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Fw: Pickleball at Cameron Park Lake

Chuck Nielsen <chucknielsen1954@yahoo.com>

Tue 8/15/2023 5:19 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

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Chuck Nielsen

chucknielsen1954@yahoo.com

(530) 613-6078

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Chuck Nielsen <chucknielsen1954@yahoo.com>

To: planning@edc.gov.us <planning@edc.gov.us>; brandon.reinhardt@edcgov.us <brandon.reinhardt@edcgov.us>; kpayne@edcgov.us <kpayne@edcgov.us>; lexi.boeger@edcgov.us <lexi.boeger@edcgov.us>; andy.nevis@edcgov.us <andy.nevis@edcgov.us>; daniel.harkin@edcgov.us <daniel.harkin@edcgov.us>

Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 05:17:14 PM PDT

Subject: Pickleball at Cameron Park Lake

Honorable members of the El Dorado Planning Commission, El Dorado County Planning Director and Planning Commission Staff,

My name is Chuck Nielsen and my family and I have resided in Cameron Park/Shingle Springs since 1988. We have always loved Cameron Park Lake and have had many special times there including family picnics, church functions, swimming, walking, tennis and pickleball. We have enjoyed playing pickleball there for almost 3 years and it has become a very important part of our lives. We have made MANY new friends there who also love the game as much as we do. I am 69 years old with 2 total knee replacements and one hip replacement and pickleball has been a wonderful way for me to stay in shape and make many new friends. Not only is it great exercise but our community is very welcoming to all. We turned in a petition with well over 300 signatures of local community members who are in favor of pickleball at CP Lake to Cameron Park CSD Board.

It has been quite difficult not being able to play pickleball at CP Lake for the past 8 months. It has scattered our close knit group of friends as we all have to seek other places to play. Our group has made many compromises and agreed to many types of mitigations in trying to be good neighbors. I myself was part of the task force that explored many different ideas that will work for everyone. Unfortunately, Liz and Dave Gates have refused any compromises even though early on in the task force meetings, Liz herself brought up similar compromises/mitigations that have worked successfully in other communities.

Thank you for your time and please move forward with the approval for pickleball at Cameron Park Lake.

Respectfully,

Chuck Nielsen

chucknielsen1954@yahoo.com

23-1530 Public Comment
PC Rcvd 08-16-23

(530) 613-6078

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Cameron Park Lake Pickleball Courts

Shawn Trumbull <scjcbull@gmail.com>

Wed 8/16/2023 8:29 AM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>; Brandon Reinhardt <Brandon.Reinhardt@edcgov.us>; Kris X. Payne <KPayne@edcgov.us>; Lexi Boeger <Lexi.Boeger@edcgov.us>; Andy Nevis <Andy.Nevis@edcgov.us>; Daniel Harkin <Daniel.Harkin@edcgov.us>

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I am writing to you today to discuss the use permit for Cameron Park pickleball courts and respond to the claims from a singular person who is against pickleball at the park.

I truly empathize with Mrs. Gates' complaint. However, I believe that "too noisy" is subjective. She has tried to compare the noise from pickleball to the noise of a screaming baby or a car alarm.

I believe the sounds of the garbage truck, complete with persistent squeaky brakes driving up and down my neighborhood at 6 am is, "too noisy" and impacts my sleep, however, I understand that is part of living in a neighborhood. My neighbors frequently have their grandchildren in the backyard, screaming - yelling - crying - playing. I find this annoying as well, but I understand that this is part of living in a neighborhood. I would never complain to El Dorado Disposal or to the CSD about my neighbors, *because this is part of living in a neighborhood.*

Mrs. Gates has a right to her opinion if she chooses to do so, however, I disagree that it's sufficient reason to stop the 300+ pickleball community from playing at Cameron Park Lake.

Mrs. Gates lives next to a public park. There are all sorts of noises you have to expect to come from living in a neighborhood next to a public park.

She theorizes that the noise from pickleball will reduce her home value and make her unable to sell her home. This is a gross exaggeration, and data from Zillow/Redfin demonstrate that her home value is significantly higher than comparable houses in Cameron Park. Her home value is impacted positively given her proximity to the amazing amenities provided at Cameron Park Lake.

I truly understand the impact of the noise created by pickleball. This is because my father installed a pickleball court in our backyard when I was 8 years old (in 1980!). My parents, brothers, and I played endless pickleball growing up, along with countless friends. We even added lights so we could play into the evenings. Our court was significantly closer to our neighbor's bedrooms than Mrs. Gates' house is to the Cameron Park Lake pickleball courts.

I recently asked my father if our neighbors ever complained about the noise. He said that when he installed the courts, he discussed with our neighbors what he was doing and made it clear that if the noise or lights were ever an issue, to please let him know so they can work out a solution. They did request that we stop playing by 10 pm at the latest and not start playing until after 8 am, which was very reasonable and we respected. Occasionally, they requested we stop playing early due to their

household needs (family visiting, events, etc), which we always respected. Our neighbors appreciated the considerations and never complained in the 17+ years after installing the courts.

The point of sharing this story is this: My father and our neighbors discussed what was reasonable for both to ensure everyone's needs were heard and respected. I am sure our neighbors would have preferred not to hear this unusual new noise coming from their neighbors, sometimes as late as 10 pm, however, they understood our desire to play and we both compromised so both sides felt respected.

Our pickleball community is sympathetic, respectful, and understanding of the noise impact on Mrs. Gates. We have already agreed to start our play at a later time in the morning, and have explored and presented concepts to mitigate the noise (sound walls, reconfiguring courts, etc). I believe this is an example of the pickleball community attempting to compromise and be a good neighbor.

Mrs. Gates has taken a different, less neighborly approach. She is not requesting compromise or making any personal adjustments (i.e. sound-mitigating measures for her house or yard) but rather chooses to demand the complete removal of play. I don't believe she is being a reasonable neighbor to the pickleball community.

This is not a binary decision - allow pickleball or not allow pickleball at Cameron Park Lake. It is not reasonable to eliminate an activity that over 300 residents enjoy in favor of 1 person's complaint. The members of the 300+ pickleball community are open to compromise which is something Mrs. Gates appears unwilling to consider. THIS is unreasonable.

I appreciate your time and attention to this letter and strongly request the approval of the use permit at Cameron Park Lake. Thank you for evaluating in depth this situation and I am hopeful that we can resolve this complaint with compromise and respect to all impacted.

Respectfully,
Chantell & Shawn Trumbull
3464 La Canada Drive
Cameraon Park, CA 95682

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Planning Commission Meeting Aug 24, 2023, Agenda Item 234-1512

steed@pacbell.net <steed@pacbell.net>

Wed 8/16/2023 10:37 AM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>; Brandon Reinhardt <Brandon.Reinhardt@edcgov.us>; Kris X. Payne <KPayne@edcgov.us>; Lexi Boeger <Lexi.Boeger@edcgov.us>; Andy Nevis <Andy.Nevis@edcgov.us>; Daniel Harkin <Daniel.Harkin@edcgov.us>

Cc: BOS-District II <bostwo@edcgov.us>

Commissioners,

You must uphold the appeal ADM-A23-0003 (ADM23-0014/Cameron Park CSD Pickleball Courts) for several reasons:

First, the Planning Director errors when stating pickleball courts are similar and compatible use to tennis courts. There are very distinct characteristics of pickleball as identified in the documentation provided by the appellants that demonstrate significant environmental impact over that of tennis. The impact of the sharp, high frequency, impulse noise generated has been shown to be more intrusive than the noise generated by tennis. This noise impacts not only humans, but also wildlife. If the County wishes to allow pickleball courts, it should properly investigate and assess these environmental impacts under CEQA and follow the appropriate processes to identify a new use type establishing appropriate criteria to mitigate the harmful environmental impact of the noise generated by the sport.

Second, it is improper to Administratively permit the location of these courts which violate the setback requirements required for the zone, particularly given the significant impact to neighboring homes identified in the submitted noise analysis.

Third, in numerous studies and court findings, the impulse noise generated from pickleball is significant and distinct from other noise generated from use of public parks. Pickleball, being a new sport rapidly expanding in popularity, was not assessed, or addressed when the county noise standard was adopted. This omission needs to be corrected and can only be done via a scientific environmental impact review and amendment to the noise standards.

The issues and impacts of the Cameron Park CSD pickleball courts are not unique to that community. As other El Dorado County communities respond to the increasing popularity of the sport by adding pickleball courts to new and existing parks, similar conflicts will occur. To avoid the likely and costly future legal challenges, this Commission MUST take action to uphold this appeal and support the appropriate assessment and planning required to allow the continued expansion of the sport while properly mitigating the environmental impacts.

Sincerely,

George Steed
3027 Las Palmas Dr
El Dorado Hills CA 95762

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Public Comment on 23-1530

nancywws@aol.com <nancywws@aol.com>

Wed 8/16/2023 2:20 PM

To: Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

You don't often get email from nancywws@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom it May Concern,

This is my Public Comment regarding the planning department's position on the situation with pickleball in Cameron Lake Park. I read through Planning's papers and through the appellants' papers. They have a pretty strong position. So I ask this: Is the job of the planning department to only find ways to make the county codes work in favor of their own agenda? By the time I finished my reading, I finally realized that what was bothering me so much was that Planning ignored most of the appellants' evidence of the broader picture. Word definitions, data, current and older opinion pieces were all left hanging. It seems that a more constituent centered response to the appeal would yield a completely different outcome, one in which the residents don't have to put up with an apparently horrible level of noise. I didn't see anything in the Staff Memo that sought to find ways to alleviate the residents situation. No response to possible misuse by the county stating that pickleball is comparable to tennis! And determining that even if pickleball was not in the code, it would be applied to pickleball anyway. I've never heard a pickleball game but I have witnessed tennis matches--in a quarry turned into a lovely tennis park where the only sound allowed was the thwong of the tennis ball. Nobody playing talked or shouted. As kids we could play on the swings but not speak loudly at all. Everything was observed by the couple who ran the facility for the city. Tennis is a very quiet game. Stating that limiting the hours of play, building a wall that won't keep the noise out, placing the courts at 11 feet from the property line and asking people to use quieter equipment will not make the residents' whole.

So why does the department only include in their memo the few CEQA type items which they have tweaked to serve the CSD? That is why I believe the department is being pretty lax in its duty to the people who live by a noise that was not permitted nor present when they moved into their home.

Sorry, but I prefer justice to efficiency.

Nancy DeRodeff
Quintette