

WRC Public Workshop Notes and Minutes

September 30th, 2021

Town Manager Robert Smith presided and opened the workshop at 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 30th 2021.. He noted that this workshop is not required, and is being conducted as a courtesy and as a means of input from existing neighbors. Mr. Smith discussed the 3 proposed park elements for discussion including the playground, swingset and pickleball courts. Robert noted descriptions and locations for these proposed new amenities with costs. He noted the existing physical buffer areas from the amenities to the neighborhoods on a satellite map.

Resident Feedback

Howard York – Mr. York inquired about other town locations for the pickleball courts. Mr. Smith noted that there are no other locations conducive for pickleball and this location is prime for the town. Mr. York noted a safety issue which is the brick entry wall in the sight line of entry/exit from the park. Mr. Smith noted that Tonya Elliott-Moore would potentially research what can be done for that.

Jim O'Brien – Mayor O'Brien asked about next steps via chat. Town Manager Smith outlined the process which would potentially include a full Town Council workshop and then a vote from TC if this makes it that far.

Melissa Farrell expressed full support for adding the pickleball courts.

Susan Carter – Susan questioned the proposed slope of the proposed courts and parking impacts. Town Manager Smith responded that no new parking is being considered for now. Bill Martini interjected the total number of spots available in the park now.

Katie (Resident) – She question parking and impact of eliminating parking spots. Robert Smith noted that any parking impacts would be small.

Resident (Name Unknown) – This resident expressed existing impacts of current daily exercise class parking and noted concern about additional loss of parking spots from the pickleball courts.

Edward Williams – He noted that his objection is noise and loss of parking spots. He floated the idea of moving the pickleball courts to the island area, but Town Manager Smith expressed that this idea is not feasible. Mr. Williams also noted the popularity of pickleball and the participation in surrounding areas that would translate into park parking stresses.

Sue Wiechart (sic) – Expressed her support of pickleball and building courts for resident use and controlling non-resident racquet sports play.

Robert Smith discussed the Town resident survey on adding pickleball courts and the high positive response from residents on the survey.

Thomas Haberkamp – He expressed concern about location near neighborhood for pickleball and his estimate of the first home at 200 ft away from the courts. He noted that more research needed to be done on noise impacts.

Mr. Smith requested more input on playground and swingset. He noted that no more concerns regarding these elements were brought forth.

Theresa Myers – She noted that parking from exercise classes filled the WRC parking lot this week. She also indicated that noise would be impactful to the neighborhood and she is located near the park on Tryon Place. Theresa also indicated that noise would be interruptive to birds in the wetlands and noted species in the area. She also noted that the area near the pickleball court location is used for kayak/canoe launching. In terms of the playground, she expressed her concern for safety and that split rail fencing would not be enough to contain children near a busy road.

Clo Picquet – She indicated they are located nearby and noise impacts of existing pickleball courts. She reiterated the need for safety for the proposed playground area.

Town Manager Smith summarized the input from the meeting that the main resident concerns are noise and parking impacts. He also noted to the attendees that any playground amenities and surrounding areas would be built with safety in mind.

Robert Smith closed the workshop at approximately 6:42 pm.