

Dear Mr. Molbeck,

This is in regards to our conversation on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2013. It is my desire to impress upon the City of Racine Park and Recreation Committee the importance of physical activities for our growing community of senior citizens here in Southeastern Wisconsin.

I had the opportunity to recently spend two months in the popular city of Surprise, Arizona that hosts the Sun City Grand Senior Community. I was amazed at the activities provided by this small subdivision for the growing numbers of retirees. Activities and facilities included swimming pools, aerobics, gymnasiums, racquet courts, golfing, softball and much much more. Not just the physical part of staying fit is stressed but the mental well-being as well. There were educational courses available, clubs to be involved and travel trips to participate in. There seemed to be an endless number of events and activities sponsored by the community.

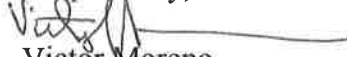
At this time I would like to propose to the Park and Recreation Committee the structuring of pickleball courts in playing the increasingly popular game of pickleball. This up and coming activity has become a trendsetter in the senior community. The sport is a cross between tennis and ping pong played with a wooded or graphite paddle and a ball similar to that of a whiffleball. Games rules are very similar to tennis except that the court is half the size of a tennis court and there are terms used that may differ and scoring may vary. But in one respect it is the same by hitting a ball and your opponent returning it.

Why has this sport become popular? The diameter of the playing surface is literally half the size of a tennis court. In a sense, two pickleball courts can easily be made up in the space of one regular tennis court. The game is played between two teams of two. In a sense, each partner basically covers a 10 x 10 foot radius at the most. The smaller dimension of the court seems to attract older adult players with less area to cover. The game is quick to learn and can be played casually or with a competitive edge. As for physical fitness, there is constant motion providing aerobic and even anaerobic fitness.

At this time I would like to propose the possibility of two sites that would be suitable for this activity. First, and foremost, the Humble Park community center would make an ideal site. The other proposed site would be at Island Park. Both have three tennis courts that could be converted to allow six pickleball courts in total. I have suggested to you the possibility of having a company donate a portion of their time to assist in the structuring of the site. The ideal situation would be six courts lined at each site, divided, and color coordinated according to the rules of the game. I know for a fact that there are ample volunteers willing to assist in manpower.

Both Island Park and Humble Park bring the atmosphere to a spiritual level with the surrounding trees and open park environment. How wonderful this would be for an older community to actively use these areas throughout the spring, summer and early fall seasons. The ball diamonds, playing courts, walking spaces, and the grassy area surrounding would make for the perfect recreational areas for our senior citizens wanting to remain "active". I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,


Victor Moreno
Racine resident