

## TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO

Staff Report

January 25, 2012

For the meeting of January 31, 2012

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission

FROM: David P. Donery, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Hours of Operation at the Tennis Courts at Memorial Park

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### BACKGROUND

The tennis courts at Memorial Park have been in existence since the late 1960's. Initially, only courts one and two, known as the "lower courts", were constructed. Courts three and four (upper courts) were built in the early 1970's. Lights were installed on the lower courts in the early 1970's.

The Isabel Cook Homes, a residential town-home development, was constructed on the Isabel Cook School District property in the 1980's.

In September of 2011, the Town received an email from Edward Watkins of 35 Sunny Hills Drive. In his email, Mr. Watkins advised that the courts are available for use fourteen and one-half hours per day and that he feels this is excessive. He also stated that he is being awoken early in the morning by the sound of tennis being played and that he cannot go to sleep until after the lights go off. He stated that the lights had been staying on as late as 2:00 or 3:00 A.M.

Town staff investigated the issue regarding the lights staying on and found that a timer was broken. This was corrected. Mr. Watkins claims that the play in the evening hours on courts one and two are affecting his health and his personal privacy. He has asked that a review of the hours of operation be conducted by the Town.

In preparation for this item, and to provide a regional review, staff at the Recreation Department conducted a survey to find out the rules at other public tennis facilities in Marin County. For those facilities that had lighting, the Town asked whether or not the courts were near residences. The survey showed that most public courts with lights close at 10:00 P.M. with one exception.

### DISCUSSION

At the October Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission heard from Mr. Watkins as well as from several other members of the public. The determination was made that the Commission would visit the facilities to get a better sense of the issue.

At the November Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission again heard from Mr. Watkins. Mr. Watkins made it clear to the Commission that his goal was to have the tennis courts close at sundown. The Commission once again discussed the issue and made a determination that without a greater amount of public input, that it would not feel comfortable making any recommendations to the Town Council. It was decided that the issue would be

brought back to the January meeting and that an announcement would be sent to all of the tenants who live adjacent to the courts, as well as posting the information at the courts themselves. In addition, information regarding the meeting was included in the Town Manager's Weekly Newsletter, posted on the Town's website and sent out via email to all of the customers in the Recreation Department's database.

**RECOMMENDATION**

After further consideration of this matter, staff is recommending that the Parks & Recreation Commission consider making a recommendation to the Town Council to amend the current hours of operation at the Memorial Park Tennis facility to an ending time of 9:00P.M. year-round.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David P. Donery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David P. Donery  
Community Services Director

Attachment 1 – Marin County Public Tennis Court Survey

# Public Tennis Facilities

This information reflects the results of a 2011 survey of public tennis facilities in Marin County

FACILITY	COURTS	NEAR RES.	OPEN	OFF	CONTACT	TITLE	PHONE
San Anselmo	2 of 4 courts lit	near residences	8am	10pm/Winter - 10:30pm/Summer			
Belvedere - Tiburon	no lighting	no lighting			Lauren	Receptionist	435-4355
Corte Madera	lighting	some distance away	8am	10pm	Mario Fiorentini	Director, P & R	927-5072
County of Marin	no lighting	no lighting			Rob	Chief Ranger	507-4045
Canon Tennis Club	lighting	near residences		10pm	Tony	manager	457-7766
Fairfax	lighting	near residences		10pm	Michael Rock	Town Manager	453-1584
Larkspur	no lighting	no lighting			Shannon	Receptionist	927-6746
Marinwood CSD	1 of 5 courts lit	some distance away	1st light	10pm	Tom Horn	District Manager	479-0775
Mill Valley	lighting	near residences		11pm	Stuart Kessler	Rec Director	383-1370
Novato					Lori Simpkins	Court Rentals	899-8200
San Rafael	lighting	some distance away		10pm	Vern Dougherty	Director, P & R	485-3333
Sausalito					Mike Langford	Director, P & R	289-4126
Strawberry CSD	lighting	near residences	7am	10pm	Leanne	Receptionist	383-6494
Tam Valley CSD	no lighting	no lighting			got information from website		
Woodacre Imp. Club	no lighting	no lighting			Carol	Manager	488-0708