

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Jeremiah McMahon** <jjcmahon82@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Dec 5, 2021 at 11:07 AM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond!

Sincerely,

Jeremiah McMahon

(510) 967-8828

- Jeremy McMahon

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Marcia Gee RILEY** <mgriley@berkeley.edu>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 11:07 PM

Subject: Support for Pickleball in Richmond

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission:

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond!

**Sincerely,
Marcia Riley
(510) 919-8903**

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Mariana Rusa** <m_rusa@yahoo.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 3:31 PM

Subject: In favor at permanent Pickleball courts in Richmond

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern:

I am Mariana and I am writing in favor of considering transforming the tennis courts at Booker T. Anderson into permanent Pickleball courts.

Members of our family like playing tennis but since we discovered Pickleball, we rather play Pickleball as it's a lot easier to play and a lot more enjoyable for beginners or for those who never played tennis.

Pickleball is a very social sport and maybe the only one where players from a very large age span enjoy playing and interacting with each other and I believe that the city of Richmond is missing out by not having some Pickleball permanent courts.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mariana Rusa

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Abigail Montejo** <abigail@pogopark.org>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 3:26 PM

Subject: Rec.Parks Commission Speaker

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Good Afternoon,

This is Abigail with Pogo Park.

I am messaging on behalf of the Executive Director, Toody Maher.

If possible, she would like to speak at tonight's meeting.

This is her email address, if anything: toody@pogopark.org

Best Regards,

Abigail

--

Abigail R. Montejo

POGO PARK

Program Support

510-215-5500 Office

510-221-1477 Cell

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Karen Moss** <karenmoss@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 2:50 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission:

I am writing to let you know I strongly support permanent and dedicated pickleball courts in Richmond. The growth of Pickleball players is far outpacing the number of local courts to play at by a huge margin. Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to Richmond!

I am a local Realtor and conduct a lot of my business in Richmond. I would like to add nice pickleball facilities, as another reason to move to Richmond!

Warm regards,

Karen Sanders Moss

KAREN SANDERS MOSS

Compass

Broker Associate

510.282.3853

karen.s.moss@gmail.com

DRE #00963704

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Alan Kaplan** <lnkpln@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 12:50 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

This is a strong vote of support for permanent pickleball courts in Richmond. I've been playing for six years and it has always been true that there are never enough places to play, particular considering how fast this sport is growing. It's not surprising for all available courts to be in use at a given venue with many more people waiting to play. It's a great sport for all ages and all abilities.

Thanks

Alan Kaplan

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Laura Cooksey** <llcooksey@yahoo.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 12:24 PM

Subject: Pickleball in Richmond! Item #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com

<rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

As a member of the East Bay Pickleball Association, I am incredibly aware of how popular pickleball has grown in Richmond in the past few months. We have had hundreds of people come learn and play several times a week at Booker T. Anderson Park. Unfortunately, our 300-lb lockbox that was bolted to the courts was stolen which was a crippling blow to our programs. We had over \$2000 worth of equipment in the box - nets, paddles, balls, etc. Since replacing the box seems fruitless and would probably only be stolen again, the only sensible solution would be to get permanent nets installed.

Pickleball would be such a boon to Richmond - it's such an easy game to learn and it's for all ages, old and young and all demographics. It's a way for all families to enjoy being outside and getting some really fun exercise. We already have a thriving pickleball community and it would only grow exponentially as the program continues. As one of the founding members of the East Bay Pickleball Association, I can assure you that we are eager to spread the word about this wonderful sport and are volunteering our time to teach and support playing.

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States right now. Because the courts are 1/4 of the size of a tennis court and four people play on each courts, WAY more people get to enjoy these public outdoor facilities. Way more than what tennis can offer.

Please consider our request of having permanent nets at Booker T. Anderson park. Pickleball is the perfect pandemic activity especially with the wonderful California weather in the winter. The East Bay Pickleball Association is ready to continue on with it's successful program of introducing and supporting pickleball in Richmond!

Sincerely,
Laura Cooksey
Richmond Resident
510-410-8916

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **P K Chung** <chung.pk1@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 12:17 PM

Subject: Fwd: Public Comments – Item #9-1.

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

The email below was sent to you by my spouse, Rosario Ysip. I would like to add my name to her comments regarding the need for dedicated courts in Richmond.

I compete in pickleball tournaments around the country which requires dedicating many hours practicing to remain competitive. It is very time consuming to have to set up our heavy portable net almost every day (for me) and at 71 yrs old & 100 lbs, not easy! This is why I drive to Rudgear Park in Walnut Creek or Willow Pass Park in Concord. As you can imagine, all this driving makes for my monthly gasoline bill over \$100 in addition to added mileage, etc.

It would be very beneficial to our local pickleball community to have dedicated courts closer to home at Booker T Anderson Park.

Sincerely,

Patrice Chung

415-609-4787

Pickler since 2015

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rosario Ysip <2016Charo0801@gmail.com>

Date: December 1, 2021 at 11:56:30 AM PST

To: Pat Chung <pukaball888@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: Public Comments – Item #9-1.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rosario Ysip** <2016charo0801@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 11:55 AM

Subject: Public Comments – Item #9-1.

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Recreation & Parks Commission

I support converting Booker T. Anderson Tennis courts to pickleball courts in the City of Richmond.

I have been a resident of the City of Richmond for over 30 years, played USTA leagues from 2004 thru 2016. I was introduced to Alvin Hom and Denise Hom who encouraged me to play tennis. In 2004 I joined the El Cerrito Tennis Club team, and in my last year of tennis league in 2016, I joined the Richmond Tennis Association/Nicholl Park. In between 2004-2016, I joined several tennis teams in the Bay Area, including: Arlington Park, Berkeley Tennis Club, Claremont Tennis Club, Chabot, Davie Stadium, Laney College, Memorial/Albany, Mt. Tam Racquetclub, Mills College, Orinda Woods, Pleasant Hill, Salesian High School.

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

In the summer of 2016 a good friend (tennis instructor, who occasionally played pickleball tournaments) introduced me and my partner to pickleball. I wasn't looking for another sport, as I was not yet ready to give up tennis. Later that year, due to physical issues from combined tennis, running, biking sport, I turned to pickleball, at the age of 65 years.

The nearest dedicated Pickleball courts are at Cedar Rose Park in Berkeley, a distance of 6 miles from my. Dedicated Pickleball courts are direly missing in my hometown.

The nearest courts marked with Pickleball lines are at Castro Park in El Cerrito, a distance of 1.4 miles. We would need to set up the heavy pickleball net (weighing approx. 35 lbs.) and take down the net after each play session. We have to put the pickleball net on a hand truck to/from the court. I am now 70 yrs. old, schlepping the heavy pickleball net from home to car, and to/from court, then home is hard on my body, especially with my knee(s).

It would be awesome to have the first ever dedicated pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson Park in Richmond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosario Ysip
(510) 589-2404
Pickler since 2016

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **JOHN LISENKO** <jlisenko@comcast.net>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 3:07 PM

Subject: Public Comments Item 9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in support of Pickleball facilities in the City of Richmond. I have been a Richmond resident since 1996 and recently have played pickleball at the temporary courts at Booker T Anderson park. Pickleball is a popular activity that attracts folks from all walks of life, all races, genders and ages.

Thank You for your support.

John Lisenko
(510)375-7493
4835 Full Moon Dr
Richmond 94803

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Mary Crabb** <mwcrabb@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 3:50 PM

Subject: Richmond Pickleball

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hello,

I am writing in strong support for putting up permanent Pickleball nets at Booker T Anderson park. My husband and I started playing there 2 -3 times a week over the summer & have met so many community members from the surrounding area. We live in El Cerrito (Del Norte area close to Richmond border) & this is our favorite place to play due to convenience, many courts, & a diverse and friendly, fun crowd.

I think it's awesome and necessary that activities for middle age+ adults are supported—it's definitely a public health endeavor by the City of Richmond. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mary Crabb

510.932.7830

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Richard Chan** <mtrchan@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 3:55 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission:

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond!

Sincerely,
Richard Chan
510 485-9088

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Mary Foley** <mifoley@prodigy.net>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 4:14 PM

Subject: Public Comments - ITEM #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hi,

I'm writing to support the creation of permanent pickleball courts in Richmond. Hundreds of pickleball players turned up at Booker T. Anderson Jr. Park to play recently. Since all the equipment people had voluntarily funded was stolen, the need for permanent courts, instead of temporary nets, is clear. Pickleball provides an outdoor activity for all age groups and all demographics. It's an egalitarian sport, universally played as open play where strangers meet and play together. There are currently zero permanent courts in Richmond and zero permanent courts in El Cerrito. I'm an El Cerrito resident, living very close to Richmond and to Booker T. Anderson Jr. Park in particular. I just started playing pickleball recently and don't remember when I've had this much fun and exercise. I'm a senior.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Foley

(510) 524-8633

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **George V** <idanikos@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 4:31 PM

Subject: Public comments item 9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Dear council

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond.
Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond!

Sincerely,

George vassiliades
510-710-6826

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Personal** <bethmconklin@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 4:34 PM

Subject: Pickleball Courts - public comments item 9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hi - I'm a longtime Richmond resident who has taken up pickleball at the grand age of 72. This game supports community, healthy exercise, and just plain joy like no other sport. No matter your skill or physical well-being, if you want to play, there is a place for you on a pickleball court. This sport encourages a blending of all races, ages, and genders at a time when this country is almost as divided as it has ever been. Investing in permanent pickleball courts will bring a return for everyone in the community far greater than the money you spend. Thank you.

Beth Conklin
510 735-1115
1201 Brickyard Way
Richmond, CA 94801

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Pat Armer** <paarmer@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 4:44 PM

Subject: Public comments-item#9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec & Parks Commission:

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball back to the people of Richmond!

I have lived in Richmond for over 10 years and have never experienced more of a community than the pickleball community. It is truly a wonderful way to experience and engage new people of all ages.

Very Sincerely,

Pat Armer

510-520-5033

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Ivonne Palma Hutt** <givonnep@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 4:51 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission:

My name is Ivonne, I am emailing to express my deepest support for a permanent, dedicated pickleball court in Richmond.

Please help us bring this enriching opportunity for sport and community to the people of Richmond.

Sincerely,

Ivonne Palma Hutt

619.520.1385

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **paulina flint** <pflintdecastro@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 5:27 PM

Subject: Public Comments Item # 9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hello!

My name is Paulina Flint De Castro. I am a travel nurse and writing to express my support for pickle ball courts in Richmond. This sport brings community together of all ages and is accessible to people of different strength and ability. Money spent on courts is well spent funds that SO many people benefit from. And healthy community members are happier and so on. It's a win win. This is the fastest growing sport, many of us didn't grow up playing tennis, but pickleball is easy to pickup and affordable, inclusive of all backgrounds.

Thank you for your time and support!

Paulina Flint De Castro

[347-547-5254](tel:347-547-5254)

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Lorna Murdock** <lornamurdock@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 5:39 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission:

I have been a Richmond homeowner since 2019, and I've played pickleball since the free clinics offered at Booker T. Anderson Park in May of this year, as the COVID virus levels started to decline.

I am emailing because I won't be available to attend the 12/1 Zoom call and speak during Public Comments, and I'd like to express my extreme support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond! Here are 10 excellent reasons why:

- Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the Bay Area, we have no permanent dedicated courts in Richmond.
- We need more safe places for Richmond's families to get outside and get active as community members and pickleball players
- The City needs athletic facilities that are available for public use at a reasonable cost to fill the demand for engaging outdoor programming
- This project includes some of the only dedicated pickleball courts in the Bay Area
- The East Bay Pickleball Association is eager to begin using the courts as soon as they are constructed
- Ongoing and new community programs to introduce thousands of children, teens, and adults to the sport will commence immediately.
- Our recent successful effort at Booker T. Anderson Jr. Park for pickleball portability was crippled when all the equipment was stolen, demonstrating the need for permanent pickleball courts.
- Hundreds of people have come to play just through grassroots attendance, within only weeks as pickleball hit Richmond, attracting citizens of every demographic.
- Organized programming through EBPB will absolutely reach thousands of people
- In the madness of today, when is the last time you've seen people as happy, healthy, friendly, and united as when they get together to play pickleball?

Please help bring permanent pickleball to Richmond so we can keep a great thing going,

Lorna Murdock

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

+1-415-264-6384

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: <rasyad@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 5:42 PM

Subject: Public Comments - ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Dear Rec. & Parks Commission,

I am writing in support for permanent, dedicated pickleball courts at Booker T, Anderson Jr. park. The culture of pickleball is remarkably inclusive across all possible demographics, old, young, gender, race, and sexual orientation. The rules, equipment, and welcoming culture of pickleball mean that new players can get started in a few minutes and quickly grow into solid recreational athletes that enjoy both cooperative and competitive play. There are good reasons why Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the USA.

Building dedicated pickleball courts is a positive action in the service of building a healthier and more tolerant community.

Thank You,
Rasyad

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Sheryl Alexander** <sjalex30@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 5:52 PM

Subject: Public comments- ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

My name is Sheryl Alexander, 310-734-9421. I was asked by one of your Richmond residents who I met on the Pickleball courts in Palo Alto, to provide support for the creation of permanent, dedicated Pickleball courts in Richmond. I live in Palo Alto and play Pickleball regularly on our city courts which are located near my home. These courts are constantly full of people who live in and around Palo Alto. The courts are free and accessible to anyone who wants to play from early in the morning until the lights go off in the evening. It brings together people from all walks of life, all ages, races, ethnic groups, and socio-economic statuses. Everyone is there to have fun, get to know the game of Pickleball and meet new people. Everyone is friendly and smiling. It is a wonderful subset of our community and I highly recommend the creation of a comparable place for Richmond. You won't be sorry.

Thanks for your consideration!

Sheryl Alexander

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Bill Powning** <billpowning@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 7:03 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Commissioners,

Please support building permanent pickleball courts in Richmond as soon as possible. The need for more courts in the Eastbay has already been demonstrated by the many people who showed up to play at Booker T Anderson. While a large “pickleball hub” would be a fantastic investment in public health and recreation, if it is just an idea on a wishlist for someday... the need is now.

I do not believe you can find a better investment that will provide exercise, social engagement, and fun for the full spectrum of residents than permanent, dedicated pickleball courts.

Thanks for your consideration,

Bill Powning

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Brooke Deputy** <brookedeputy@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 7:21 PM

Subject: Public Comments - ITEM#9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond. I was and am so disappointed the nets and rackets were stolen and believe we need permanent nets and permanent courts. I have Parkinsons and drive to Oakland to play with others who have also been diagnosed with Parkinsons. I would like to play here in a safe, public space. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country and we have 0 permanent courts here in Richmond.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond! Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Brooke Deputy

Richmond resident/home owner

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Kelly Chien** <hsinyingchien@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 7:07 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hello,

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond.
Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond!

Sincerely,

Kelly Chien

510-565-4725

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Genoveva Calloway** <genovevacalloway68@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 7:42 PM

Subject: Public Comment Item 9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Good afternoon, First of all I want to thank each one of you for your dedication and work as members of this Commission. My name is Genoveva Calloway and live on the border of Richmond and San Pablo at 1529 Costa Ave. Because City of Richmond surrounds San Pablo, I enjoy Parks and Recreation facilities in both cities. Recently I was invited to learn to play Pickle Ball at Booker T Anderson Jr. Park. I enjoyed the lessons and met people from all over the area, and look forward to playing again and again. I am 72 years old and look forward to parks where elders like myself can stay active, with a sport that is easy to learn and requires physical activity to stay healthy and active. I am writing to support the request from the East Bay PickleBall Association for this Commission to designate at least one tennis court for a permanent PickleBall court with the appropriate net and markings. Pickle Ball is a sport for all ages and families to enjoy the outdoors and be active. I look forward to a supportive decision from your Commission. Sincerely, Genoveva Calloway. 1529 Costa Ave. San Pablo, Ca. 94806

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **cristina sutinengonzales** <cricket_131@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 8:05 PM

Subject: "Public Comments – ITEM #9-1"

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission:

I am emailing to share my plea and support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond.

Please consider helping a community truly make steps towards real equity by facilitating bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond! The communities that have permanent courts in the bay area are economically and health advantaged, so help us grow and provide space for pickleball in Richmond. I am a Richmond resident of 16 years who has played for pickleball for 9 years. It is our city that needs a healthy fun activity that so many people find addictive! This sport improves lives, reducing stress, increasing cardiovascular health, lowering blood pressure, reducing depression, and helping with the management of diabetes. Dedicated courts will make a safe place for families and people of all ages to access a meaningful activity. Please commit to building the facilities our community needs and deserves.

Sincerely,

Cristina Sutinen-Gonzales

(510) 778-0508

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Kaki Logan** <kaki.logan@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 8:46 PM

Subject: Pickleball in Richmond!

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission:

I am emailing to show my enthusiastic support for permanent, dedicated pickleball courts in Richmond. It's time to offer pickleball to Richmond residents and close neighbors, just as other cities around us are putting in courts. I would love to be able to play my favorite sport close to home rather than having to travel.

Pickleball is growing rapidly, partly because it is a sport that most anyone can play, but also because it offers challenges to very skilled players. Youths and seniors, men and women, skilled and beginners—everyone can enjoy this game.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond!

**Sincerely,
Katherine Logan**

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Michele McGeoy** <michelemcgeoy@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 9:44 PM

Subject: Pickle ball courts - Item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

I live in Richmond and play both tennis and pickle ball and feel strongly that there should be more permanent pickle ball courts.

Michele McGeoy

510-858-6885

Item #9-1

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Michele McGeoy

510-858-6885

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Shawn Dunning** <shawndunning@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 9:47 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Dear Rec & Parks Commission,

As a resident of Richmond with children and friends of all ages who would most certainly partake in the rapidly emerging sport of pickleball, I urge you to support the adoption/installation of a permanent, dedicated pickleball court in our city. Recreational opportunities are very limited around here, please help to broaden the scope of what our residents may enjoy together.

Sincerely,
Shawn Dunning
510-908-5767

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Diana Aguilar** <princesitatorrez73@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 9:56 PM

Subject: Public Comments-Item #9-1.

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Greetings,

my name is Diana Aguilar a Richmond resident of 20 years. I am emailing to you in regards of the theft that took issue at Booker T Anderson park. I think the city needs to provide new gear because not only was the community robbed but we all feel like it's a duty for the city to provide new gear because the park has no attractions and we all really benefit from a physical activity that allows us to fraternize. My phone # is (510)292-9017.

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **herb riffkin** <herbrff@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 10:20 PM

Subject: Public Comments - item #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

I support permanent dedicated pickle ball courts in Richmond.

Herb Riffkin
510-559-8658

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Jeanna Mielcarek** <jeannakmi@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 2:18 AM

Subject: Public Comments - Item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hi,

My name is Jeanna Mielcarek and I have been a resident of Richmond for 2 years.

My husband and I are both very excited about the prospect of permanent pickleball courts in Richmond and feel permanent courts would add a lot of value to our community in terms of wellness and social well-being.

Pickleball is becoming a very popular sport nationwide for all ages, and I feel this investment would make Richmond more competitive as a city that people would like to call home.

I sincerely hope you consider funding a small permanent space for pickleball players in our community.

Thank you,
Jeanna
959 Lassen St

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Nancy Hester** <nancy.hester@yahoo.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 7:05 AM

Subject: Public comments item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

I'd be grateful if you would help us facilitate bringing pickle ball to the people of Richmond. I was playing at that court at Booker T Anderson until the box was stolen.

It's in a great location for surrounding cities such as Hercules. I met several people and we would meet there to play. We had a great setup as pickle ball has become quite popular not only for adults but kids as well!

I strongly urge for permanent courts so all can enjoy this beautiful location and we can continue to get our pickle on! POWER TO PICKLE BALL 😎

Nancy Hester
510-910-5476

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Connie Wong** <double.cheers@yahoo.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 7:31 AM

Subject: Public Comments – Item #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Dear Recreation & Parks Commission Speaker,

I first met Darlene Rios Drapkin at pickleball open play at Castro Park in El Cerrito. I have been so impressed with her enthusiasm and efforts in expanding pickleball open play and instruction to Booker T Anderson park.

As many others in the pickleball community who were so excited to include Booker T Anderson park as another local pickleball venue, I was so upset to hear that the equipment box filled with brand new pickleball equipment had been stolen.

Please know that I fully support Ms. Darpkin's proposal to encourage the Parks and Recreation Commission to create permanent pickleball courts.

Sincerely,
Connie Wong
510-232-7014
El Cerrito

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Pat Kaspar** <pkaspar@rubiconprograms.org>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 8:17 AM

Subject: Comments regarding Booker T Anderson Pickleball Courts

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Enjoying the benefit of a Pickleball Court in our Richmond community contributes to the opportunity for camaraderie, sportsmanship, great health outcomes and equity! We need *more opportunities*, and the loss of this equipment is more than just a financial loss.” - *Alisha Semplar, Rubicon Programs Community Connections Program*

“It was such a pleasure to play pickleball recently at the BTA courts. We played with a diverse group of colleagues and were joined by a community member. Many had never played before, and were excited about playing again in the near future. Losing the equipment is a terrible loss because it afforded people an opportunity to engage recreationally in a healthy and fun way. This is sad.” - *Pat Kaspar, Senior Staff Attorney, Rubicon Programs*

"I so enjoyed playing pickleball at Booker T Anderson. My colleagues and I had so much fun playing pickleball there and using the provided equipment. What a resource it is for the community. I'm saddened to hear about the theft and hope that it receives the support needed to remain." -Greg Reimer, Career Advisor, Rubicon Programs

Thanks so much for your advocacy, Darlene. 😊

Pat Kaspar
Senior Staff Attorney
Rubicon Programs
(510) 620-1164 phone
Pronouns: she/her/hers

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Phillip Moss** <mossarchitect912@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 9:31 AM

Subject: Public Comments - Item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

I would like to speak at the hearing.

I would like to encourage the Commission to allow the conversion of one tennis court to 4 permanent pickleball courts at Booker T Anderson Park.

Pickleball is a growing sport for all ages. Just look at the numbers that come out to play and we don't even have permanent courts. Removing one court will have little if any effect on the tennis players in Richmond but will greatly help the pickleball players find a home to play at.

Very few pickleball players can invest in temporary nets so permanent facilities are sorely needed.

Thank you,
Phillip Moss
510-282-5404

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Ken Treiger** <ken@treiger.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 9:35 AM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hi, Ken Treiger, 206-660-5050. There are 5 pickle ball players in my family and I would like to way support for the city for permanent pickleball courts in Richmond. Thank you.

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Louie, Edward (LAW)** <EWL3@pge.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 10:52 AM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

FROM: Ed Louie

To: Rec & Parks Commission:

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson Park. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in USA and fun for all ages for a good reason. The demand for pickleball is growing, and yet the closest dedicated pickleball courts are south in Berkeley while the nearest northern courts are in Vallejo over the Carquinez Bridge. There are no dedicated courts between the Cities of Berkeley and Vallejo creating a huge void leaving players (and there are many) with few options to play pickleball.

The tennis courts at Booker T. Anderson remain under-utilized for tennis, and I have no doubts the courts would be better utilized to convert at least one tennis court to four dedicated pickleball courts. Darlene Drapkin, Darlene Vendegna and others have done a tremendous job introducing pickleball to a new crop of local residents who mix in with more experienced players from nearby communities.

Saturday drop-in pickleball was a huge success until the lock box containing nets and equipment were stolen. Without the lock box players are now required to transport nets to Booker T. Anderson. The need to transport nets to Booker T. Anderson can be alleviated by converting a tennis court to four dedicated pickleball courts with permanent nets.

Booker T. Anderson remains very active for pickleball despite the lock box equipment theft and hosts overflow Saturday play from nearby El Cerrito courts where there are 40-60 players every week. Castro Park is so immensely popular for pickleball, players are overflowing to Booker T. Anderson to help ease the congestion and waiting times; however, neither El Cerrito or Richmond have dedicated courts, and building dedicated pickleball courts will open the door to an ever-growing new crop of players both young and old uniting Richmond with its nearby cities including mine in Pinole.

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

I respectfully request the Commission to approve our proposal to convert a tennis court to four dedicated pickleball courts as a win-win for everyone which will help Richmond and nearby communities unite together and will help boost its economy with vibrant activity. Leaving Booker T. Anderson with its current antiquated infrastructure of two tennis courts is a complete waste of infrastructure and will remain under-utilized. Thank you!

Respectfully yours,

Ed Louie
(510) 822-2396

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Curious Explorers Academy** <info@curiousexplorersacademy.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 10:52 AM

Subject: Public Comments- Item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hello Parks and Rec,

I have been a Richmond resident and business owner since 2017. I am emailing to show my support for a permanent, dedicated pickleball court in Richmond. As a child care center owner, I believe that it is important for children to have access and exposure to a wide variety of sports and play no matter their age.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to Richmond.

Warm regards,

Amrita Ghai

Director

Curious Explorers Academy

(510) 974-3540

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Karla Suomala** <suomalakarla@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 11:36 AM

Subject: Public Comments – Item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

TO: Rec.& Parks Commission Speaker

Hello,

My name is Karla Suomala (510-829-9149) and I have lived across the street from Booker T. Anderson Park for 6.5 years. I can see the tennis courts from my window and my family uses the park all of the time.

I am in favor of turning one of the tennis courts into a Pickleball Court. To date, the pickleball players have been a respectful and enthusiastic addition to the neighborhood.

Thank you.

[510-829-9149](tel:510-829-9149)

 suomalakarla@gmail.com

 Richmond, CA

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **PK Chung** <pukaball888@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 12:01 PM

Subject: Public Comments - Item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Recreation & Parks Commission

I support converting Booker T. Anderson Tennis courts to pickleball courts in the City of Richmond.

I have been a resident of the City of Richmond for over 20 years.

The nearest dedicated Pickleball courts are at Cedar Rose Park in Berkeley, a distance of 6 miles from my. Dedicated Pickleball courts are direly missing in my hometown.

The nearest courts marked with Pickleball lines are at Castro Park in El Cerrito, a distance of 1.4 miles. We would need to set up the heavy pickleball net (weighing approx. 35 lbs.) and take down the net after each play session. We have to put the pickleball net on a hand truck to/from the court.

I am now 71yrs. old, schlepping the heavy pickleball net from home to car, and to/from court, then home is hard on my body, especially with my knee(s).

It would be awesome to have the first ever dedicated pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson Park in Richmond.

Thank you.

Patrice Chung

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Kenne Lindgren** <kenlindgren@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 12:08 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-...Pickleball in Richmond

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hello,

I have been a resident and teacher in Richmond for 24 years. I retired from teaching this past June, and one thing I love to do daily is play pickleball. There is a large group of PB players who meet daily in many areas of the Bay area---except in Richmond---because Richmond does not have any dedicated safe areas for us to play. When we want to play in Richmond we have to schlep our own nets to the courts and put them up ourselves. In addition, the courts we use already are lined with tennis court lines so we have to make the most of this less than ideal situation. Bordering towns have dedicated PB courts, but Richmond has none. Why is that? Is Richmond that broke that we have to share with the tennis community, who is reluctant to give up their **underutilized** space? The vocal leaders of the tennis community are constantly complaining about the PB people "trying to take over" their courts. Meanwhile when you look at the tennis courts there are rarely any tennis players using them---even in the evening at Nicholl Park in Richmond, where the lights are left on for the tennis players, but the courts remain largely empty. Furthermore the gates to these courts are locked to everyone except the tennis players. These courts would be perfect for the PB players if we were given a couple courts to play on. The PB community was really hoping to get 4 dedicated courts at the Booker T Anderson Park, but the tennis community is fighting that too. We do have PB lines on the courts at BTA Park, but we have to use our own nets, which is time consuming and strenuous for us retirees. What is with this hold that the tennis leaders have on the Recreation Department in Richmond? It doesn't make sense. You can fit nearly 4 PB courts onto the space of **ONE** tennis court. That means you can get 16 people playing pickleball vs two people playing tennis (because people don't play tennis doubles---it's only singles, and they're just hitting the ball back and forth). Tennis is dying---it's time to open the gates to the pickleball community.

My wife and I just got back from visiting my relatives in Tempe, AZ for Thanksgiving. They have dozens of new lighted and netted PB courts free to the public--both indoor and outdoor!. Can someone tell me why Richmond cannot do this?

Thank you for reading,

Ken Lindgren
Richmond, CA
510-543-3712

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Monica Nowakowski** <monicalcsw@comcast.net>

Date: Sun, Nov 28, 2021 at 7:11 PM

Subject: Public Comments – Item #9-1.

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

TO: Rec.& Parks Commission Speaker

I'm writing in support of permanent pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson Park in Richmond which is item #9- 1.

I'm a 20 plus year resident of Richmond and have come to learn pickleball this last year at one of the free clinics put on by the local group a volunteers. Being 60 plus years old now I'm very scrupulous about what sports I play. Needless to say, I stopped playing sports UNTIL pickleball.

Recent unrelated surgery has kept me from playing for now but I can't wait to get back. This is a sport for all ages and certainly is accessible to the older crowd. We all need more fun and opportunities to get together safely.

Please do vote for permanent courts here in Richmond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Monica Nowakowski
510-847-9358

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Diane Harris** <djharrisnc@yahoo.com>

Date: Sun, Nov 28, 2021 at 7:06 PM

Subject: Public Comments – Item #9-1.

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

TO: Rec.& Parks Commission Speaker

As a resident of Richmond (El Sobrante) for over 10 years, I would like to express my support for permanent Pickleball courts in Richmond.

I've been playing Pickleball for 6 years, and have traveled to Martinez, Concord, Oakland, Piedmont, Alameda and Walnut Creek. How great it would be to have a home court here in Richmond!!

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the nation, so Richmond.... GET ON BOARD!!

Diane Harris

510-426-2117

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **gabriele bay** <baygabriele6@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Nov 28, 2021 at 7:17 PM

Subject: Pickleball

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

It's been the heart of my exercise program it's fun funny and just great

To do

Gabi Bay Bayside Court

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Pat Kaspar** <pkaspar@rubiconprograms.org>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 3:29 PM

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENTS ITEM # 9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

"Enjoying the benefit of a Pickleball Court in our Richmond community contributes to the opportunity for camaraderie, sportsmanship, great health outcomes and equity! We need *more opportunities*, and the loss of this equipment is more than just a financial loss." -*Alisha Semplar, Rubicon Programs Community Connections Program*

"It was such a pleasure to play pickleball recently at the BTA courts. We played with a diverse group of colleagues and were joined by a community member. Many had never played before, and were excited about playing again in the near future. Losing the equipment is a terrible loss because it afforded people an opportunity to engage recreationally in a healthy and fun way. This is sad." - *Pat Kaspar, Senior Staff Attorney, Rubicon Programs*

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Brandon R. Gates** <brandon.gates@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 3:34 PM

Subject: Public Comments - ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Dear Rec. and Parks Commission:

I am writing to show my support for a dedicated pickleball facility in Richmond. It is a rapidly growing sport that all ages can play, and particularly suited for middle-aged and older persons such as myself who can really benefit from the socialization and exercise that it uniquely brings to those who play it. Approving such a facility can only lead to the benefit of the citizens of Richmond and surrounding areas, and I ask you to give serious consideration to funding this.

Sincerely,

Brandon R. Gates
510-495-4822

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **LESTER ELLIS** <lesellis88@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 3:28 PM

Subject: Pickleball in Ruchmond

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hi,

I grew up in Richmond, and though I no longer live there, I stay in touch from a relatively short distance. My family lived in the shipyard worker housing that became public housing after the war. My friends and I played basketball, touch football and softball at Harbor Gate Elementary School and Nichol Park. I was not good enough to play for Richmond High but after college, friends and I went to the Richmond "Y" where we played basketball and Ping Pong after work. I'm sure all of these activities are still available to young people in the City; but you are now presented with an opportunity to significantly expand recreational pleasure for kids and adults by establishing a Pickleball program.

I came to the sport st 80 and know how important the sport can be for making new friends, coping with depression, having fun trying to master a new skill and staying physically health.

I had the pleasure of playing at the PAL Gym recently and met a whole group of lovely enthusiasts.

I hope you will find a way to make Pickleball widely available to the Richmond community. This can only be a win - win for the City.

Sincerely,

Lester Ellis
Piedmont, CA
925 999-5937

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Thea Kelley** <thea@theakelley.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 3:27 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to encourage you to support permanent, dedicated pickleball courts in Richmond. I've been playing pickleball for five years and every court I play at is consistently crowded. Permanent facilities at Booker T. Anderson Jr. Park would undoubtedly be very popular with residents of all ages, as well as non-residents like myself (I live in Albany and play at courts around the East Bay). Pickleball is very beneficial to the community, and there are currently no dedicated courts in Richmond.

Thank you for your support for this outstanding community activity.

Thea Kelley

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Connie Adachi** <connieadachi@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 3:15 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1"

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Cc: <darlenedrapkin@gmail.com>

I am writing to indicate my support for permanent pickle ball courts for the city of Richmond. I live in Oakland, and we have dedicated courts in Montclair, my neighborhood. It fosters community, helps us keep healthy, and has encouraged many pickle ball people to help clean up the nearby park during park cleanup days. Go pickle ball!

Connie adachi
5945 Harbord drive
Oakland ca 94611

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: <+15109289714@tmomail.net>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 3:09 PM

Subject:

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Please support the fast growing sport of Pickleball, enjoyed by folks across decades age-wise. Thank you!

T-Mobile

This message was sent to you by a T-Mobile wireless phone.

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Will Tams** <willtams@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 3:04 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission:

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond. It is a wonderful, Family friendly sport.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond!

Sincerely,

Will Tams

(510) 647-8043.

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Vtemple2002** <vtemple2002@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Subject: Public comment Item 9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Cc: Veronica -Temple <vtemple2002@yahoo.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission:

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond!

Respectfully,

Veronica Humphries

4088079799

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Jim Gierszewski** <horatio6003@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 2:58 PM

Subject: Public Comments – ITEM #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission:

I am emailing to show my utmost support for permanent, dedicated pickleball in Richmond. As a Richmond resident and pickleball player I urge you to install permanent pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson park and at additional parks in our city.

Please help us facilitate bringing pickleball to the people of Richmond!

Sincerely,

Jim Gierszewski

1645 Merced Street, 94804

510-206-4193

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Michelle Temple** <mdytemple@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 1:42 PM

Subject: Rec.Parks Commision Speaker - Item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec & Parks Commission Speaker:

I'm Michelle, a Richmond resident of 5 years and I can be reached at 4082211018.

Pickleball recently came to Richmond with a smash, immediately drawing in several hundreds of grassroots attendees that are regular, consistent players. Multiple times a week, people were setting up and taking down temporary nets and equipment in the pickleball lockbox for community use. Unfortunately, earlier this month, all of the new equipment was stolen in the theft of the entire lockbox at Booker T Anderson Park.

So we are in a pickle!

I wish I could explain over an email how much joy and unity the silly sport is bringing people all around and I just really think every little town and person deserves to have that opportunity to play together and get that feeling of pure joy and laughter. I've seen people young and old, pink and purple, of all dispositions and circumstances in life come together and play.

I have never in my life seen a sport unite people in such a grassroots manner, people playing together, consistently and bonding. Personally, I believe the sport has recently saved my 70-year-old mother's life from depression and loneliness sitting at home. Now every single weekday morning she wakes up excited to meet and play with her pickleball friends. This sport is helping ease the loneliness of so many. At the risk of sounding too hopeful, I really believe this sport is changing lives and saving lives . When I think of my neighbors here in the Bay Area, I wonder about the last time I've seen them happy, healthy, friendly, and united.

Please find it somewhere in your hearts to be generous with the people of Richmond and grant them a permanent and dedicated place to be happy together, play together, exercise together, smile together, and connect and care for one another. This is so lacking in our society nowadays. Please don't just relegate us to an undesirable area, with only mixed use or only temporary courts that can be stolen again. We want to play together, to connect, to be happy and free, even if it's for a moment chasing a pickleball around with the neighbors.

Sincerely,
Michelle

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Shoshana Grammer** <shoshanagrammer@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 12:18 PM

Subject: Rec Parks Commission speaker

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hi,

I would like the opportunity to voice my support for Pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson park at the meeting on December 1.

Shoshana Grammer
Marina Bay Resident since 1989

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **julie hess** <juliehess@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 11:39 AM

Subject: Public Comments – Item #9-1.

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hello!

I'm writing to urge you to build permanent pickleball courts in Richmond.

I have played pickleball there with the temporary nets and the people are just so nice and fun and to have a regular group of neighbors enjoy a park like that is what public spaces are all about.

I know you will make the right decision! Feel free to reach out with any questions or comments.

Thanks,

Julie Hess
510-393-9074

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Jo Scherich** <jotweety1@att.net>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 11:03 AM

Subject: Public Comment - Item #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

I am writing in favor of permanent pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson park. Pickleball has become such a popular sport and having places to play is difficult. We have to share courts with tennis players which is ridiculous. Having dedicated pickleball courts would be a gift you can give the hundreds of pickleball players in the greater Richmond area. We have proven there is a need for this at BTA park and we have funded it with our own fundraising efforts. It is time for the Recreation and Parks commission to embrace a pickleball as a recreation that is easily played and can be played by people from 7 to 97. Well 97 might be a stretch but I am 71 and play 2-3 times a week with a group and all of us are in our 60's and 70's.

Why is it so hard to embrace a new sport and support it? Be Bold. Tennis players have many courts and it is time for pickleball players to have access to dedicated pickleball courts.

Thank you.

Jo Ann Scherich

Richmond resident for 71 years

510.232.6695

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Debra Bernhardt** <debromi707@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 10:59 AM

Subject: Public comments-item #9-1.

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To : Rec.& Parks Commission Speaker,

I wholeheartedly support having 2 dedicated pickleball courts at Booker T Park in Richmond. I am not a Richmond resident but I live in Albany which is 10 minutes away from this beautiful park. I've been going to BTA since the grand opening day. Such a great community with good energy and socializing while playing this fun sport. I am a pickleball player for 7 years and it's improved the quality of my life in many ways.

Pickleball in Richmond can only make it a better,safer,happier place. There are MORE then ENOUGH tennis courts in Richmond. FYI since Picklball was started tennis players are not even playing at BTA. They seemed to have adjusted very well.The under utilization of the tennis BTA Is another great reason for convertinvg one tennis court to two dedivcated pb courts at BTA.

**Thank You,
Debra Bernhardt
510-295-7283**

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **rj pansino** <rjpansino@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 10:55 AM

Subject: Pickleball Permanent Court Support

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Good morning,

I'm writing to you in support of installing permanent pickleball courts in the Richmond community.

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in our nation, in part due to the large population of active seniors, who wish to continue being active, but are unable to participate in other court athletics i.e. tennis, due to the heavy impact on a player's body. Baby Boomers are one of the largest groups and with life spans extending into the super senior stage, staying active is an essential component to their health and wellness. The Richmond community has the responsibility for providing activities for all members, without limiting the senior population. And although pickleball is quite popular among seniors, there is also strong participation among the younger populations as well. Players extending from eight to 80 participate in this activity, extending a well-needed bridge between generations. The potential revenue for the City of Richmond is grand, making it affordable, accessible, and fun for all!

There is no downside to installing permanent courts. I ask you to consider your social responsibility and give this consideration. Thank you for your time and consideration.

rj pansino

510-323-5546

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Patrick** <pr.shannon11@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 9:36 AM

Subject: Public Comments – Item #9-1 Permanent Pickleball Courts

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec.& Parks Commission Speaker

Re: Item #9-1

I would like to advocate for permanent pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson Park in Richmond. I am a senior who learned to play pickleball at one of the free Saturday clinics at Booker T. Anderson and this sport has helped keep me active and socially engaged with a diverse and friendly group of neighbors. Try it and you'll love it.

Patrick Shannon

Cell: 510 501 6913

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Bob Bernhardt** <bobtasi2@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 10:42 PM

Subject: Public Comments – Item #9-1.

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Cc: Bob Bernhardt <bobtasi2@yahoo.com>

TO: Rec.& Parks Commission Speaker

I'm a resident of Albany. I'm primarily a tennis player but also play Pickleball. Pickleball is a sport that my wife and I enjoy and play together as a team. I like the more social nature of Pickleball and the quickness of the games. I do NOT like having to transport, set up and take down temporary nets; playing with a temporary net cheapens the experience. My wife and I have enjoyed playing Pickleball at Booker T Anderson park since the program there started. I really appreciate the efforts of Darlene Drapkin in making Pickleball happen at BTA. Given that there are no dedicated Pickleball courts in Richmond and the tennis courts at Booker T Anderson are underutilized, I strongly support the conversion of one of BTA's tennis courts to two dedicated Pickleball courts.

Sincerely,
Bob Bernhardt
510-295-7284
Item #9-1.

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Dori Maxon** <dorimaxon@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 5:02 PM

Subject: Public Comments - Item #9-1

To: Maryn Hurlbut <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

My name: Dori Maxon-

My phone number: - 510-851-1534

Item: #9-1

Resident of Richmond

To Whom it may concern,

I'm writing in favor of making permanent pickleball courts at Booker T Anderson. Lots of people were drawn to the lovely park and it's so unfortunate that the gear was stolen from the site.

Perhaps a permanent set up would work better.

Pickleball is great exercise for all ages and is fun and social. It brings together people who might not otherwise connect. I think it's a great option for Booker T Anderson. I also think putting lines on the tennis court behind the Plunge would allow more people to use that area as well.

Thanks,

Dori

Dori Maxon PT, MEd

Founder, Director

SNAPkids - Special Needs Aquatic Program

dori@snapkids.org

www.snapkids.org

DONATE TO SNAP!

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Lorraine Sommers** <lorrsomms@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 4:01 PM

Subject: Public Comments - Item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

To: Rec & Parks Commission Speaker

Hello! My name is Lorraine Sommers, my phone is 510-932-8455. My husband, Michael Sommers, and I moved from El Cerrito to Richmond 7 years ago.

We both play tennis with the Richmond Tennis Association. I heard about an introduction to Pickleball being offered at Booker T. Anderson park in March. I went there and enjoyed myself so much convinced my husband to go the next time it was offered and hooked him as well. We now play on a regular basis. We were very sorry the nets were taken from BTA, as that park is the closest to our house. I have never seen anyone use those courts for tennis, but it was FULL every Wednesday and Friday afternoon, as well as Saturday's. It would be SO wonderful to have dedicated PB courts at BTA! The City could generate a lot of revenue from those courts, I am sure.

Please consider this for the City of Richmond. You will not be sorry!!

Lorraine and Michael Sommers

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Avery Moore** <averybustamoore@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 12:58 PM

Subject: Request for permanent pickleball courts

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Hi! I live in Richmond and am writing to ask the city to please create more permanent pickleball courts. It is a fast growing sport that everyone can play and the demand for courts is here.

Thanks so much for all your work!

-Avery Moore
5105295468

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Don Lau** <dlau1969@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 9:28 AM

Subject: Pickle ball at BTA

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Commissioners:

I am a 40 plus year resident of Richmond and the former executive director of the West Contra Costa YMCA. Over the last few months, I have been directly involved with the local pickleball players and have seen the enthusiasm and numbers steadily grow with folks of all ages and ethnicity being involved. Unfortunately, we all have suffered an incredible setback with the recent theft of the secured lock box and equipment at BTA. It is now more important than ever that Richmond invest in permanent pickleball courts. A permanent court would provide pickleball players with a stable location to enjoy the sport and connect with fellow residents. I strongly urge you to invest in permanent pickleball courts. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Don Lau
17 Poeder Bowl Ct
Richmond
510-813-5170

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Cathy Taruskin** <cathytaruskin@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 9:09 AM

Subject: Public Comment: Item #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

TO: Rec.& Parks Commission Speaker

RE: ITEM #9-1

Please provide permanent pickleball nets at Booker T Anderson Park. The number of people who got the opportunity to play there in a short time, and the friendships that were made over that period are proof that Richmond residents want and deserve their own pickleball courts.

Unfortunately, having portable nets in a lockbox on site simply did not work, and the players were devastated when all the equipment was stolen. That can't happen again. Having permanent nets instead is the right direction to go.

I have donated to the fund for these nets. Please help us make it happen.

Thank you,
Cathy Taruskin
510-527-1739

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Megan Boell** <retiredmegan@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 8:38 AM

Subject: Public Comments – Item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

We have lived in Richmond for 21 years and were enjoying the new pickleball courts at Booker T. Anderson Park until the nets were stolen. There were tons of people playing and waiting to play. This easy to learn game is the fastest growing sport and good for all income levels as the cost to learn and play is very inexpensive or even free if we can get more loaner paddles and nets. It is clear there is no chance of storing anything out in the open without it being stolen. Installing permanent nets would serve many more people and encourage exercise for all ages. Our city needs more places for its community to safely participate in sports.

Thank you!

M and G Boell
510-289-6422
Item #9-1

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Leigh Gronet** <leigh.gronet@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 8:20 AM

Subject: Public Comments – Item #9-1

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

TO: Rec.& Parks Commission Speaker

I have been a resident of Richmond for 14 years. For the last two years, I've enjoyed playing Pickleball. It has expanded my social connections, my physical fitness, and my enjoyment of life. I've especially enjoyed playing Pickleball so close to home at Booker T. Anderson Park. It was devastating to lose our equipment, as I'd become a regular player there. I still play there, but I had to purchase and to bring my own net.

I'm writing in support of Item#9-1. Permanent courts would mean continued sustainable play. If the overhead lights could be in working order, that would be even better!

Thank you for your attention.

Leigh Gronet

163 Lakeshore Court, Richmond, CA

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: s kusano <mugsthree@hotmail.com>

Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 4:51 AM

Subject: Public Comments - Item #9-1

To: rec.parkscommission@gmail.com <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Cc: darlenedrapkin@gmail.com <darlenedrapkin@gmail.com>

To: Rec. & Parks Commission Speaker

I would like to have my comments included in discussions around Item #9-1 on the agenda.

I am a long-time Richmond resident who was saddened by the theft of the Pickleball box at Booker T. Anderson. I am older person who is fairly new to this game. Pickleball has allowed me meet new people, get outdoors, and participate in a sport where I get exercise. I was very excited to hear that BTA would be used for Pickleball. Prior to that, I had to travel to El Cerrito, Albany, or Oakland to play.

I am requesting that permanent Pickleball nets/courts be installed. This would give Pickleball enthusiasts a permanent place to play. Players would not have worry about our box being stolen (again) or rely on someone being there to set up nets, etc.

Thank you for considering my request.

Susan Kusano

510-283-5084

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

From: **Thom J Dougherty** <thomdougherty@me.com>

Date: Sun, Nov 28, 2021 at 9:30 PM

Subject: Booker T Anderson pickleball

To: <rec.parkscommission@gmail.com>

Thank you commissioners for listening to regular people and considering our quality of life. During the pandemic when we were all more isolated, riding a bicycle around the marina and seeing other people leading social lives, I knew that the bicycle as exercise was too solitary and I needed more personal interactions,

So—- pickleball.

Yes it's a lot of fun, social and healthy. I can put up with a lot of traffic driving to courts in Alameda and Piedmont, where they have great courts and are very kind and welcoming, but I prefer to save the gas and play in Richmond or El Cerrito. I love the park at Booker T Anderson. I can ride my bike there. It was exciting when we had six nets to set up and lots of folks to play with.

Short-lived. It would be so much better to have permanent nets set up like the other towns have and to be able to build community right here while also having fun and exercising. If you could help us get there, you would see it grow into something that anchors us to this place.

Thank you,

Thom Dougherty, an artist and retired art teacher.

thomdougherty@me.com

(928) 301-7325

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

JEREMIAH MCMAHON	1
MARCIA GEE RILEY	2
MARIANA RUSA	3
ABIGAIL MONTEJO	4
KAREN MOSS	5
ALAN KAPLAN	6
LAURA COOKSEY	7
P K CHUNG	8
ROSARIO YSIP	8
JOHN LISENKO	10
MARY CRABB	11
RICHARD CHAN	12
MARY FOLEY	13
GEORGE V IDANIKOS@GMAIL.COM	14
BETHMCONKLIN@GMAIL.COM	15
PAT ARMER	16
IVONNE PALMA HUTT	17
PAULINA FLINT	18
LORNA MURDOCK	19

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

RASAD@GMAIL.COM	21
SHERYL ALEXANDER	22
BILL POWNING	23
BROOKE DEPUTY	24
KELLY CHIEN	25
GENOVEVA CALLOWAY	26
CRISTINA SUTINENGONZALES	27
KAKI LOGAN	28
MICHELE MCGEOY	29
SHAWN DUNNING	30
DIANA AGUILAR	31
HERB RIFFKIN	32
JEANNA MIELCAREK	33
NANCY HESTER	34
CONNIE WONG	35
PAT KASPAR	36
PHILLIP MOSS	37
KEN TREIGER	38
LOUIE, EDWARD (LAW) EWL3@PGE.COM	39

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

CURIOUS EXPLORERS ACADEMY INFO@CURIOUSEXPLORERSACADEMY.COM	41
KARLA SUOMALA	42
PK CHUNG	43
KENNE LINDGREN	44
MONICA NOWAKOWSKI	45
DIANE HARRIS	46
GABRIELE BAY	47
PAT KASPAR	48
BRANDON R. GATES	49
LESTER ELLIS	50
THEA KELLEY	51
CONNIE ADACHI	52
15109289714@TMOMAIL.NET	53
WILL TAMS	54
VTEMPLE2002 VTEMPLE2002@YAHOO.COM	55
JIM GIERSZEWSKI	56
MICHELLE TEMPLE	57
SHOSHANA GRAMMER	58
JULIE HESS	59

Comments to Item 9-1: Pickleball Program

JO SCHERICH	60
DEBRA BERNHARDT	61
RJ PANSINO	62
PATRICK PR.SHANNON11@GMAIL.COM	63
BOB BERNHARDT	64
DORI MAXON	65
LORRAINE SOMMERS	66
AVERY MOORE	67
DON LAU	68
CATHY TARUSKIN	69
MEGAN BOELL	70
LEIGH GRONET	71
S KUSANO	72
THOM J DOUGHERTY	73