

**Town of Beverly Shores**  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 21, 2024  
Administration Building – 500 S. Broadway, Beverly Shores, IN

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.  
*(This meeting was a hybrid meeting and broadcasted live via Microsoft Teams and was recorded.)*

**Roll Call** - Council Members: Councilors Geof Benson, Matrona Malik, Donna Norkus, David Phelps, and Candice Peterson-Smith were present. Also, present: Clerk-Treasurer Ellen Hundt, Marshal Ed Clapp, Attorney Connor Nolan, and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Sally Bagnall.

**Title VI Survey Availability**

President Phelps announced the availability of the Title VI public involvement survey. This survey is available online via the Town's website.

**Public Presentations**

*None.*

**Approval of Minutes**

*Approval of April 16, 2024: Council Meeting minutes:* Councilor Malik motioned to approve minutes as presented. Councilor Benson seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Report of Police & Street Departments**

*Violation Report:* Nothing to report.

*Police Report:* Marshal Clapp gave a report. Clapp requested approval to seek engineering study regarding the I beam for the garage door replacement project. Councilor Norkus motioned to approve up to \$1000 to be paid out of the ARP Fund for an engineering study for the garage door replacement project. Councilor Benson seconded. Unanimously approved.

*Street Report:* Marshal Clapp gave a report. Rieth-Riley has scheduled the Town for its crack-sealing and paving projects.

**Ordinances & Resolutions**

*Resolution 2024-03: A RESOLUTION OF THE BEVERLY SHORES TOWN COUNCIL RECOGNIZING JUNE AS PRIDE MONTH*

President Phelps gave an introduction. Phelps motioned to adopt the resolution. Councilor Malik seconded. Phelps read the resolution into the record. There was a roll call vote. Phelps = yea. Peterson-Smith = yea. Benson = yea. Malik = yea. Norkus = yea. Unanimously approved.

**Clerk-Treasurer's Report**

*Consideration of Claims* –CT Hundt presented the April APV register, noting items that were not monthly expenses. Councilor Benson motioned to approve the APVs as presented. Councilor Malik seconded. Unanimously approved. CT Hundt also presented the Fund, Revenue, Appropriation reports, 4 bank reconciliations, and payroll reports. Council Norkus will sign off on reports.

*Consideration of Claims for Bonds, 2020 Series:* There were no claims.

**Reports from Committees/Liaisons:**

**ADA progress:** Councilor Malik gave report.

**Building & Building Site Committee:** Malik gave report.

**Board of Zoning Appeals:** Councilor Norkus gave report.

**Capital Planning Committee:** There was no meeting.

**Fire & Emergency Management:** Benson gave report. The Firemen's Ball will be held on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenspace Committee:** Vice President Peterson-Smith gave report.

**Indiana Dunes National Park:** There was no meeting.

**NIRPC:** President Phelps gave report.

**Parks & Recreation Committee:** Vice President Peterson-Smith gave report.

**Plan Commission:** There was no meeting.

**TDD:** Councilor Benson gave report. The next step in the process is for the Town to draft a map of what the district could look like.

**Unfinished Business:**

*Windows/windowsill fix in Town Hall:* President Phelps reported the aluminum frames are being built and installation should be in a few weeks.

*Grants updates:* Councilor Norkus reported the grants are continuing through the process.

*ARPA Funds:* No update.

**New Business**

*Parks & Recreation Committee proposal for dual basketball/pickleball court:* Tom Abrahamson, Parks & Recreation Committee, gave a summary presentation (summary is attached to these minutes). Councilor Benson motioned to approve up to \$1,000 from the ARP Fund for the pickleball project. Vice President Peterson-Smith seconded. Unanimously approved.

*Request to purchase new soccer equipment and Request to purchase new parking stops:* Councilor Benson motioned to approve up to \$500 for the requested purchases to be paid out of the ARP Fund. Councilor Norkus seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Public Comment**

Bobbi Petru, ABSR, Reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Coffee at Rebora Plaza on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a ceremony in support of the Lake Michigan Rescue Equipment Act with Evelyn Hernandez and Rodney Pol.

John Mackin, 204 S. Quigley, stated his disagreement with the solutions offered to him regarding ADA access to the beach.

**Written Communications**

President Phelps reported he received written correspondence from John Mackin regarding ADA access to the beach.



President Phelps reported receiving a phone call from a reporter regarding the Lake Michigan Rescue Equipment Act.

**Town Council Comment**

CT Hundt reported she and Deputy Bagnall will be at the Memorial Day Coffee event selling parking permits (cash or check only). CT Hundt reported that she and Frank Hardwick had successfully moved the Town's emails to IN.gov.

Councilor Norkus reported Senator Pol received 100% score from the Humane Society legislative fund and is interested in supporting initiatives to protect wildlife and animals. Norkus also thanked Steve Huston for his turtle moving skills.

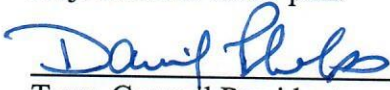
Councilor Malik reported that Evelyne Hernandez has worked very hard for the Lake Michigan Rescue Equipment Act and she hopes residents come out to support it.

**Adjourn:**

Council Benson motioned to adjourn.

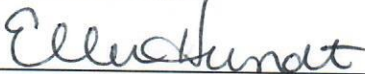
Councilor Malik seconded.

Adjourned at 08:20 p.m.



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Town Council President:

Attest:



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Clerk-Treasurer

Ellen Hundt

To: The Town Council  
From: the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee  
Re: Proposal recommending adding pickleball to the existing basketball court  
May 13, 2024

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report recommends that the TC approve up to \$1000 in funding for the Committee to develop a pickleball court in Lituanica Park. On April 9, 2024, the Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee (the Committee) unanimously passed a motion for committee members Susan Loeb and Tom Abrahamson to prepare a report recommending to the TC the addition of pickleball court on the existing basketball court. At its meeting on May 13, 2024 the Committee approved the submission of this report to the Town Council.

### **Why a pickleball court**

Pickleball is [the fastest-growing sport](#) in the nation for the fifth consecutive year in a row, with [48.3 million U.S. adults](#) (19% of the adult population) having played at least one game in the last 12 months, according to the [Association of Pickleball Professionals](#). Almost 20% of the adult population has played pickleball in the last 12 months.

And more to the point, the demand for pickleball in Beverly Shores is strong based on a review of Park Board (PB) minutes and the results of the PB's pickleball survey.

The PB started discussion of a pickleball court in July 2021. Since then, the PB minutes show that the PB discussed a pickleball court during 11 meetings between July 2021 and April 2024.

Initially, it was estimated that the rough cost of constructing a new pickleball court would be \$30,000. In addition to the expense, where to build the court was challenging. Some were concerned that an impermeable surface would replace existing green space.

Further, making the tennis court into a hybrid court with a pickleball court has proved to be a non-starter. In 2022, at the suggestion of resident Nancy Schwab, the PB tried out silicone court markers on the existing tennis court so it could be used for either sport. It did not work well because these markings required measuring out the court dimensions every time for pickleball. The markers also tended to curl up and could become a trip hazard. Additionally, a tennis net is higher at the ends and in the middle, which is reported to be frustrating to pickleball players who are accustomed to playing with regulation height nets. Also, tennis players in town strongly opposed a hybrid court. And, most recently, Committee members voiced opposition to a hybrid court tennis/pickleball court.



In 2023, the PB discussed converting the basketball court to dual basketball and pickleball use. The conclusion drawn at that time was that the court was not big enough to accommodate pickleball. However, in March 2024, committee members Tom Abrahamson and Steve Coughlin measured the basketball court and determined that there is ample space for a regulation, or very-near regulation sized court, depending on whether the orientation of the court is to the north-south or east-west.

The appetite for a pickleball court remains strong. In September 2023, the PB created a pickleball survey to capture residents' interest, or lack of interest, in supporting pickleball. 136 out of approximately 600 residents responded to the survey. According to the National Association of Recreation and Parks, this 23% response rate is considered good and valid for these types of community surveys. Key findings from the PB pickleball survey were:

- 63% answered "yes" to the question of whether they would like to see pickleball courts in Lituania Park and an additional 21% answered "maybe" for a total of 84% yes + maybe responses.
- The most desired number of courts was two.
- 67% of respondents said they would use the court; 17% indicated they would use the court more than once per week, 17% once per week, and 15% once per month. 33% said they would not use the court.
- Asked whether they would be willing to donate to support a pickleball court and 1/3 of respondents answered "yes."

### **The Proposed Solution**

Since the building of a new pickleball court is expensive and would use additional green space, we expect that the building of the new pickleball court would be a financial challenge and likely met with resistance. We have determined that a dual tennis/pickleball court is not a good solution, either. Having a shared basketball court and pickleball court, although not perfect, makes sense, and will be relatively inexpensive.

Tennis and pickleball games can occur simultaneously versus competing for time on a single court. Though we don't have data, it is commonly believed that the basketball court is utilized far less than the tennis court. A regulation height pickleball net can be utilized on the basketball court.

The proposed plan we are recommending to the Council for approval is:

**Committee to convert the existing basketball court into a dual-use basketball/pickleball court by power washing, patching cracks as needed, painting lines on the surface, purchasing a portable and moveable pickleball net, and adding pole padding for the two basketball standards for the safety of both pickleball and basketball players.**

**The total cost should not exceed \$1,000. Total cost includes water hookup by Michigan City Water Department, gasoline for the power washer, concrete patching material, the purchase of a pickleball net, basketball pole pads, paint for the court lines, and potential storage of the net. The Committee will provide the labor for this project. Committee member Tom Abrahamson would oversee the project with the work of volunteers. It would be completed in late Spring/early summer.**

The Committee recognizes that this is not a perfect solution but hopes that in this case “perfect is not the enemy of good.”

We recognize that the basketball court is surrounded on three sides by woods which may need to be thinned out and sprayed for poison ivy. It may be prudent to create a slightly shorter than regulation pickleball court. If the pickleball court is oriented north-south, it is recommended that the length be reduced a few feet on each end from regulation size to create more distance between the back line and the basketball posts. In pickleball, unlike tennis, there is rarely any deep backcourt action, so a slightly reduced court length will be unnoticeable to most players (the “kitchen” and width would be regulation size, and those are the most important areas of a pickleball court). We know that a system needs to be developed so that access to the court is shared appropriately. We are unaware that residents surrounding Lituania Park have complained about noise coming from the tennis and basketball courts, but should noise become a problem, we can address it.

We hope that the Council accepts the Committee’s recommendation to build a pickleball court on the existing basketball court as presented and approves an appropriation of up to \$1,000 from the donated gift fund, or other fund the TC deems more appropriate.