



**Wilmette Park District**  
**Centennial Committee Meeting**  
Monday, August 2, 2021  
5:00 p.m. – Village Hall Training Room

## AGENDA

- I. Meeting Called to Order:  
Members of Committee:  
Commissioner Michael Murdock, Chair  
Commissioner Patrick Duffy  
Commissioner Allison Frazier  
Staff:  
Superintendent Emily Guynn  
Superintendent Kristi Solberg
- II. Approval of Minutes  
A. July 12, 2021
- III. Communications and Correspondence
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Unfinished Business  
A. Pickleball Court Discussion  
B. Paddle Deck Expansion Discussion
- VI. New Business
- VII. Managers' Reports
- VIII. Next Meeting – September 7, 2021
- IX. Adjournment

*If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations to participate in or attend a Wilmette Park District meeting, please notify the Director's Office at 847-256-6100.*

## **Wilmette Park District** **Policy for Public Comment**

The Board of Park Commissioners, in its regular or special meetings, is a deliberative body assembled to make decisions on new and pending matters affecting the District. Park Board and Committee meetings are meetings held in public, not a public meeting. The Board invites both oral and written communications from its residents.

To facilitate the conduct of Board/Committee meetings, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A section of each regular meeting is set aside for public comment and will be noted on the agenda as "Recognition of Visitors."
2. During the "Recognition of Visitors" agenda item, audience members should raise their hands and be recognized by the President/Chairperson prior to speaking.
3. When recognized by the President/Chairperson, each audience member should identify themselves and limit speaking to no more than three (3) minutes, unless additional time is granted by the President/Chairperson.
4. Questions are to be directed to the entire Board/Committee.
5. Park Board members may, by addressing the President/Chairperson, interrupt a presenter to obtain clarification and/or further information.
6. A Board/Committee meeting is not a forum for complaints against individual employees. Such matters are handled by directly contacting the Executive Director. Complaints against the Executive Director should be handled by directly contacting the President of the Board of Park Commissioners.
7. During presentation and discussion of agenda items, the President/Chairperson will not recognize speakers in the audience unless the Board/Committee desires additional information from an audience member.
8. When addressing the Board/Committee, all persons permitted to speak shall confine their remarks to the matter at hand and avoid personal remarks, the impugning of motives, and merely contentious statements. If any person indulges in such remarks or otherwise engages in conduct injurious to the civil discourse of the Board/Committee and the meeting, the President/Chairperson may immediately terminate the opportunity to speak. This decision is at the discretion of the President/Chairperson or upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the park board commissioners present.
9. Any person, except a member of the Board, who engages in disorderly conduct during a meeting, may be ejected from the meeting upon motion passed by a majority of the Board present.



## WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT Centennial Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 12, 2021

5:30 p.m. – Village Hall Training Room

### Present

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Commissioners/Committee: Chair Mike Murdock, Patrick Duffy, Allison Frazier  
Staff: Emily Guynn, Kristi Solberg

Additional Staff: Director Steve Wilson, Catherine Serbin, Joseph Sanchez and Jason Stanislaw

Visitors: Mary Lark, Alan Golden, Walter Keats, Alexis Keto

### Absent

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None

### I. Meeting Called to Order

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Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.

### II. Approval of Minutes

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#### A. June 14, 2021

Commissioner Frazier moved and Commissioner Duffy seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 Centennial Committee meeting.

By a unanimous voice vote; **motion carried.**

### III. Communications and Correspondence

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Commissioner Murdock acknowledged correspondence from Jeff Toth in regards to an indoor pool, which the Committee may discuss under Committee goals.

### IV. Public Comment

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Director Wilson facilitated public comment. The Attendance Record will become part of the permanent record.

Walter Keats – He suggested the Committee name remain Facilities. Commissioner Murdock responded that the Board Manual only identifies a Centennial Committee. From a practical standpoint, it is simply nomenclature. Commissioner Murdock agreed in that Facilities is a more informative name as this Committee includes paddle tennis and potentially pickleball in the future.

### V. Committee Scope and Responsibilities

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Commissioner Murdock stated the discussion by noting Commissioner Frazier had suggested at last month's meeting that this Committee establish policies, procedures and criteria for community input. He then asked her if this goal was appropriate for this Committee or if it would be more appropriate for the Financial Planning and Policy Committee or the full Board. Commissioner Frazier rephrased

her goal as the process of vetting of new ideas and community input specifically. She stated the community input is a big component of vetting new ideas and as this is a Committee that also houses recreational programming, she would like to see new ideas vetted through it.

Commissioner Duffy stated he believes that would be a goal better suited for the Financial Planning and Policy Committee as opposed to this Committee as it can encompass all Committees. Commissioner Frazier agreed and stated she has brought this up at every Committee meeting because she believes this to be an important goal. Commissioner Murdock stated that this vetting process and the process of community engagement are priorities that the Board will take up over the year; the question is whether this is an appropriate goal for this Committee. Commissioner Frazier stated that she would like this listed as a goal until the Financial Planning and Policy Committee adopts it. She stated the framework that she has previously discussed is very broad and intended to empower staff to take control and present thoroughly vetted ideas. It was ultimately decided that this goal be directed to the Financial Planning and Policy Committee.

Commissioner Murdock noted that Commissioner Duffy has previously listed pool deck expansion as a goal. Commissioner Duffy stated he would like to focus specifically on what this Committee is responsible for and that he has seen a need for deck expansion. Commissioner Frazier added she would like to see the space redefined such as cubbies on the outside of the pool facility. She would also like to see event space. Commissioner Duffy noted that on a busy day, all of the pool chairs are taken except the ones on the hill – which are hard to sit on due to the angle of the hill. Commissioner Murdock suggested that this goal read to increase the deck space, the storage spaces for users and event space at the pool. Director Wilson suggested that since the Village is going to be digging out Thornwood Park to put the underground storage vaults in, instead of hauling the dirt off-site it could be used to level the deck area. Commissioner Frazier asked if this would impact garden space. Commissioner Murdock stated that conversation is premature.

Commissioner Murdock added that this Committee had listed taking advantage of grant opportunities and identifying projects that are shovel ready as a goal. It was unanimously decided that this goal is better suited for the Financial Planning and Policy Committee.

Establishing a pickleball facility, including courts and programming was also confirmed as a Committee goal.

Commissioner Murdock suggested that the Committee begin planning for a replacement pool facility with the possibility of additional amenities, such as indoor swimming, rowing and fitness. Director Wilson clarified that standalone indoor pool facilities in the Chicagoland area are difficult to make work financially unless there is a synergy with some other type of facility – often times, a fitness center. Commissioner Murdock reworded the goal to read that this Committee begin planning for the replacement of the pool facility.

Commissioner Murdock further suggested that the Committee explore the possibility of an additional sheet of coolant-supported ice, whether that be indoor or outdoor. Commissioner Frazier revised the goal to state that the Committee begin strategic planning for Centennial facilities update to include tennis.

It was decided that addressing paddle capacity also be a Committee goal.

There was subsequent discussion as to whether a community needs survey should be included as a goal for this Committee as well. It was suggested that this conversation be taken offline for discussion between the Centennial Committee Chair, the Parks and Recreation Chair and the Executive Director. Director Wilson stated that a needs assessment survey must come from the full Board to the entire community and those responses would then be directed to the appropriate Committee.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

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None

## **VII. New Business**

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### **A. Centennial Family Aquatic Center 2021 Operational Update**

Jason Stanislaw, the Centennial Recreation Complex General Manager, advised that there was a robust set of data included in this month's Committee packet. He stated that staff built a pool schedule based on existing usage data to balance some higher net producing activities with some lower net producing activities to make the pool financially sustainable regardless of inclement weather. Staff has adjusted to the needs of the community by increasing public access to the main pool. He then opened the floor up for questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Frazier stated she is happy with the increased public access and commended staff on their ability to adapt. Commissioner Duffy asked if the data staff relied on was collected during the pandemic. Superintendent Guynn advised that one of the main takeaways from last year is that there is a large dedicated lap swim community as over 700 unique users used the lap swim pool last year. To date in 2021, there are over 450 unique users. Staff does not have 10 years' worth of historical data to go off regarding lap swimmers. She stated the closest comparison would be early morning public swim time because youth aren't in the pool at that time. Commissioner Duffy asked if people are paying during public swim to use lap swim. Superintendent Guynn advised that not during public swim. When there are eight lanes open for public, two are reserved for lap lanes, which is what has been done historically. Commissioner Duffy asked how many of the unique users have revisited the pool since their initial visit. He also expressed frustration at change in the lap swim hours and the fee associated with lap swim reservations. Commissioner Murdock stated that he struggled with the New Trier lap swim times and Commissioner Duffy noted that it seems they get more lap swim time than the public. Commissioner Murdock stated he felt uncomfortable that New Trier is allocated prime time hours for swim practice. Superintendent Guynn advised that the time New Trier is using it is mid-morning from 8:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon it is shared use

with public swim. Staff felt that it was a reasonable balance between the public and New Trier Aquatics to share public swim on those days. She stated the most important thing to staff is giving as many people access to the pool as possible. Commissioner Murdock then asked if there was a dedicated camp swim time in the past and Superintendent Guynn advised there was not. She stated that she is hoping this year will serve to guide more improvements to next year, whether that is a lap swim pass or a variation of a pool pass. Commissioner Duffy stated that he would like increased access for dedicated lap swim and the lap swim fee removed. Director Wilson advised that staff would like the opportunity to take the data and create pass options and structures for a lap only versus an all-access pass, similar to that at the golf course. Commissioner Duffy then suggested that a survey go out to capture more than just the pool user data. He also spoke briefly about Northwestern's lap swim program. Director Wilson advised that while lap swim reservations have become an unintended consequence of the pandemic they have also become a revenue generator to the tune of approximately \$100,000 and something that operationally, is hard to cast aside knowing that there is pressure to fund new projects. He stated that there is a lot of demand from different groups to use this facility and that staff is doing their best to balance them all.

Commissioner Murdock thanked the staff for their data driven approach and stated he appreciated their thoughtfulness. He also noted that that capacity levels seem to be back to normal but questioned why the camp swim time occurs during prime public swim hours. Superintendent Guynn advised that staff wanted to make it as safe as possible for the campers and that swim lessons occur during the day.

#### **B. Pickleball Court Discussion – Deferred**

It was agreed that this conversation be deferred until all of the results of the community survey are in. Commissioner Frazier asked if the e-mail survey is sent to only the head of the household. Superintendent Guynn clarified that this survey has not yet been sent to the full community. Staff has only sent it to residents within the YourCourts reservation system for the outdoors tennis courts, which is only 1,800 residents. She also clarified that when larger surveys go out, they are sent to the primary household e-mail address. She suggested that residents call and verify their e-mail addresses.

Superintendent Guynn advised that staff has received 396 survey responses out of the 1,100 that were opened. The majority of people who responded to the survey were between 40 to 60 years old. It was about 50/50 when respondents were asked if they currently play pickle. Most of the respondents were beginner or intermediate players. The majority of the people who do play, responded they play weekly. As far as the reasons why people are not playing, most respondents answered no convenient court locations. A majority of people who do not currently play pickleball stated they would be interested in starting. In terms of a preferred location, Centennial and West Park were well liked amongst the respondents. Superintendent Guynn noted that in the comments that Vatmann was mentioned quite a bit but staff does not feel comfortable with that as a location due to the lack of parking. Respondents were also fearful of losing existing paddle courts and tennis courts.

### C. Paddle Deck Expansion – Deferred

Commissioner Murdock advised that this was budgeted in 2020 and was deferred due to capital cutbacks associated with the pandemic. He stated that this facility is above capacity and having some outdoor space to accommodate for this season is critical in his mind. The conversation was tabled until next month.

## VIII. Managers' Reports

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Jason Stanislav, the Centennial Recreation Complex General Manager, Reported:

- Natalie Liang, the Figure Skating Supervisor, has resigned for the Glenview Park District. Her last day of work will be July 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Wilmette Hockey contract for 2021-22 season is almost finalized.
- Carrie Kolles, the Racquet Sports Supervisor, resigned and her last day was June 25, 2021. Staff is currently working on finding her replacement.
- The league has granted the Park District three additional men's teams for a total of 24 teams. He stated we are significantly oversold for the number of courts. Commissioner Murdock stated that according to league rules, the Park District is only entitled to 18 teams based on the six courts and noted this is a capacity issue we need to address.
- In regards to women's paddle, a team that left our facility for Glenbrook last season is coming back. There are six women's daytime teams.

## IX. Next Meeting

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The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 9, 2021.

## X. Adjournment

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There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Frazier moved and Commissioner Duffy seconded a motion to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting at 6:29 p.m.

By voice vote; **motion carried.**

Minutes Approved on: TBD

Respectfully Submitted,

*Catherine Serbin*

Catherine Serbin  
Executive Administrative Assistant

**From:** [Allison Frazier](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#)  
**Cc:** [Catherine Serbin](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [external] Pool hours  
**Date:** Monday, July 26, 2021 6:30:23 AM

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Please read below. Catherine, for inclusion in Centennial packet.  
Thanks,

Alli Frazier  
Park Board Commissioner 2021-2025  
Wilmette Park District  
[afrazier@wilpark.org](mailto:afrazier@wilpark.org)  
<http://www.wilmettepark.org/>

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jamie Dennis <jdennis79@gmail.com>  
**Date:** July 25, 2021 at 9:57:11 PM CDT  
**To:** Allison Frazier <afrazier@wilpark.org>  
**Subject:** [external] Pool hours

Hello Ali,

Hope all is well and you are having a great summer! I am hoping you can bring the following feedback up to the Wilmette Park Board.

One of the main reasons my family loves Wilmette in the summertime is the fabulous facilities at Centennial Pool. I have three young children ages 2, 7 and 11 who all love to swim. This summer I have found the hours to be extremely limiting for usage and very disappointed by the late opening time. I am aware that the wading pool is open in the mornings but where does that leave my two older children. By the time the pool finally opens at 1:00 my youngest needs to head home for a nap leaving us nearly no convenient times to all enjoy the pool together. Today the temperature was 90 degrees, it seems crazy to wait until 1:00 for some relief. Also worth noting, my 7 year old daughter is severely disabled and the beach is simply not a reasonable option for her. I have spoken with many families on this issue and many agree open time is way too late!

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Jamie Dennis  
773-206-1154  
Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Mike Murdock](#)  
**To:** [Catherine Serbin](#)  
**Cc:** [Steve Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [external] Pool Hours  
**Date:** Friday, July 23, 2021 8:16:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Sebor, Stephanie" <SSebor@winston.com>  
**Date:** July 22, 2021 at 9:24:37 AM CDT  
**To:** Mike Murdock <mmurdock@wilpark.org>  
**Subject:** [external] Pool Hours

President Murdock,

I request that the Park Board consider expanding the hours of operation for the activity pool on weekends. It would be appreciated if the activity pool could be open by 10:00 on Saturday and Sunday mornings. I believe that prior to the pandemic, the activity pool was open by at least 11:00 on weekend mornings. My young children take afternoon naps at 1:00, and it would be helpful to have activity pool hours available in the mornings on the weekends.

I appreciate your consideration and attention to this matter.

Regards,

Stephanie Sebor  
2040 Chestnut Ave.

**Stephanie Sebor**

**Partner**

Winston & Strawn LLP

D: +1 312-558-7341

[winston.com](http://winston.com)



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**From:** [Patrick Duffy](#)  
**To:** [Linda Jackson](#)  
**Cc:** [Steve Wilson](#); [Emily Guynn](#); [Jason Stanislaw](#); [Catherine Serbin](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [external] Pool Policies in 2021  
**Date:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 8:15:02 AM

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Les,

I have been asking for this change since the pool opened up to full capacity this summer. I agree with everything you have stated in your email.

I have copied Steve Wilson (Executive Director) and Emily Guynn (Superintendent of Recreation) as well as Jason Stanislaw (Centennial Rec. Complex GM), Mike Murdock and Ali Frazier (fellow Commissioners on Centennial Committee) so they are aware of your sentiments. You are not alone.

With your voice and others of the same concern I hope to change this policy. It feels like a shameless money grab.

Your email will be added to the next Centennial Committee meeting packet and will create more conversation on the topic.

Thank you for your time and concern. Hopefully this changes soon as I used to swim at Centennial as well and now do not due to this policy.

- Patrick  
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 27, 2021, at 4:44 PM, Linda Jackson <lmapj@yahoo.com> wrote:

TO: Patrick Duffy, Wilmette Park Board

RE: Pool Policies in 2021

DATE: July 27, 2021

I would like to express my objections to the way lap swimming is set up this summer. In 2020, with Covid restrictions, the reserve-and-pay-as-you-go system was understandable. I was surprised that the pool did not go back to pre-Covid rules and membership in 2021.

Here are my reasons for disliking the current system you have set up. I am an avid swimmer and like to swim 5-6 times a week. So, for me, the cost to swim at Centennial is ridiculous. Considering a summer of 12 weeks and a per visit

cost of \$9, this adds up to \$45-\$54 per week and a whopping \$540-\$648 for the summer. And this is before considering my wife, as she wants to lap swim as well. Ultimately my wife has decided not to swim at Centennial this summer thanks to your policies and extreme costs.

We are 35-year Wilmette residents who have been pool and beach members for most of our time in Wilmette. The current cost structure is punishing to us and to all lap swimmers in our same situation. It seems immoral for the park board to be money grabbing from residents that pay plenty of taxes to the park district. In 2019, I believe my wife and I paid under \$200 for a pool membership, and now, if we both want to lap swim all summer, we could face a charge of over \$1,000. Do you see the problem here? We, as residents, are very unhappy about this setup.

Aside from cost, there is the additional problem of a lack of flexibility in lap swimming times. Working people may encounter extended meetings, work deadlines, or unexpected traffic. It is difficult to arrive at the pool for my exact reservation time. If I don't get to the pool by my reservation time of 5:00, then I still have to pay but I don't get a full swim in. In the past, I was able to stop by the pool after work at any time and get my much-anticipated exercise for the day.

Another concern I have is the fact that lap swimming has no lifeguards on duty in the main pool. If a swimmer gets a cramp, has a heart attack, or suffers any other health issue, there is no lifeguard there to provide immediate help. Sure, most lap swimmers are in reasonable shape, but lifeguards should be on duty for the unexpected event. How can you be overlooking this risk?

Also, I want you to know that while swimming one day, some young kids ran over to the main pool and jumped in, assuming they were allowed to be there. Kids in main pool...no lifeguards...big risk!

As a big fan of the pool and a resident of Wilmette, I ask you to re-consider your pool policies to be more inclusive. Why segregate people into swimming at a scheduled time? Why not allow families to enjoy the pool together, letting everyone choose their pool activity when they are at the pool? Please show some understanding to the families of the community who would like to enjoy the Aquatic Center together and at an affordable price.

In summary, why does it have to be so complicated? Go back to the pre-Covid model and stop overcharging people (especially residents) for a swim.

Sincerely,

Les Jackson  
701 Forest Avenue  
Wilmette

**From:** [Mike Murdock](#)  
**To:** [Catherine Serbin](#); [Steve Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [external] RE: Wilmette Pickleball  
**Date:** Friday, August 6, 2021 12:02:01 PM

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FYI

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**From:** Ted Martin [[ted@martinpartners.com](mailto:ted@martinpartners.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 05, 2021 10:46 AM  
**To:** Dan McGuire; Jim Blomberg  
**Cc:** Mike Murdock; Tom G; Jeffrey Brody; Chip Sterrett; Mitchell Cohen; Thomas S. Bridges; Nersesian, John; Todd Grover; Sharon Grover; David Clarkson  
**Subject:** [external] RE: Wilmette Pickleball

Mike,

Pickle is the next Bowling in America! In the next ten years, Pickle is anticipated to overtake bowling as the largest participation sport in the country. It is healthier than bowling, plus you can't bowl outside (the gutter gets clogged with leaves in the Fall and Snow in the winter). Get ahead of the curve and build indoor and outdoor!

Thanks for your support,

Ted

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Theodore B. Martin, Jr.  
Martin Partners, LLC  
312-848-9387 - Cell  
[ted@martinpartners.com](mailto:ted@martinpartners.com)  
<http://www.martinpartners.com>

**From:** [Mike Murdock](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#); [Catherine Serbin](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [external] Re: Wilmette Pickleball  
**Date:** Friday, August 6, 2021 12:05:30 PM

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Fyi

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jeffrey Brody <litigatorsinc@msn.com>  
**Date:** August 5, 2021 at 3:47:06 PM CDT  
**To:** Ted Martin <ted@martinpartners.com>, Dan McGuire <danj\_mcguire@yahoo.com>, Jim Blomberg <jblomberg511@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Mike Murdock <mmurdock@wilpark.org>, Tom G <thomaspgates@gmail.com>, Chip Sterrett <rcsterrett@hotmail.com>, Mitchell Cohen <mhcpd1@gmail.com>, "Thomas S. Bridges" <Tom.Bridges@cibc.com>, "Nersesian, John" <John.Nersesian@pimco.com>, Todd Grover <todd.grover@comcast.net>, Sharon Grover <sdgcounseling@gmail.com>, David Clarkson <dclarkson623@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** [external] **Re: Wilmette Pickleball**

Mike, All the tennis courts in warm weather states like Florida are being transformed to pickle courts. At MSC people play pickle and paddle side by side. I don't think any of the paddle player care about any noise from the pickle players. Paddle players notice that pickle players seem to be having more fun than themselves and seem to inquire and want to try the sport themselves. People are leaving Wilmette to play in other villages where they end up spending their money for lunch or dinner in the corresponding towns. Do it for the great people and businesses of Wilmette. Do it for America.

Jeffrey A. Brody  
Litigators Incorporated, P.C.

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**From:** [Mike Murdock](#)  
**To:** [Catherine Serbin](#); [Steve Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [external] Re: Wilmette Pickleball  
**Date:** Friday, August 6, 2021 12:01:04 PM

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**From:** Mike Murdock  
**Sent:** Friday, August 06, 2021 9:45 AM  
**To:** Mhm  
**Subject:** Fwd: [external] Re: Wilmette Pickleball

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Dan McGuire <danj\_mcguire@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** August 4, 2021 at 10:17:22 PM CDT  
**To:** Jim Blomberg <jblomberg511@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Mike Murdock <mmurdock@wilpark.org>, Tom G <thomaspgates@gmail.com>, Jeffrey Brody <litigatorsinc@msn.com>, Chip Sterrett <rcsterrett@hotmail.com>, Mitchell Cohen <mhcpd1@gmail.com>, "Thomas S. Bridges" <Tom.Bridges@cibc.com>, Ted Martin <ted@martinpartners.com>, "Nersesian, John" <John.Nersesian@pimco.com>, Todd Grover <todd.grover@comcast.net>, Sharon Grover <sdgcounseling@gmail.com>, David Clarkson <dclarkson623@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** [external] Re: Wilmette Pickleball

Mike,

It's the fastest growing sport in America so getting courts opportunistic. Jim laid out some very good points. There will be leagues up by next summer as some clubs have already started to organize. I also think the indoor idea is a very good one as well.

Good luck!

Dan

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Patrick Duffy](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#); [Catherine Serbin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [external] re: Wilmette pickleball  
**Date:** Saturday, August 7, 2021 12:16:28 PM

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Please include in next Centennial Committee packet.

Thanks,

Patrick Duffy

Commissioner  
Wilmette Board of Parks

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**From:** Mitch Cohen [mcohen@rudacohen.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 06, 2021 5:09 PM  
**To:** Mike Murdock  
**Cc:** Julia Goebel; Cecilia Clarke; Patrick Duffy; Allison Frazier; Kara Kosloskus  
**Subject:** [external] re: Wilmette pickleball

Hello All,

I have been playing pickleball for the past two years. Unfortunately, I have had to drive to Northfield, Northbrook or Highland Park to play. There are many players in Wilmette like myself, who would like to see courts in our hometown. It is a very fast growing sport and extremely fun to play. It would be wonderful to have courts here; they would be used all the time. Please consider either building new courts or converting some tennis courts to full time pickleball courts. The other nearby suburbs have already done this and there are active groups who play on them all the time.

Thanks very much for your consideration.

Mitchell Cohen  
226 Woodbine Ave.



**From:** [Mike Murdock](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#); [Catherine Serbin](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [external] Pickleball !!!  
**Date:** Saturday, August 7, 2021 11:13:03 AM

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Please add to the supplement for the centennial committee Monday. Thx

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Paul Kopecki <pkopecki21@gmail.com>  
**Date:** August 7, 2021 at 9:09:29 AM CDT  
**To:** Mike Murdock <mmurdock@wilpark.org>  
**Cc:** Tom Gates <thomaspgates@gmail.com>, Jim Blomberg <jblomberg511@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** [external] Pickleball !!!

Mike, just wanted to weigh in on the pickleball "referendum"...

The Kopecki's (34 year residents of Wilmette at 2510 Greenwood) and our circle of pickle addicts have been playing pickle for almost 5 years now. It's easier on the creaky joints and is much more inclusive for couples play. We play mostly at the dedicated courts in Northfield. It's very unfortunate that we have to leave our home community to play. The overdrawn, confusing lines and the non-regulation nets on the tennis courts here are a non-starter for anyone but the first time novices.

We also play at the Glenbrook Pickleball Club when the weather turns ugly for outdoor play. Perhaps the Community Recreation Center or Centennial could accommodate a number of portable nets and drawn court lines during certain hours...

Please do whatever it takes to catch up with the wave and bring dedicated pickleball courts to Wilmette. We are willing to help in any way possible!!

Thanks,

Paul and Sue Kopecki

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Paul Kopecki  
312-952-1106

**From:** [Kara Kosloskus](#)  
**To:** [Catherine Serbin](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Swim schedule improvements  
**Date:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 1:30:54 PM

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For the Centennial committee packet.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Brittany Gerster <gersterb@gmail.com>  
**Date:** August 8, 2021 at 1:17:33 PM CDT  
**To:** swilson@wilpark.org, kkosloskus@wilpark.org, mmurdock@wilpark.org  
**Subject: Swim schedule improvements**

Dear Steve and Park Board,

I am writing to express my frustration with the pool hours and lap swim opportunities for residents. We've been in Wilmette for 15 years and have always had memberships at the pool. The Centennial facility however this summer continued to have limited open hours and continued enforcing the reserving and paying of lanes for lap swim. As a resident, my pool membership for the summer has always included lap swim. To have to pay extra now on top of the family membership and then have to reserve a specific one hour slot of time for swimming is something I am not willing to do.

It also saddens me to see that we are pretty much allowing New Trier Aquatics to take over prime time pool space for their swim team practices. This private swim club shouldn't dictate when tax paying residents can use the main pool. This has never been the way things were run in the past and I would hope that this is not where we are headed for the future.

As the park board discusses this issue Monday evening, I hope you will all consider adjusting the facility hours and fees back to pre-Covid standards.

Thank you,  
Brittany Gerster

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Brittany Gerster  
2911 Orchard Lane  
Wilmette, IL 60091  
773-230-4374

**From:** [Kara Kosloskus](#)  
**To:** [Catherine Serbin](#); [Steve Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: [external] Wilmette Pickleball Aug 9 WPD Board Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, August 9, 2021 9:00:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [West Park Pickle w relo prkng 2022.jpg](#)

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For the Centennial committee packet.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Tom Gates <thomaspgates@gmail.com>  
**Date:** August 9, 2021 at 2:38:27 AM CDT  
**To:** Mike Murdock <mmurdock@wilpark.org>, Julia Goebel <jgoebel@wilpark.org>, Cecilia Clarke <cclarke@wilpark.org>, Patrick Duffy <pduffy@wilpark.org>, Allison Frazier <afrazier@wilpark.org>, Kara Kosloskus <kkosloskus@wilpark.org>  
**Subject:** [external] Wilmette Pickleball Aug 9 WPD Board Meeting

Mike, Julia, Cecilia, Patrick, Allison & Kara:

Thanks for all your hard work on the WPD Board. Your efforts are making our great town, greater.

In speaking with my rapidly growing band of pickleball buddies, I understand you are working hard to bring some dedicated pickleball courts to Wilmette. Please let me add my enthusiastic voice to support that good end. As I am sure you know, it's a great sport on many levels. New players have fun, day one, and competitive players can't seem to get enough. Neighboring towns have weekday early morning and evening fun pickle matches on their dedicated courts. In my travels around the USA, the sport seems to be exploding. I am very confident young-to-senior in our community will quickly embrace and utilize our own courts. Obviously, **you know all this**. The more relevant questions are probably "**where**" and "**how many**" courts.

Per the Board Minutes, I know the Board has done a thorough vetting of various locations and has focused on **West Park** as the initial location. Although any of the locations you've discussed in the WPD meetings would be good, I agree West Park would be great for many reasons. I love that our beautiful, substantial, **paddle hut** could be **utilized year round**. Also, it's convenient, but well-buffered (light, sound & parking) location avoids all of the objections associated with locations at our other parks. When completed, our Paddle & Pickle (& Softball, Baseball, Soccer) facility might be unrivaled in Illinois, if not the Country.

If the specific location of the courts at West Park is still an open topic, I would like to suggest **converting the parking lot** south of the paddle hut and paddle courts 1 & 3 to **six new pickleball courts** and **relocating the existing parking** slightly to the west on the greenfield

near & under the power lines. I've attached a very crude depiction of this configuration to this email.

A few huge advantages to this configuration are: 1) Very **Close Proximity** to the Hut: Assuming the **Hut will become the social gathering spot for the Pickle players**, the closer, the better. **Parties renting the Hut** will be more likely and frequent, if the courts are only steps away. 2)

Reservations: Assuming the 'Your Courts', or similar system will be used to reserve courts, the **existing reservation computer screen** inside the hut could be more easily utilized. 3) Perhaps most dramatically, locating the courts immediately south of the Hut creates a very pleasant, **elevated viewing platform** from the existing deck. Any Pickle tournaments or events will have greatly enhanced viewing.

Locating the courts further away from the Hut will greatly diminish these attributes.

I know you have a lot on your "plate" and appreciate your efforts and considerations.

Best Regards,

*Tom Gates*

[thomaspgates@gmail.com](mailto:thomaspgates@gmail.com)

312-925-4950 (c)



**From:** [Patrick Duffy](#)  
**To:** [Steve Wilson](#); [Catherine Serbin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [external] Fwd: Wilmette Pickleball  
**Date:** Saturday, August 7, 2021 12:12:19 PM

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Please include in next Centennial Packet.

In the future do you want my response to the emails for the packet as well?

Thnaks,

Patrick Duffy

Commissioner  
Wilmette Board of Parks

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**From:** Jim Blomberg [jblomberg511@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 06, 2021 4:38 PM  
**To:** Patrick Duffy  
**Subject:** [external] Fwd: Wilmette Pickleball

Good Evening Patrick,

Kudo's to the Wilmette Park District for surveying residents regarding Pickleball, and for your thorough July 9 Pickleball Update - **The Time to Act is NOW!**

I and many Wilmettians regularly play Pickleball on *dedicated* Pickleball courts, many of them repurposed/underutilized tennis courts, in Skokie (Lawler Park), Glenview (Flick Park) and Northfield (Willow Park). We play at these locations for several reasons;

- A vibrant and growing Pickleball community including welcoming and challenging Open Play
- Top Notch courts
- No courts in Wilmette - while the overdrawn Pickleball lines at Maple and Vattman Park are a nice idea, in reality they are substandard in that the tennis nets are not regulation Pickleball height and there is not a reasonable backstop for balls that go beyond the baseline.

I am writing to lend the support of myself and my fellow Wilmette Pickleball enthusiasts who would greatly value local courts as well as building a vibrant local Pickleball community much as the Park District has accomplished with its' Paddle program at West Park.

What can we do to help you move the ball forward with Pickleball?

By the way, Pickleball does not end when the weather turns - I have played in indoor leagues sponsored by the Skokie Park District and the Glenbrook Pickleball Club and have looked into programs in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove. This may be an opportunity for the Community Recreation Center or Centennial...

Thanks for Investigating, and hopefully bringing, Pickleball to Wilmette!

Jim Blomberg

511 Greenleaf Avenue