

## Administrative Permit Application ADM23-0014/Cameron Park CSD Pickle Ball Courts

Janene Shields <shieldski5@sbcglobal.net>

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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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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing today regarding Permit #ADM23-0014, which allows for the pickleball courts at Cameron Park Lake. An appeal has been filed by the Gates against issuance of this permit, so it will go before your Planning Commission at a hearing on August 24th.

I am a pickleball player at Cameron Park Lake and the facilitator of group email communication for almost 300 contacts who play also. I apologize in advance for the length of this email, but the appeal that was filed by the Gates omitted a lot of information that I think is important to have before making a decision on the permit.

You will be hearing from others about how valuable pickleball is in their lives. For some it is almost the only social interaction they have, and for others it is the best form of exercise given their physical limitations (Parkinson's, stroke, joint replacements, etc.). The pickleball community at Cameron Park Lake is unique. We are welcoming and involved. We hold drill sessions to help improve skill levels and conduct classes for beginners to learn the game. The ladies meet for a monthly lunch and/or Mahjongg and the men play golf. We also have a potluck annual picnic as well as buffet brunches on occasions. I have met so many wonderful people playing pickleball at Cameron Park Lake, some whom have become good friends off the courts as well. I have played at other venues and felt like an unwelcome intruder.

As such a community, we are empathetic to the noise concerns voiced by one neighbor to the park. You might hear that other complaints have been received by the CSD, but none of these are from park neighbors. They are likely from friends of the discontented family. When Mrs. Gates asked our group if we could delay starting play until 8:30 am on the weekends, we happily obliged. When she informed the CSD that there were people (outside our group) playing as early as 6:00 in the mornings or at night with flashlights, we agreed with the staff that the gates should be locked off hours and took upon the stewardship to unlock the gates at the appropriate time in the morning.

I was part of a small group that met to propose ideas for concessions and compromises to play in order to hopefully placate the complainant neighbor. Every compromise we offered was solely for the benefit of the Gates family. We proposed delaying the start of our morning play until 9:00 so as to allow them more quiet time to enjoy their morning cup of coffee, even though in the summer it is already hot at 9 am. We suggested ending play at 7:00 pm so they could have a peaceful evening time, despite the fact that this will reduce the available play time for those who work and can only play after. We conceded to only play on 6 courts, instead of 8, before noon and will not play on the courts closest to the Gates house. In the afternoon, we will only use 4 courts. This reduction in number of courts will increase the amount of time we need to wait to play between games, not an ideal situation for us. Lastly, we agreed that we have some off days, where pickleball is not played at all, having the courts open only 4 days a week. All of these concessions will certainly reduce the noise heard at their property as well as give them 3 days of total abstinence from pickleball noise. I calculate that the compromises we agreed to reduce our available weekly court play hours (# courts x # hours x #days) to just over 25% of what they would be under the old play times. This is almost a 75% reduction!

The main points here are that, as a pickleball community, we have offered and agreed to very generous concessions in our play which will give the Gates family significant reductions in noise from pickleball as well as 3 completely quiet days. The Gates family bought a house next to a park. As such, noise is expected. The volume and tone of this noise will change over time as the needs of the people enjoying the park evolve. The CSD Board did a great disservice when they voted 3-2 to "pause"

pickleball play at the Lake until the permit is decided. They chose the needs of 1 person over the needs of over 100 people who are willing to compromise.

El Dorado County has only 2 other pickleball courts on the western slope on which to play. These are located at Heritage Park in the El Dorado Hills Business Park. One of the tennis courts is also striped for pickleball, so if it is not being used for tennis, we have a total of 4 courts. This is not sufficient for the volume of players of this increasingly popular sport. Our wonderful community of pickleball players from Cameron Park Lake is fractured as we are forced to play in smaller groups at different locations in other cities, pay to join a sports club, or not play at all.

Please consider the generous concessions that we offered in order to continue play on the courts at Cameron Park Lake and grant this permit.

Thank You,  
Janene Shields