes' legitimacy of operating pickleball courts is misguided. Barnes also successfully operates 7 padel courts and already is successfully operating the 7 existing pickleball courts.

Our wish, is the subject of the proposal to take over 50% of Peninsula Tennis Club by PASD as far as the City of San Diego Parks and Rec is concerned will no longer be a consideration. The burden for the San Diego tennis community and specifically Peninsula Tennis Club and the San Diego District Tennis Association (SDDTA) has been more than considerable. We would like to see any further discussion of pickleball courts at Robb Field go through the GDP amendment process which has already begun.

<https://www.barnestenniscenter.com/pickleball>

We know you've been working hard to provide pickleball players locations to play. I'm hopeful you realize the SDDTA and our tennis advocacy committee has continued to help find solutions and make compromises wherever practicable. We also endorse the proposal to convert 1 tennis court to 4 pickleball courts at a San Diego SUP tennis club which is currently under consideration. With the conversion of tennis courts to pickleball at most private tennis clubs, the need for public tennis courts is all the more crucial. It's also clear the private sector is rapidly meeting the demand for more pickleball courts. The conversion of Astiz tennis center in Spring Valley to the Hub pickleball facility (26 courts) became operational in January 2023. There have also been well publicized plans for Bed Bath and Beyond locations to be converted to pickleball facilities further alleviating public pressure. Historically, 70% of all tennis is played on public tennis courts which makes the need for their preservation all the more crucial. As was mentioned in public comment, tennis has collectively lost over 120

tennis courts over the past 20 years in the San Diego area due largely in part to real estate values. These numbers precede the conversion of tennis courts to pickleball.

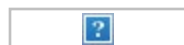
I would like to thank all of you for your time and efforts during this past year and a half to deal with this sensitive and complex issue. I ask your consideration to include this letter as part of public comment.

Kind regards,

--

John Broderick

President



SDDTA 50th Anniversary

www.sandiegotennis.com

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