From: Greta Watson
To: Public Comments
Subject: More messages against the Baseline club that Zac didn"t include
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 11:58:09 AM

Here are more messages that Zac didn't include in your packet:

The petition that Zac did include had over 70 signatures so far, all from currently playing tennis players. If given more time, we could probably double or treble that. Most tennis players are adamant about this small group not getting preferential treatment.

Hi Zac,

I thought that Dan's response was pretty revealing: they don't want to wait for a court. They want special treatment. We all have to wait for a court at some time. They should not be exempt. The more I learn about them, the more I am upset about their wish for preferential treatment where none should be granted.

I talked to one of the Pickleball club members, who mentioned that Rick had come to them and asked for and copied their bylaws. Also, pretty revealing. While the Pickleball club seems to be a real club, the Baseline club seeks only to avoid waiting for courts. The Pickleball club has a website, consists of more than 60% of the area pickleball players, has teaching pros who play pickleball, and is well organized. Although I'm not in agreement with their being allowed to have reserved courts, it seems they have a plan, and that can't be said of the Baseline group.

It makes sense now that two pickle ball players on Saturday August 13 morning tried to come on the tennis court to use it for pickleball. It was during the pickleball time reserved for club members only. I guess the two guys didn't want to shell out the $60 annual fee so they could play then. I had to call the police before they decided to leave. If the Baseline group gets their way, then tennis players will be displaced. And we can't just go on the pickleball courts and take them over. We have no recourse.

I hope this play for preferential treatment in avoiding waiting for a court gets shot down pretty fast! It is just plain selfish of these players, and should not be considered further.

Hi Zac,

While running errands this morning, I stopped by Memorial Park and noticed only two courts were in use. Joao, a member of Baseline club, was hitting against a ball machine on one. He and I chatted for a couple minutes, and he did not know about the attempt of the club leaders to allow them to reserve courts. He also mentioned that Sundays were the most problematic for them to get courts.

My questions is, wouldn't it hurt tennis for them to get weekend reservations because that's the time when families go out and play tennis with their kids?

A PickleBall Member sent this to me:

Rick Partridge approached the GVPC (Grass Valley Pickleball Club) asking us to support him in his efforts to launch a tennis club.
We declined.
We want to be like Switzerland.
Neutral.
But GVPC sees 2 glaring problems with our understanding of what the tennis club is proposing.
First
Our GVPC membership is very large.

Most people who play pickle ball within a 15 mile radius of Memorial Park belong to GVPC.
It is not a select few.
Second
Pickle ball is nothing like tennis.
Pickle ball is 4 people playing a 15 minute game.
When it's over
We get off the court
We have a sign up board and the next group goes out.
We intermingle and have fun.
Tennis is 6 game set, win by 2, or go to a tie breaker.
It takes a lot of time.
So no, GVPC does not support the tennis club and we wish to remain neutral enjoying our excellent cooperation with the park department.

Hi Zac,

Do you have any clue when the City Council will be addressing the so-called "Baseline Club" request to reserve courts?

Today at Memorial Park, I talked to a couple of tennis singles players who have been playing at Pioneer Park as well as Memorial Park. They said that they're always having to remove pickle ball markings from the tennis courts at Pioneer. And, there are pickle ball markings on both upper and lower courts at Memorial Park. I haven't been to Mautino Park lately so don't know about that.

Apparently, the non-members of the Pickle Ball Club want to play during the club-reserved times as well, and have resorted to marking up and playing on the tennis courts. I hope that the two new pickle ball courts at Memorial Park be considered as open play and no reservations to be allowed. That would allow the non-members at least a chance to play pickle ball when the other courts are reserved by the club.

On to tennis. After I played on Memorial Park lower courts this morning, I went to the upper courts to see what was going on. The two singles players on the near court said they'd be done soon. I told them I wasn't looking for a court, just to ask a question. The four on the far court, members of the Baseline Club, butted in and asked what question. Answer: "Have you seen and read the green blurb?" At that point, I started explaining to the two on the near court, at which time the four on the other court, including Dan's wife, came over to "educate" me. When I ignored them and continued with the two nearby, the four said I was wrong and they didn't want the two to sign the petition. Fortunately, the two on the near court did listen to me and signed the petition that Brenda has set up.

Again, the four on the far court are singing the same refrain as the others I've met in their so-called club: it's hard for us to get two courts without us being allowed to reserve. They think they are entitled to do that, and it doesn't matter to them that they are getting a privilege the rest of us don't get. They think they are not being privileged or elitist. Who are they kidding?

And, then there's one other thing: to be in that so-called club, you have to pay dues. The two non-Baseline players on the other court said that you shouldn't have to pay to play on public courts, and they were against the reservation system as well.

P.S. I call it the "so-called ... club" because the bylaws are copied from the Pickle Ball Bylaws; there does not appear to be a website; nor have I heard of a way to sign up for the "club"; and they claim not to have set up reservation hours. I've heard from others that they want the prime-time hours of all morning on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Not good!

Hi Zac,

Today I was taking a lesson and saw a couple of friends in the parking lot. I stopped my lesson and ran out to the parking lot to talk to these friends and apprise them of what the so-called baseline club is trying to do: make reservations on public courts. When I got my petition out, one of the players on the other court (Rick Partridge) came running out and immediately accused me of having wrong information, without listening. When I told him he was wrong, and went on with talking to my friends, he went back to his group and said I was spreading lies about their group.

The two women were happy to sign. As soon as I mentioned that the so-called club was trying to be allowed to get reservations, the two women said that it just wasn't right. Nobody should be able to get reservations on a public court, and both signed the petition.

I came back to my lesson, and once again, Rick and his friends started attacking me, and saying I don't know what I'm talking about. They were quite rude. I was rude right back. I'm sick of being accosted and accused of wrongdoing when I'm not doing anything wrong! Anyway the nasty words flew both ways. This needs to stop!

The only way it will stop is if the so-called club does not get to reserve courts. Each time they accost me they tell a different story. First it was 10-12 people, and they wanted three mornings a week, Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday. Next it was 25 people. Now it's 30 and they say they only want one morning a week. Frankly, I'm tired of their lies. Dan, Dan's wife, and now Rick, seem to be the ringleaders of this hostility.

I spoke to a couple of them, Joao and Beatrice, after all had finished playing. I told the two players that I had read the bylaws, been in contact with you, Dan, and others, and that I was interested in two things: that they wanted to make reservations, and that they charge a membership fee. That would make them a privileged group. Even if their membership is growing a few people at a time, they're not contributing to tennis. They are just recruiting tennis players who are already playing tennis, so it sounds like they're doing something for tennis.

If any group can get reservations based on nothing but desire to be able to do so, then maybe the rest of us should petition the city to do the same. It would lead to chaos, and be completely against what public tennis courts have always been: first-come first-served. It has worked for the 23 years I've lived here. Reservations and fees are not needed! Don't fix what isn't broken. This is not pickle ball.

This group has now accosted me two times, and tries to turn it around saying I accosted them. I want them to leave me alone! I want to play tennis without being accosted and called names. And I want to have the right to ask if people have read the green blurb without being attacked.

Hi Zac,

I'm glad I stopped by and talked with you. It's always nice to put a face to someone with whom one has been communicating.

Something you said about a possible testing arrangement of court usage made me think of something I believe in: trust but verify.

The club should provide a membership list at each checkpoint, with the experience in months and years of each member and that member's self-assessment of level of play. If they group is actually growing the game, the numbers should increase, players new to tennis should show up, and level of play should increase to a certain point. Everyone tops out sometime.

Hi Zac,

I have never heard of a tennis facility, whether private or public, allowing a permanent reservation by a player or group of players. Reservations have been possible only if that player or group did not have any other reservations pending, and only up to a few days ahead of the reservation date. In addition, players reserving on public courts have had to pay a fee.

For example, public facility Cuesta Park in Mountain View accepts reservations on two courts (of the 35 public courts in Mountain View). Court fees for reservations depend on whether one lives in Mountain View and upon time of day, and range from $11/hour to $15/hour, with light fees an additional $5, and can be made up to a week in advance.

In every public facility that I have played on across the USA, if reservations are possible and a fee charged, that facility has had an employee on site at all times the courts were open for play.