



CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, November 01, 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Rollingwood, Texas will hold a meeting, open to the public, in the Municipal Building at 403 Nixon Drive in Rollingwood, Texas on November 01, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Members of the public and the Planning and Zoning Commission may participate in the meeting virtually, as long as a quorum of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the presiding officer are physically present at the Municipal Building, in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. The public may watch this meeting live and have the opportunity to comment via audio devices at the link below. The public may also participate in this meeting by dialing one of the toll-free numbers below and entering the meeting ID and Passcode.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5307372193?pwd=QmNUbmZBQ1lwUjNjNmM5RnJreIRFUT09>

Toll-Free Numbers: (833) 548-0276 or (833) 548-0282

Meeting ID: 530 737 2193

Password: 9fryms

The public will be permitted to offer public comments via their audio devices when logged in to the meeting or telephonically by calling in as provided by the agenda and as permitted by the presiding officer during the meeting. If a member of the public is having difficulties accessing the public meeting, they can contact the city at dadair@rollingwoodtx.gov. Written questions or comments may be submitted up to two hours before the meeting. A video recording of the meeting will be made and will be posted to the City's website and available to the public in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act upon written request.

CALL ROLLINGWOOD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEETING TO ORDER

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome new member Genie Nyer to the Planning and Zoning Commission

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizens wishing to address the Planning and Zoning Commission for items not on the agenda will be received at this time. Please limit comments to 3 minutes. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Planning and Zoning Commission is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda.

Citizens who wish to address the Planning and Zoning Commission with regard to matters on the agenda will be received at the time the item is considered.

CONSENT AGENDA

All Consent Agenda items listed are considered to be routine by the Planning and Zoning Commission and may be enacted by one (1) motion. There will be no separate discussion of Consent Agenda items unless a Board Member has requested that the item be discussed, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Regular Agenda.

- 3. Discussion and possible action on the minutes from the October 11, 2023 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting

PUBLIC HEARING

- 4. Public Hearing, discussion, and possible action regarding an amendment to Section 107-35 of the City’s Code of Ordinances to add regulations for sport courts

REGULAR AGENDA

- 5. Update regarding the CRCRC community survey
- 6. Discussion of intent to continue to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

I hereby certify that the above Notice of Meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the Rollingwood Municipal Building, in Rollingwood, Texas and to the City website at www.rollingwoodtx.gov at **5:00 PM** on **October 27, 2023**.

Desiree Adair
Desiree Adair, City Secretary

NOTICE -

The City of Rollingwood is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please contact the City Secretary, at (512) 327-1838 for information. Hearing-impaired or speech-disabled persons equipped with telecommunication devices for the deaf may call (512) 272-9116 or may utilize the stateside Relay Texas Program at 1-800-735-2988.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will announce that it will go into executive session, if necessary, to deliberate any matter listed on this agenda for which an exception to open meetings requirements permits such closed deliberation, including but not limited to consultation with the city’s attorney(s) pursuant to Texas Local Government Code section 551.071, as announced at the time of the closed session.

Consultation with legal counsel pursuant to section 551.071 of the Texas Local Government Code;
discussion of personnel matters pursuant to section 551.074 of the Texas Local Government Code;
real estate acquisition pursuant to section 551.072 of the Texas Local Government Code;
prospective gifts pursuant to section 551.073 of the Texas Local Government Code;
security personnel and device pursuant to section 551.076 of the Texas Local Government Code;
and/or economic development pursuant to section 551.087 of the Texas Local Government Code.
Action, if any, will be taken in open session.



CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Rollingwood, Texas held a meeting, open to the public, in the Municipal Building at 403 Nixon Drive in Rollingwood, Texas on September 6, 2023. Members of the public and the Planning and Zoning Commission were able to participate in the meeting virtually, as long as a quorum of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the presiding officer were physically present at the Municipal Building, in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. A video recording of the meeting was made and will be posted to the City's website and available to the public in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act upon written request.

CALL ROLLINGWOOD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEETING TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

Chair Dave Bench called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Members Present: Greg Demas, Michael Hall, Michael Rhodes, Brian Nash, and Chair Dave Bench

Also Present: City Administrator Ashley Wayman, City Attorney Lee Simmons, City Secretary Desiree Adair, Development Services Manager Nikki Stautzenberger, and Assistant to the City Administrator Makayla Rodriguez

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Discussion and possible action on the minutes from the September 6, 2023 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting

Brian Nash moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Michael Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 3. Public hearing on a Special Use Permit application for 2712 Bee Cave Road #106 to authorize operation of a restaurant, including alcoholic beverage sales, for on-premise consumption

Chair Dave Bench opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m.

Casey Hoffman, 2800 Hatley Drive, asked a question about the address of the application.

Chair Dave Bench closed the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 4. Discussion and possible action regarding a recommendation on a Special Use Permit application for 2712 Bee Cave Road #106 to authorize operation of a restaurant, including alcoholic beverage sales, for on-premise consumption

Development Services Manager Nikki Stautzenberger discussed the items in the agenda packet. There is a special use permit application, a letter from the owner, an observation inspection from the City, and the portion of the Code relating to special use permits. She stated that the proposed use does comply with all applicable codes and regulations.

The Planning and Zoning Commission asked questions of Development Services Manager Nikki Stautzenberger regarding why this special use permit came to Planning and Zoning Commission, the difference between the zoning of C-1 and C-2, the location, and the serving of alcohol at the restaurant.

City Secretary Desiree Adair explained that there are places in the Code that discuss the requirements for an establishment that serves alcohol, but the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) regulates whether an establishment can sell alcohol. The City Secretary is the first step in the application to determine whether it is a wet or a dry location and complies with ordinances, then it goes to the County, and then to the State. She answered questions from Chair Dave Bench regarding the Code that an establishment must comply with in order to be an establishment that serves alcohol within the City.

Carlos Yescas, representing the applicants for the special use permit, discussed food and beverage certificates, the other restaurants owned by the applicant, the capacity of the restaurant and when they plan to open.

Casey Hoffman stated that he would like another restaurant in the community.

Mike Rhodes moved to recommend approval of the Special Use Permit application for 2712 Bee Cave Road #106 to authorize operation of a restaurant, including alcoholic beverage sales, for on-premise consumption. Michael Hall seconded the motion. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against.

- 5. Update on the Commercial Code changes, task force progress, and next steps

City Administrator Ashley Wayman discussed the status of the Commercial Code changes including more meetings of a small group of the task force, a joint meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council, then changes that will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission for recommendations, and then those recommendations will be sent to City Council to be heard.

Greg Demas asked a question about the area off Edgegrove near the commercial corridor. City Administrator Ashley Wayman explained that this is a rehabilitation and beautification project from the winter storm, and that the City is working with FEMA for reimbursement for these expenses.

6. Update on the CRCRC progress, survey, and next steps

Chair Dave Bench discussed productive meetings, the survey which will run October 21st through November 5th, working with Buie and Co., postcard delivery, and Planning and Zoning cooperation.

Brian Nash and Greg Demas thanked Dave Bench and the other members of the CRCRC for working to gather community input.

7. Thank Amie Rodnick for her service on the Planning and Zoning Commission

Chair Dave Bench thanked Amie Rodnick for her hard work and the time that she has spent on City government in Rollingwood. The Commission continued to express thanks for Amie’s service and for her chairing the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. by Dave Bench.

Minutes Adopted on the _____ day of _____, 2023.

Dave Bench, Chair

ATTEST:

Desiree Adair, City Secretary

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

City of Rollingwood

Meeting Date: Planning and Zoning Commission Nov. 1, 2023

Submitted By:

Staff

Agenda Item:

Public Hearing, discussion, and possible action regarding an amendment to Section 107-35 of the City's Code of Ordinances to add regulations for sport courts

Description:

At the September 20, 2023 Rollingwood City Council meeting, City Council approved a motion to amend Section 107-35 to change tennis courts to sport courts and send it to Planning and Zoning Commission as necessary to properly amend our ordinance.

To amend an ordinance in the zoning code, the Planning and Zoning Commission shall make a recommendation to City Council regarding the amendment.

Action Requested:

Staff requests that the Planning and Zoning Commission make a recommendation regarding the amendment to Section 107-35 of the City's Code of Ordinances to add regulations for sport courts. This recommendation will be brought to City Council for action.

Fiscal Impacts:

No fiscal impacts at this time.

Attachments:

- Proposed amendment to Section 107-35 of the City's Code of Ordinances
- Public Comment

Proposed Amendment to Section 107-35. Swimming pools and tennis courts

Sec. 107-35. Swimming pools and ~~tennis-sport~~ courts.

- (a) A swimming pool or ~~tennis-sport~~ court may only be constructed on a lot within the residential or park zoning districts.
- (b) No swimming pool or ~~tennis-sport~~ court shall be constructed or maintained in the area between the front lot line and the front setback line of a lot.
- (c) On a corner lot, no swimming pool or ~~tennis-sport~~ court shall be constructed or maintained in the area between the side setback line and the side lot line that borders a street.
- (d) No swimming pool or ~~tennis-sport~~ court shall be constructed or maintained:
 - (1) In the area between the side setback line and a side lot line that does not border a street; nor
 - (2) In the area between the rear setback line and a rear lot line.
- (e) A deck or apron designed to serve a swimming pool or ~~tennis-sport~~ court shall be located at least five feet from a side lot line and ten feet from a rear lot line.
- (f) Overhead lighting in swimming pool or ~~tennis-sport~~ court areas is prohibited.
- (g) Each outdoor swimming pool erected, constructed or substantially altered after March 1, 1988, shall be completely enclosed by a fence in compliance with all applicable regulations then adopted by the city and in effect from time to time. From and after April 20, 2016, all such new or substantially altered fences shall comply with the requirements of appendix G, section AG 105.1 of the 2012 International Residential Code, except that no building material may be used in the construction of a fence except as permitted by this Code.
- (h) Following the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for a swimming pool or other improvements that include a swimming pool, the swimming pool fence required by subsection (g) of this section shall be maintained in reasonably good condition and in the manner and configuration required by the applicable regulations of the building code adopted by the city and in effect at the time of the original installation of such fencing. Such obligation to maintain shall continue at all times that the swimming pool is in usable condition or holds water. On an annual basis or such other frequency reasonably determined by the responsible city official, a designated agent of the city may require a visual inspection of a swimming pool and related fencing for which a certificate of occupancy has been issued. Any such inspection shall be conducted only after reasonable written or verbal advance notice has been provided to the owner or occupant of the affected property. If a swimming pool fence is found not to comply with applicable regulations, the designated official shall provide written notice of noncompliance by certified mail forwarded to the address where the swimming pool is located. The owner shall make all repairs and corrections to make the fencing fully compliant not later than 30 days after the date written notice of noncompliance is forwarded as provided in this subsection (h) of this section. The designated official shall conduct an inspection to verify timely compliance.
- (i) A failure to timely correct each noncompliance in a swimming pool fence following notice of noncompliance forwarded as provided in subsection (h) of this section shall constitute a Class C misdemeanor. An offense shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$500.00 per day the noncompliance continues. The penalty provided in this subsection shall be cumulative and not exclusive of any other civil or injunctive remedy provided by applicable law.

Desiree Adair

From: Mary Elizabeth Cofer <maryelizcofer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 6:31 PM
To: Desiree Adair
Subject: sport courts

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Desiree, My number one concern regarding sport courts in residential areas is the drainage issues that will be exacerbated by additional impervious cover. We are going to spend good taxpayer money to correct the current issues and we do NOT need to add to the problem.

Secondly, I am concerned about the potential for noise issues for the neighbors.

Regards,

--

Mary Elizabeth Cofer

Discussion topics from Sep 20, 2023 City Council Meeting

- **Council members' discussion related to proposal to clarify ordinance 107-35**
 - “Should there be further investigation into the pickleball noise issue?”
 - “Is this [pickleball noise issue] something the city needs to tackle or accept?”
 - “We need to get comment from residents”
 - “Is the noise issue something we should have the CRCRC look at as part of land use and residential zoning issues?”
 - Paraphrasing – is there a real difference in pickleball noise vs. other court sports?

Sport Courts

- **Pickleball noise:**
 1. is a well-documented nuisance with evidence concerning the volume & pitch (references follow)
 2. *is* substantially louder than other court sports (tennis, basketball)
 3. devalues adjacent properties and is a source of lawsuits to try to protect property values
 4. is a source of neighbor tension
- **Private residence sport court usage needs city regulation to ensure:**
 1. Reasonable start/stop times and duration of play
 2. Sensible court use restrictions:
 - a) is it acceptable to have a private club with 50+ members using a residential sport court facility on a daily basis?
 - b) is it acceptable to convert one residential tennis court into four pickleball courts where 16 people play simultaneously?
 - c) is 6:30am 5 days a week (M-F) a reasonable start time?

Pickleball Noise Issues: Why is it a Problem & What Can be Done to Overcome?

https://racketsportsworld.com/pickleball-noise-issues-why-is-it-a-problem-what-can-be-done-to-overcome/?expand_article=1

- pickleball average sounds [are] around **70 dBA**. This scale of sound measurement, is a weighted decibel scale which gives the relative loudness of sounds in air as perceived by the human ear.
- **Tennis**, for instance, gives out 40 dBA sounds, which makes it **eight times softer than pickleball sounds**
- Loudness is just one component. Another is frequency, also known as pitch. Higher frequencies can sound higher and sharper.

Shattered Nerves, Sleepless Nights: Pickleball Noise Is Driving Everyone Nuts

The New York Times Andrew Keh June 30, 2023

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/30/sports/pickleball-noise-complaints-lawsuits.html>

- **Noise Pollution:** America's fastest growing sport has also become one of its biggest nuisances. [Pickleball's ceaseless staccato has fueled fights and even lawsuits.](#)
- **Bob Unetich**, 77, a retired engineer and avid pickleball player, one of the **foremost authorities** on muffling the game:

"pickleball whacks from 100 feet away could reach **70 dBA**, similar to some vacuum cleaners, while everyday background noise outside typically tops off at a 'somewhat annoying 55'."
- sounds were even dissected last month at **Noise-Con 2023**, the annual conference of North American noise control professionals, which featured an **opening-night session** called "Pickleball Noise."
- [In addition to ball/paddle-strike noise]... the **court is small enough** that all four people playing doubles **can chat and trash talk at their leisure.**

Pickleball has a noise problem. He's trying to fix it

NPR.org Mia Venkat, Tinbete Ermyas June 9, 2023

<https://www.npr.org/2023/06/09/1181246866/pickleball-noise-problem-courts-bats-play>

- Before he was a pickleball lover, **Unetich** was an engineer. And when it comes to the noise problem, he gets it.
- **"You can't take pop, pop, pop for 12 hours a day every day and remain sane,"** he told NPR.
- Pickleball is, like, the worst of both worlds. You know, **it's loud, and it's high-pitched**
- **"And with that explosion [in growth of the game's popularity] came the lawsuits..."**

Pickleball is exploding nationwide, but it all starts at home

Austin American-Statesman

Cedric Golden

Sun, Jul 9, 2023

<https://tinyurl.com/46fpam3a>

- “They have gathered to play pickleball, but two hours at **Corky Logue’s courts** reveal something deeper.... a beautiful grouping of **four courts** and the sound of paddles whacking...”
- “**meet each day at his home to play on his four pickleball courts**”
- “**Logue’s circle of friends is approaching 60 members**. He dutifully provides a weekly schedule for his **four courts**, and no-show will surely hear from the leader.”
- “**painting, repaving and new nets** came at a cost of \$11,000”
- “**More than 50 people formed a private pickleball club that plays daily at locations in Westlake, Rollingwood and Bee Cave.**”

3016 Hatley - Tennis Court circa 2016 (spring)



- No pickleball courts
- Occasional **tennis** usage only

3016 Hatley - Tennis & Pickleball Courts 2022 (winter)



- Tennis + 2 pickleball courts
- Daily private pickleball club usage

2016 Hatley - Tennis & Pickleball Courts 2023



- 4 pickleball courts
- Daily private pickleball club usage
- photo taken from Austin American Statesman feature article (July 7, 2023)

Request to City Council and/or appropriate committees

- Recognize that pickleball noise is a distinct/unique problem
- Clarify existing noise ordinances or author noise ordinance updates that provide clear rules for sensible sport court usage
- Codify usage rules or enforce existing rules that strike a reasonable balance between owners' sport court use/enjoyment and neighbors' rights not to be confronted with a nuisance
- Codify rules or enforce existing rules that support the fact that residential sport courts are not intended to be a membership or club use facility. **There's a difference between reasonable friends & family usage and league or club usage of a residential sport court.**



BADMINTON PICKLEBALL TABLE TENNIS TENNIS SQUASH OTHERS ▼ EQUIPMENT ABOUT RSW ▼

SPORTS WRITERS WANTED



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Pickleball Noise Issues: Why is it a Problem & What Can be Done to Overcome?

Written by [Stan Boone](#) in [Equipment](#), [Pickleball](#)



One of the issues facing the burgeoning sport of pickleball is the complaints from residents about the disturbances it causes because of its noise issues. In this piece we look at the issues surrounding pickleball noise, its effect on residents and how can this problem be potentially tackled.

ABOUT US

We love our rackets (or racquets if you please!) and the racket sports. Follow us for our exhaustive information on most things racket sports as we look at equipment, rules, players, courts and reviews for a plethora of racket sports.

Contact us at editor@racketsportsworld.com

[CONTACT US](#)

As the sport of pickleball has spread its wings far and wide in America and as it does the same in the rest of the world, more and more neighbors can be expected to raise their voices about the **effect its noise has on their peace**.

The continuous **pop-pop-pop of the pickleball paddle** hitting the ball has quite a few neighborhoods up in arms over this noise, noise which has been described as disturbing (and that's at best).

...

The other issue is the same noise is amplified when the **pickleball hits the ground** too, something that's not an issue with tennis.

Be it [Ridgewood](#) in New Jersey, or [York](#) in Maine, or in various parts of Canada, pickleball players have been dogged by the same issue over and over again. **Complaints by the locals** who have been frustrated by the issue that pickleball noises have on the quality of their lives.

Also Read:

...

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LATEST

- [The Ultimate Free Resource Guide to Pickleball: Learning Pickleball Without Breaking the Bank](#)
- [From Novice to Pro: Effective Techniques for Teaching Pickleball to Young Beginners and Kids](#)
- [The Weather Factor in Pickleball: How Different Conditions Affect Your Game](#)
- [What are the Advantages of Properly Maintained Tennis Courts](#)
- [Why Tennis Fans Have a Love-Hate Relationship with Pickleball](#)

- [Should I Use Pickleball Eyewear for Protection?](#)
- [How to Play Wheelchair Pickleball?](#)

And the challenge isn't just to down the sound of the paddle hitting the ball but also the **noise of celebrating players** in a game that's quite social in nature. Pickleball has transcended generations, is described as a fun sport with players typically having a whale of a time.

[Pickleball can be played on tennis courts](#), and more importantly one tennis court can accommodate four pickleball courts together. Now imagine two tennis courts are converted into eight courts, with four players featuring in each one of them – that's about **32 players making a din** that would invariably get very difficult for the residents around.

■ ■ ■


Some residents are also worried the **sale value of their houses** might go down because of this sticky issue.

As a result of that, pickleball is facing a whole load of challenges with players finding it more and more difficult to get themselves freely-available courts to play the sport in the wake of these noise issues.

The video below is an indicator of how pickleball is driving residents crazy and some of the effect it has had on pickleball players themselves.





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 - 2.3. Better Pickleball Practice Balls
 - 2.4. Regulated Timings
- 3. Final Words on Noise Issues in Pickleball

Why is Pickleball Noise Different from Other Sports?

What is it about the pickleball noise that makes it a bigger pain in the backside than other sports? Communities, after all, had been living around tennis and other courts and coexisting without any major concerns before pickleball started proliferating in the region.

If we ignore the fun and social element of pickleball, the sound that disturbs neighborhood residents the most is that of the paddle hitting the pickleball.

Studies have been undertaken to measure the sound levels associated with pickleball and average sounds have come to around 70 dBA. This scale of sound measurement, is a [weighted decibel scale](#) which gives the relative loudness of sounds in air as perceived by the human ear.

Exposure to sounds of more than 80 dBA needs to be avoided while anything above 90 dBA is considered dangerous to the human ear.

■ ■ ■

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Unfortunately, the issue with pickleball's 70 dBA is despite it being lower than what the ear can endure, it's still more than what residents are used to from sports like tennis (whose courts are used to convert into pickleball courts) and other sports.

Tennis, for instance, gives out 40 dBA sounds, which makes it eight times softer than pickleball sounds, making it so much more difficult for residents to endure.

Also Read:

- [How to Become a Pickleball Referee?](#)

■ ■ ■

- [How to Clean a Pickleball Paddle?](#)

Solutions to Pickleball Noise Issues

There are multiple ways in which the noise from pickleball courts can be reduced and things are made easier for neighborhoods. Some of these are listed below and we will keep updating this as and when there's more information.

AcoustiFence Pickleball Noise Curtains

The USA Pickleball Association has recognized this issue and [made a mention](#) of this on their

official website too.

One of the ways to overcome this problem, according to USAPA, is to use the 1/8-inch thick AcoustiFence Pickleball Noise Curtains (STC30) which can be used for all seasons and weather.

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This reduces the noise levels by around half in the entire American region, “from the heat of the sunbelt to the cold of Canada including Poinsettia Park in Carlsbad CA, Ocean City NJ, and parks in Vancouver, BC.”

These curtains can be customized to ensure it matches the height of the fence around the playing arena while also taking care of any further requirements while adding extra courts to the place.

According to Acoustiblok, the company that produces Acoustifence, this method of soundproofing reduces the noise levels by 10-12 decibels. More information on this can be found [here](#).

Quieter Pickleball Paddles

There is a problem with this solution itself. While new playing arenas or big communities and clubs which have the budget can afford to install this noise-reduction solution, smaller communities don't typically find it way tougher to get the funding needed for this.

■ ■ ■

The alternative solution to this is to go with pickleball paddles which make lesser noise than most others.

There're quite a few '[quiet' paddles](#), which meet the criterion listed by the Green Zone Approved Paddles. These paddles make lesser decibel levels than the maximum allowed by pickleball clubs and associations.

These paddles need to pass the tests designed by Sun City Grand Pickleball Courts' directors with the result classifying paddles as green, yellow or red.

Those paddles falling in the red zone are banned from most courts and associations, those in the yellow zone are currently allowed but run the risk of getting banned in the future while green zone paddles are the ones players can use on all courts.

The good news is pickleball, despite the kind of interest that it has drummed up in the last few years, is still an evolving sport. And so is the technology around its paddles which means there is a high probability better and less noisy paddles will become a norm and make life easier for all the pickleball stakeholders.

■ ■ ■

[Get a list of our most favorite silent pickleball paddles which are Green Zone-approved here.](#)

Better Pickleball Practice Balls

There is a type of pickleball balls which are called the Foam Quiet Ball by Gamma which dish out lesser noise than the other balls used in the sport.

Because they are made of foam, the amount of noise produced on impact isn't what it would be otherwise.

That said, this type of ball cannot be used in official tournaments because it plays differently from a normal pickleball, with no pickleball pop sound coming off of it.

It can be used in casual play which is where most of the aforementioned resident complaints emanate from anyway, so that's one option which can be tried.

■ ■ ■

Regulated Timings

This will not take away the noise but could allow pickleball players and residents to co-exist with a compromise. With inputs from local players, club managers and residents, there could be a consensus on what works the best for everyone and there could be a win-win solution found out.

The challenge here is with the kind of demand for pickleball and with the [lack of courts](#) becoming a regular issue thanks to the ever-rising interest in the game, regulating the timing could reduce their play time and make things that much more difficult.

On the other hand, without sound-proofing of the courts as mentioned in the aforementioned first point, residents will still be subjected to continuous sounds at times all might not happy with.

Final Words on Noise Issues in Pickleball

Issues surrounding pickleball sounds is a genuine concern all over the USA and wherever the sport is played globally but more so where the courts are close to residential areas. Effort needs to be taken for pickleball (players) and residential communities to peacefully coexist and local councils and governments need to take the lead in that respect.

Stan Boone

I am the editor of Racket Sports World. I love my tennis, pickleball and most of the other racket sports played around the world and started this blog as my way to help other racquet sports fans even as I learn, explore and improve by connecting with them. Tweet at <https://twitter.com/StanBooneTennis>.

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Recent Posts

The Pickleball Kitchen Rule: What, Why, Where, When, How & FAQ

One of the most unique things about pickleball, other than the wacky history of how it got its name, is the non-volley zone or the pickleball kitchen as it's popularly called. In this piece, we will...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

80+ Pickleball Terms & Phrases To Make You Sound Like a Pickleball Pro!

While pickleball is a relatively new racket sport, especially if you compare it with the likes of tennis, badminton and squash, it still has stacked up a fair bit of history. And with that, the...

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Main Character of the Day

Pickleball has a noise problem. He's trying to fix it

June 9, 2023 · 12:27 PM ET

By Mia Venkat, Tinbete Ermyas



Does the pop, pop, pop noise of pickleball annoy or entice you?

Michael Reaves/Getty Images

Pickleball is America's fastest growing sport, but it has a noise problem. One man is on

a mission to fix that.

Who is he? Bob Unetich.

- Before he was a pickleball lover, Unetich was an engineer. And when it comes to the noise problem, he gets it.
- "You can't take pop, pop, pop for 12 hours a day every day and remain sane," he told NPR.
- He has founded Pickleball Sound Mitigation to provide consulting and advice on keeping the noise down.

What's the big deal?

- The explosive growth of the game — played on a small court with a paddle and a plastic ball — saw participation nearly double in 2022, increasing by 85.7% year-over-year, and by 158.6% over three years, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association.
- And with that explosion came the lawsuits. Journalist Mark Dent first reported on Unetich's efforts and pickleball's noise problem for *The Hustle* after he saw these lawsuits in local publications.
- "Over the last several months, I just kept seeing them kind of pop up. And all these lawsuits, of course, were largely over pickleball being too noisy," he told NPR.





Fancy a game?

Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images

What are people saying?

Here's Dent telling NPR why he started looking into this:

Pickleball is, like, the worst of both worlds. You know, it's loud, and it's high-pitched ... So I'm like, how can pickleball be less noisy? Is anybody working on it?

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It turns out, Unetich was. Here's what he told NPR he has found out:

Pickleball sound exists right in that most sensitive range. An interesting thing I learned along the way is that garbage truck backup beepers are right in the same pitch of pickleball. Why did they pick that sound for beepers? Because it's the most annoying frequency.

And how Unetich and a couple of other engineers tested different paddles for sound levels:

We built a tall chamber. We found dropping a ball — if there was no wind, no air — enabled you to get a very predictable speed. And so a ball hitting one paddle will give you a different sound than a ball hitting a different paddle.





Pickleball became a pandemic-era darling, because it could be played in relative safety outside.

Streeter Lecka/Getty Images

So, what now?

- Unetich's research has found that different materials in the equipment, as well as sound barriers, can help. Still, the simplest solution is just to build courts far enough away from people.
- "It's kind of like having to invest more money on the front end and planning to avoid this potential major disruption and lawsuits — conceivably at least — on the back end," Dent said.
- Unetich worries the noise problem will slow the growth of his favorite sport. He's hoping his research and consultancy will help so he can keep playing.

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- America's fastest-growing sport is a cross of tennis, ping-pong and badminton
- Pickleball for all: The cross-generational power of play
- Tennis stars get lots of hate online. The French Open gave them AI 'bodyguards'



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Golden: Pickleball is exploding nationwide, but it all starts at home

Cedric Golden, Austin American-Statesman

Sun, Jul 9, 2023 · 14 min read



They have gathered to play pickleball, but two hours at Corky Logue's courts reveal something deeper.

A kinship. A love of humanity and sport, all intertwined with a beautiful grouping of four courts and the delicious sound of paddles whacking what resembles a bouncing ball of Swiss cheese.



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Golden: [Horns should command Big 12 in last season](#)

Logue bought the Rollingwood property back in 1979. It had been the site of the city dump, a source of laughter from those who walk these grounds daily, paddles in hand.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States, and anything this

wildly popular has to start on the local level.

And the locals are here. Logue's circle of friends is approaching 60 members. He dutifully provides a weekly schedule for his four courts, and no-show will surely hear from the leader. Logue didn't get to this point by being a half-stepper. The group ranges in age from early 20s to 87-year-old John Squires, a retired colonel and an inspiration to all.



Adam Sud, top left, and Michael Fenchel play pickleball against Rip Esselstyn, bottom left, and Steve Vandegrift at the home of friend Corky Logue in Rollingwood last month. More than 50 people formed a private pickleball club that plays daily at courts in Westlake, Rollingwood and elsewhere.

How it started

Courtland “Corky” Logue Jr. founded EZCorp in 1979 and turned it into one of the biggest chains in the country before the company went public 15 years later. The University of Texas ex left with \$30 million in stock and at one point in the 1970s and 1980s was running 12 companies simultaneously.

Now 75, the legendary entrepreneur and former mayor of Rollingwood is the piper of one of the coolest pickleball groupings in an area that’s full of them.

Logue is the commissioner of this circle, the happy hour bartender and even the breakfast chef.

“We’re longtime friends who enjoy each other’s company,” Logue said. “We love to play, whether it’s just hitting it around or having tournaments. It’s all good fun.”

For the past 50-plus years, he was a passionate racquetball player at the local country clubs and fitness clubs, but after COVID-19 shut down the planet in 2020, he and his buddies were told they could only play singles, and if they

played, they must wear masks.

“We were seniors ranging in age from 50s to 80s,” Logue’s friend Jim Hinkel said. “So that wasn’t tenable.”

Hinkel had heard about pickleball, which was gaining traction nationwide. It was a combination of tennis, badminton and racquetball, without the walls, of course.

More: [Expectations for Texas rising with No. 1 ranking in Big 12 preseason poll](#)



Michael Fenchel plays pickleball at a house in Rollingwood on Thursday June 29, 2023. More than 50 people formed a private pickleball club that plays daily at locations in Westlake, Rollingwood and Bee Cave.

Logue had been having friends over for years to play tennis, but pickleball was fresh and new.

They started with some painter’s tape and bungee cords to create a makeshift pickleball court, but when great minds begin to think alike, wonderful creations can come about. They decided weeks later to redo the whole thing. The painting, repaving and new nets came at a cost of \$11,000, mere peanuts when viewed through the fun lens with which they’re seeing their priceless time together.

It’s Americana at its coolest level.

“There’s not a person here that isn’t a quality person,” said pickleball player Jimmy Treybig, 82. “The people here are not only cool, but they’re also capable and interesting.”

Golden: [Two years after Jake Ehlinger’s death, his mother continues to advocate for change](#)

On my visit a couple of weeks ago, I witnessed the burgeoning of the hottest new sport in our country. Young and old volleyed back and fourth. Some stood on the side, awaiting their turn in the practice rotation, while others shared laughs.



People play pickleball at a house in Rollingwood on Thursday June 29, 2023. More than 50 people formed a private pickleball club that plays daily at locations in Westlake, Rollingwood and Bee Cave.

David Farry, an Eanes resident, took one look at me and said, “You’re over there writing all this stuff down. Let’s see what you can do.”

He handed me a Prince paddle.

I couldn’t do much.

Having played tennis back in the Stone Age, I struggled at first because the perforated ball didn’t bounce as high, but the old strokes came back on occasion.

I couldn’t believe how much fun it was within five minutes of playing. The paddle is light, and the court is small enough for two novices to navigate doubles without too much exertion.

On a nearby court, 60-year-old retired Austin firefighter Rip Esselstyn — a former UT swimmer — and 68-year-old Steve Vandegrift — the former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Antonio — are getting the better of their much younger opponents, but it’s no mismatch.

Adam Sud, one of the youngsters on the other side of the net, is holding his own amid the torrent of forehands coming his way. He has used the sport as part of a reemergence in life after undergoing some dark periods. The 41-year-old nutrition researcher and podcast host weighed more than 350 pounds 10 years ago and suffered from Type 2 diabetes and heart disease before

connecting with Esselstyn, who founded Plant Strong, a health food company.



Jimmy Treybig, left, chats with Eric Upton during a break in a pickleball game in Rollingwood last month. Relationships and community are keys to the appeal of the fast-growing sport.

Sud suffered from drug addictions and went to multiple rehabs before discovering a new purpose in his young life. Pickleball is a vital part of his daily regimen.

“I’m not trying to stay sober,” the 41-year-old Westlake High School graduate said. “I’m trying to continue to build a life that feels like an exciting place to wake up and be present.”

His friend Esselstyn was an avid pingpong player growing up. He moved to Texas from Cleveland in the early 1980s and became an All-American swimmer for the Longhorns. Named after Rip Van Winkle but not one to sleep on being active, he competed in triathlons for 10 years after college, and in the late 1980s, he switched to a plant-based diet, which, as it turns out, became a life changer.

He trademarked the term “plant strong” and wrote “The Engine 2 Diet,” which appeared on The New York Times 2009 bestseller list. The owner of Plant Strong travels the country informing others about the benefits of a plant-based diet. His next event is slated this summer in Sedona, Ariz. As usual, the plant diet will be a huge part of the proceedings, except this time he’s including a pickleball camp for adults with instruction on how to avoid those nagging injuries since so many are leaving the couch for the court.

Last year, Sud told him about Corky’s league.

“I was immediately intrigued,” he said. “Corky was nice enough to let me in to get a taste of the action. It’s been a year now, and I can’t get enough.”

Everything they say about the pickleball addiction is very true.”



Rip Esselstyn smiles after a pickleball game at a house in Rollingwood on Thursday June 29, 2023. More than 50 people formed a private pickleball club that plays daily at locations in Westlake, Rollingwood and Bee Cave.

New sport for Brees family

[Austin](#) attorney Chip Brees would agree. The father of the greatest football player Austin ever produced — with all due respect to Dick “Night Train” Lane — spent many Sunday afternoons watching quarterback Drew Brees shred NFL defenses over the past two decades. But he couldn’t help but chuckle when he brought up the pickleball games he’s played with his eldest son in suburban San Diego; his other son, Reid, in suburban Denver; and countless matches with his grandkids.

Tramel: [Big 12 football preseason predictions are a total crapshoot this year](#)

“It’s so much fun,” said Brees, 73. “Drew has a little court at his house in Delmar, and he’s really gotten into it. I’m over at Corky’s six days a week.”

Drew just joined the ownership group of Mad Dog Props, one of 12 coed teams in Major League Pickleball. He is also toying with the idea of returning to pro sports — as a pickleball player.

He announced in May that the first NOLA Pickleball Fest will take place in New Orleans’ Morial Convention Center on Aug. 10-13, with proceeds benefiting his long-standing Brees Foundation.

There are too many luminaries at Logue’s courts to mention all of them in one space. Whole Foods founder John Mackey wasn’t there for my visit but doesn’t

miss many opportunities to hit the ball around. Central Texas Goodwill board chair Margaret Moten is also a regular.

They arrive on time and adhere to Logue's schedule, even if they often start without the host present.



"It's been a year now, and I can't get enough. Everything they say about the pickleball addiction is very true," said Adam Sud, who has made the sport part of his daily regimen.

Logue suffers from glaucoma, and he performs a lot better under the lights, so he heads over to a friend's court to play before the sun comes up.

That friend, Balah Ghatate, is originally from India. Raised in New Delhi, he arrived in the States in 1989 and attended American University before enrolling at UT. While working for his wife's computer data analysis company eight years ago, he decided his sons needed a sport court at their Westlake home. The members of his racquetball group at the Hills at Lakeway enjoyed their matches, but COVID-19 brought an end to the fun.

In 2020, a friend named Glenn Reinus had visited California and come back with news of a growing new sport. It was called pickleball.

The next weekend, the racquetball buddies put \$7,500 in a hat and performed an extreme makeover, turning Balah's sport court into a full-time lighted pickleball court.

"We haven't picked up a racquetball racket since then," said Balah, 56. "Corky comes over every day for an early hit, and that's a great way to get things started."

Treybig, a venture capitalist who founded Tandem Computers, put away the racquetball stuff and built pickleball courts for his three sons. He plays six

days a week, and on those times when Mother Nature opens the skies to give us some much-needed rain, the Logue crew convenes at his place because his courts are covered.

At his age, Treybig understands the value of activity, but there is more to his longevity than playing pickleball six days a week.



Austin attorney Dan Byrne keeps his eyes on the ball at friend Corky Logue's house in Rollingwood last month. Byrne and his wife, 3rd Court of Appeals Chief Justice Darlene Byrne, are regulars in Logue's league.

“People ask me about how I’ve stayed healthy,” he said. I’ve played sport all my life, but that’s not the only thing that keeps you going. It’s the relationships.”

Relationships with people like Darlene Byrne, chief justice of Texas' 3rd Court of Appeals, and her attorney hubby, Dan. She was introduced to the sport in 2020 through Dan, who had been in the racquetball group for more than 30 years. On her first day on the court with Dan and Tom Klitch, the local owner of the Austin Pickle Ranch, Darlene, who had never picked up a racket of any kind, tore her labrum and had to undergo hip replacement surgery. After being cleared to play again, she couldn't wait to get back on the court.

“I told my surgeon I just want to be able to play pickleball, backpack and wear my high heels,” she said.

Overcoming tragedy

The Logue group is a self-made, self-contained lovefest, and amid all the whacks and smashes the members enjoy during the week, a familial buzz resonates. You hear the laughs, see the smiles and witness the pats on the back, but it's immediately evident that these folks genuinely enjoy being around one another.

In a group that's mostly older, health issues are going to crop up, and some beloved friends will inevitably transition.

Hinkel remembers that day in 2014 when his wife, Linda, returned home from her daily workout with her personal trainer.



Jim Hinkel reacts to a shot during a game last month. His friends from Corky Logue's group have been helping him through a season of grief.

"I threw up during my workout," she said.

This came 15 years after she had won a battle with melanoma. She was an athlete and a fighter who explored caves and hiked with her husband, whom she had met in Tennessee. She endured three open heart surgeries, a pacemaker insertion and several ablation procedures. The melanoma returned last August and spread to her brain.

Surgery and radiation proved successful, but Mother's Day brought horrible news. Already reeling from the loss of their 42-year-old son, Troy Pennington, Jim's stepson, in a motorcycle accident in Austin in March, the Hinkels faced another battle after Linda complained of severe lower back pain.

"I took her to the ER, where I witnessed a rapid decline in physical, cognitive and verbal skills over a four-week period," Hinkel said. "An MRI determined the melanoma had come back in her brain, but this time it was inoperable. She was a true warrior but couldn't win this battle."

The loss of his partner of more than four decades was, in a word, debilitating. This is when his pickleball group revealed itself as a family. Logue immediately invited him over with seven of their closest friends for dinner at the house. They toasted the end of Linda's pain and suffering, shared some laughs, wiped

away a few tears and looked to brighter days.

“We were helping him take care of her,” said Vandegrift, who has been tennis buddies with Logue for more than 10 years. “We would go over to the hospital and visit with them. We just wanted to try and help and support one another as a second family.”

As Hinkel grappled with his loss, the leader of the coolest social group in town sent a not-so-subtle message to his grieving friend.



Dan and Darlene Byrne play pickleball at a house in Rollingwood on Thursday June 29, 2023. More than 50 people formed a private pickleball club that plays daily at locations in Westlake, Rollingwood and Bee Cave.

Logue put Hinkel back on the schedule, though the new widower wasn't sure he was ready to don his signature goggles and return to the court.

“We had to get him back in there,” Logue said. “We had to get him out the house and back to what he loves doing.”

Hinkel was deeply moved by the gesture and the love that has come his way.

“I'm so glad he pushed me as his friendship, and that of our fabulous group of folks, has been helping me through this harsh grieving process,” he said. “I miss Linda and Troy so much. I don't know how I could deal with these painful losses without my pickleball family and the friendship I have with another dear group of hiking and biking friends.”

Hinkel is one of five USA Pickleball Ambassadors in the Austin area, and his goal is to promote and grow the game.

The wildfire of popularity has quickly spread throughout the area. Bouldin Acres offers pickleball, and members of Austin Sports & Social Club flock to the South Lamar location in droves. The Sun City Pickleball Association has

more than 1,500 members, and the Georgetown Pickleball Association is approaching 1,000.

“I’ve been in the tennis business since the 1980s, and I’ve never seen anything quite like this,” Georgetown tennis pro Pete Polkinghorn said. “It has exploded. I have friends who say I have gone over to the dark side. I just tell them I’ve taken up another sport and I’m having fun playing it.”

The Dreamland complex in Dripping Springs offers not only miniature golf but 16 pickleball courts that are open to the public.

Turning pro

Steve Kuhn, a former hedge fund manager and the owner of the 2-year-old, 64-acre entertainment complex, founded Major League Pickleball in 2021.

The league expanded to 16 teams, including Austin, Frisco, Los Angeles, New York, Seattle, Las Vegas, New Jersey and Milwaukee. Competition will take place in six cities, with \$2 million in prize money on the table.

Season 2 will commence Sept 21, with action streamed on MLP’s YouTube channel and the Tennis Channel. ESPN2 will broadcast the Premier League Super Finals on Dec. 12.

More exposure came in September when basketball legend LeBron James, his longtime business partner Maverick Carter and fellow NBA players Kevin Love and Draymond Green announced that they were buying a team. SC Holdings, a Virginia-based investment firm, is also part of the group.

In October, UT ex Kevin Durant announced that he was purchasing a team through his 35Ventures organization. The star power joining the league can only aid in the growth overall.

“Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in the country, building communities in cities and towns all over the world,” Kuhn said in a statement. “This investment, and the platform that this group provides, will significantly help us with our goal to reach 40 million pickleball players by 2030.”

Leagues are popping up all over the place because the interest has reached a rabid level.

As the sport continues to explode within our borders and well beyond, community remains the binding agent at the root of this phenomenon — friends getting together through the shared love of sport and people.

That’s what it’s all about.

“The way to live a long time is to eat right, exercise daily and have social in

your life,” Logue said. “We have two of the three right here.”

Make it three of three.

I hear his 15-bean soup is tops.

This article originally appeared on Austin American-Statesman: [Austin group of friends connects through pickleball](#)

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Why Stephen A believes Brock Purdy could be ‘QB problem’ for 49ers

Tristi Rodriguez

Mon, Oct 30, 2023 at 3:45 PM CDT · 3 min read

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Why Stephen A believes Brock Purdy could be ‘QB problem’ for 49ers

[Why Stephen A believes Brock Purdy could be ‘QB problem’ for 49ers](#)

Shattered Nerves, Sleepless Nights: Pickleball Noise Is Driving Everyone Nuts

The incessant pop-pop-pop of the fast-growing sport has brought on a nationwide scourge of unneighborly clashes, petitions, calls to the police and lawsuits, with no solution in sight.

By Andrew Keh Audio produced by Alyssa Schukar

Reporting from Arlington, Va.

June 30, 2023

It sounded like popcorn warming in a microwave: sporadic bursts that quickened, gradually, to an arrhythmic clatter.

“There it is,” Mary McKee said, staring out the front door of her home in Arlington, Va., on a recent afternoon.

McKee, 43, a conference planner, moved to the neighborhood in 2005 and for the next decade and a half enjoyed a mostly tranquil existence. Then came the pickleball players.

She gestured across the street to the Walter Reed Community Center, less than 100 feet from her yard, where a group of players, the first of the day, had started rallying on a repurposed tennis court. More arrived in short order, spreading out until there were six games going at once. Together they produced an hourslong ticktock cacophony that has become the unwanted soundtrack of the lives of McKee and her neighbors.

“I thought maybe I could live with it, maybe it would fade into the background,” she said of the clamor, which began around the height of the coronavirus pandemic and now reverberates through her home, even when her windows are closed. “But it never did.”



Pickleball at the Walter Reed Community Center is played on repurposed tennis courts. Jason Andrew for The New York Times



Mary McKee, who lives across the street from the Walter Reed Community Center, has been fighting the noise pollution. Jason Andrew for The New York Times



Armand Ciccarelli, 51, another resident who has complained about the noise. Jason Andrew for The New York Times

Sports can produce all kinds of unpleasant noises: referees' whistles, rancorous boos, vuvuzelas. But the most grating and disruptive sound in the entire athletic ecosystem right now may be the staccato *pop-pop-pop* emanating from America's rapidly multiplying pickleball courts.

The sound has brought on a nationwide scourge of frayed nerves and unneighborly clashes — and those, in turn, have elicited petitions and calls to the police and last-ditch lawsuits aimed at the local parks, private clubs and homeowners associations that rushed to open courts during the sport's recent boom.

The hubbub has given new meaning to the phrase racket sport, testing the sanity of anyone within earshot of a game.

"It's like having a pistol range in your backyard," said John Mancini, 82, whose Wellesley, Mass., home abuts a cluster of public courts.

"It's a torture technique," said Clint Ellis, 37, who lives across the street from a private club in York, Maine.

"Living here is hell," said Debbie Nagle, 67, whose gated community in Scottsdale, Ariz., installed courts a few years ago.

Modern society is inherently inharmonious — think of children shouting, dogs barking, lawn mowers roaring. So what makes the sound of pickleball, specifically, so hard to tolerate?

For answers, many have turned to Bob Unetich, 77, a retired engineer and avid pickleball player, who became one of the foremost authorities on muffling the game after starting a consulting firm called Pickleball Sound Mitigation. Unetich said that pickleball whacks from 100 feet away could reach 70 dBA (a measure of decibels), similar to some vacuum cleaners, while everyday background noise outside typically tops off at a “somewhat annoying 55.”

But decibel readings alone are insufficient for conveying the true magnitude of any annoyance. Two factors — the high pitch of a hard paddle slamming a plastic ball and the erratic, often frantic rhythm of the smacks — also contribute to its uncanny ability to drive bystanders crazy.

“It creates vibrations in a range that can be extremely annoying to humans,” Unetich said.



Hayden Sealander, 26, reaches for a ball while playing. Jason Andrew for The New York Times

These bad vibrations have created an unforeseen growing pain for pickleball, which emerged from relative obscurity in recent years to become the fastest-growing sport in the country.

The sounds were even dissected last month at Noise-Con 2023, the annual conference of North American noise control professionals, which featured an opening-night session called “Pickleball Noise.”

“Pickleball is the topic of the year,” said Jeanette Hesedahl, vice chair for the conference.

The same story, the same jarring sound, has echoed across American communities like rolling thunder.

Sue-Ellen Welfonder, 66, a best-selling romance novelist from Longboat Key, Fla., once enjoyed listening to the singing birds and the gentle swish of trees during her daily walks — her “soul balm time” — through a local park. The *thump-thump* of a tennis match never bothered her, either. But the arrival of pickleball this spring, she said, shattered her idyll.

“Pickleball has replaced leaf blowers as my No. 1 noise nuisance,” said Welfonder, who has been sketching the outlines of a new novel, set in the present day, with a couple of pickleball-loving characters: “I’m making them really nasty people.”

The complaints were equally dramatic at a Feb. 6 city council meeting in West Linn, Ore., where residents have been vexed by the constant click-clacking from Tanner Creek Park.

“One of our neighbors who lived directly across from the courts and was dying from cancer noted the pickleball noise was worse than his cancer,” Dan Lavery, a West Linn resident, said at the meeting. “Sadly, he recently passed.”

Scores of similarly suffering Americans are finding their way to a rapidly growing Facebook group, also started by Unetich, where upward of 1,000 frazzled users exchange technical advice, let off steam and engage in a sort of group therapy.

“We try to keep it civil,” Unetich said, “because it gets pretty emotional.”

A few lessons have crystallized within the group. Soundproof barriers — a go-to solution for many at first — can be expensive and are often improperly deployed. New paddles and balls designed to dampen noise have had marginal uptake among players. Moving pickleball far away from human life may be the only surefire solution — but many are slow to reach that conclusion, which presents its own hurdles.



The tennis courts at the Walter Reed Community Center are now primarily used for pickleball, allowing six games to happen simultaneously. Jason Andrew for The New York Times

Alyssa Schukar for The New York Times

Jason Andrew for The New York Times

Irritated homeowners, as a result, often resort to fighting pickleball courts in the courts of law.

Last year, Rob Mastroianni, 58, and his neighbors in Falmouth, Mass., filed a lawsuit against their town claiming that the courts near their homes violated local sound ordinances. They won a temporary injunction, which has closed the facility for now. By then Mastroianni had already sold his house and moved to a different part of town to escape the noise.

“I was Google Mapping the new house, making sure there were no courts nearby,” Mastroianni said.

In Arlington, McKee and her neighbors around the community center are waiting to see what happens next. They shared their pain with the county, which for now appears to be moving forward with plans to spend close to \$2 million to make the pickleball courts permanent.

The players there sympathized with the residents' plight — but only to an extent.

“If I had that home, I’d be mad, because it is annoying — it’s obnoxious,” Jordan Sawyer, 25, a dietitian from Arlington and an avid player, said between games this month. “But I don’t feel bad because I want to play, and this is the best place to play. Honestly, I just feel like it’s unfortunate. It’s unlucky for these people.”

Sawyer described herself as a “rule follower.” But McKee and the others recounted being woken up at 3 a.m. by middle-of-the-night pickleball matches. Another time they listened to a player banging a tambourine on the court, apparently to taunt those who had complained.

Armand Ciccarelli, 51, who often walks his dog, Winona, around the community center, said that anybody downplaying pickleball noise should try hearing it for 12 hours a day.

“I know this seems like a small thing in the grand scheme of the world, where we’re dealing with big things, like climate change,” Ciccarelli said. “But, as you can see, it’s a nationwide problem.”

Kitty Bennett contributed research.

Andrew Keh is a sports reporter in New York. He was previously an international correspondent based in Berlin and has reported from more than 25 countries. More about Andrew Keh

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 1 of the New York edition with the headline: A Sport Played With Paddles Can Generate Quite a Racket

Planning and Zoning Commission

<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Position – Office</u>	<u>First Appointed</u>	<u>Current Term Ends</u>
Brian Nash	1 – Member	March 2018	December 2023
Genie Nyer	2 – Member	October 2023	December 2023
Michael Hall	3 – Member	March 2021	December 2023
Tony Stein	4 – Member	June 2017	December 2023
Michael Rhodes	5 – Member	May 2020	December 2024
Greg Demas	6 – Member	February 2022	December 2024
Dave Bench	7 – Member/Chair	October 2021	December 2024

Council Liaison(s): Brook Brown

7 Members appointed by City Council, Chair designated by majority vote of Commission yearly.

Commission meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.