

## **MINUTES REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS December 10, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners was called to order by President Patinkin at 7:02 p.m. via remote access by Zoom video. The Secretary called the roll and the following were:

PRESENT: Antokal, Caron, Lapin, Patinkin (4)  
ABSENT: Cohen (1)

and there was a quorum in attendance. Also present was Jeff Nehila, Secretary/Executive Director; Jeff Harvey, Jay Zahn, Laura McCarty, Tony Korzyniewski, Jason Mannina, staff members.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: TAX LEVY ORDINANCE #2020-02**

President Patinkin opened the Public Hearing on Tax Levy Ordinance #2020-02 and as there were no questions/comments regarding the Ordinance, the Public Hearing was closed, and the Regular Meeting continued.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2020, Regular Meeting. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Caron, Antokal, Lapin, Patinkin (4)  
NAYS: None (0)  
ABSENT: Cohen (1)  
Motion passed in a roll call vote.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

#### **Approval of Disbursements**

Motion made by Treasurer Lapin, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to approve the Voucher Listing dated December 10, 2020 in the amount of \$681,710.67 which includes \$14.99 of travel and training expenses. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes).

Discussion followed:

Commissioner Antokal asked if the \$3,500 fee for the golf course liquor license was for the municipality or the state. Staff responded that it is for the Village of Riverwoods.

Vice-President Caron asked about the refunds for Card Connect. Staff responded that staff contacted Card Connect about the statement fees and they refunded the district.

Commissioner Lapin asked about the very large water bill for Brickyards. Staff responded that we had ran irrigation a lot in the fall with the dry weather. This is the only park that had activities, so it was the only park we were irrigating.

Commissioner Lapin asked about what Electric Strike is for Maplewood. Staff responded that it is an electric program used for locking and unlocking the bathroom doors.

Commissioner Lapin asked about the 5 bathroom cleanings at the golf course. Staff responded that it is for the weekly sanitizing of the bathrooms. The billing got backed up and this is for multiple cleaning visits.

Commissioner Antokal asked about the \$8,000 for cart fees. Staff responded that those fees were rung in through RecTrac so we know it was for golf carts. The fees paid online were separated out by historical percentages.

President Patinkin asked about the digital storage of park maintenance documents. Staff responded that it is an annual fee we are paying to have all of the project plans scanned and stored digitally.

Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Lapin, Caron, Antokal, Patinkin (4)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSENT: Cohen (1)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Tax Levy Ordinance #2020-02**

Motion made by Treasurer Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Lapin, to approve the 2020 Tax Levy Ordinance #2020-02 levying taxes for the necessary expenses and liabilities of the Deerfield Park District, Lake and Cook Counties, Illinois, a copy of which is to be made a part of the minutes of this meeting. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Caron, Lapin, Antokal, Patinkin (4)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSENT: Cohen (1)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Transfer of Appropriation Ordinance #2020-03**

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to approve Ordinance #2020-03 transferring items of appropriation for Fiscal Year 2020, as presented. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Lapin, Antokal, Caron, Patinkin (4)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSENT: Cohen (1)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

**Tentative 2021 Combined Budget and Appropriation Ordinance**

The draft budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021 was presented and reviewed at the budget workshop on November 30, 2020. The tentative 2021 combined budget and appropriation ordinance is subsequently prepared for review before being set aside for 30 days and made available to the public for inspection. A public notice is scheduled for publication in the

Deerfield Review on December 10, 2020 which notifies the public of the 30-day set aside and the public hearing scheduled for January 21, 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to proceed with the public notice and 30 day set aside of the tentative 2021 combined budget and appropriation ordinance. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES:            Lapin, Caron, Antokal, Patinkin (4)

NAYS:           None (0)

ABSENT:        Cohen (1)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Executive Director Nehila read emails marked as Public Comment regarding pickleball from Alisa Klein, Mary Anne Jackson, Aimee and John Moyer, Asatryan Family, Rebecca Soldwisch, Tim and Jill Hogan, Rich and Mary Kay Koerner, Peter Levy, Pamela Levy, David Unger. Emails will be included as part of these minutes.

Director Nehila provided information on the pickleball court project at Deerspring Park. The 2021 budget does not include the pickleball project. The 2021 budget does include some funding to look at the feasibility of other potential sites. These funds will include sound studies. The 2021 budget was proposed by staff and presented to the Park Board at the annual November 30, 2020 Budget Workshop. The board provided no suggested changes to the proposed budget. The proposed budget will be approved at the January 21, 2021 Board Meeting.

The audio recording of the November 30, 2020 Budget Workshop meeting has been posted on the park district website since shortly after that meeting. At that meeting, project deferrals in the district's 7-year capital improvement plan were discussed in detail. This discussion specifically included the mention of the pickleball court project being deferred from 2021 into 2022. The district realized the shortfall of \$3.75 million in 2020 due to COVID restrictions and limited services. The 2021 budget reflects a similar scenario, therefore creating a need to defer capital projects. Only three significant capital projects were budgeted for in 2021. One is the John Blumberg playground replacement project that was deferred from 2020. Second is a school playground project in accordance with our intergovernmental agreement with school district 109. Third is the start of the Deerspring splashpad project which was also deferred from 2020. This is a two-year project that will start in the fall of 2021 and be completed in spring of 2022 for a summer opening. The capital projects completed this year included the completion of the first phase of the Jewett Park renovation and the Kenny Rudin Playground which was covered in half by the Rudin family. Other projects completed in 2020 and planned for 2021 include infrastructure and HVAC improvements and upgrades which include additional air flow improvements in our facilities due to COVID.

He stated that he is not sure what spurred the number of emails regarding the pickleball project. Only two people in opposition contacted him directly in the last six months regarding pickleball. One of them was the other day. He informed the resident the project wasn't in the proposed 2021 budget. The other inquiry came in late May. At the time, we were still in the height of our high point of the COVID

numbers as we knew it at the time. Director Nehila read portions of that email. He responded by email that the district had deferred the pickleball project along with many other projects and purchases to 2021. As the district develops the budget for 2021 in the fall of 2020, he will have more information on if the project is included in the budget as the district will have to adjust many of the district's 7-year capital project plans and purchases accordingly due to the deferrals this year. He offered for the author of the email to contact him in early to mid-December to inquire if it is a funded project in the FY2021 budget. He stated that his immediate focus is the response to COVID-19 and how the district can move into the next phase of the Restore Illinois Plan. He also stated that pickleball is not a focus of his right now and won't be for a while.

The author of the email did not contact Director Nehila regarding the status of the pickleball project for FY2021. He believes that the author of this email provoked all the other emails. He stated that if people had contacted him directly or listened to the November 30, 2020 audio recording of the Budget Workshop posted on the district's website, the number of concerns shared via email tonight could have been eliminated. He reiterated that if anyone has any questions or comments relating to the pickleball project to please contact him directly for the most up to date and accurate information.

Director Nehila commented that his focus is on finding out when the park district staff which he deems essential, will be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Chicago Sky Marketing Partnership Agreement**

Motion made by Treasurer Lapin, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to approve 2-year Marketing Partnership Agreement with the Chicago Sky beginning December 10, 2020 and running through the last day of the 2022 WNBA season with recommended changes. (Copy attached and made a part of these minutes).

President Patinkin suggested cleaning up the agreement by clarifying the Deerfield Park District and Sachs Recreation Center in certain areas of the agreement.

Roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Lapin, Caron, Antokal, Patinkin (4)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSENT: Cohen (1)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

### **Other**

#### **Thank You**

Vice-President Caron thanked the entire park district staff for the efforts during the entire COVID-19 pandemic. The park board is proud the district was able to provide programs for the community thanks to the creativity of our staff. The sentiment was echoed by the other commissioners.

**IPRA/IAPD Conference**

The annual IPRA Conference will be held virtually this year. Sessions will be available online for 30 days.

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to adjourn into Closed Session at 8:24 p.m. pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) - Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) - Personnel – Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES:            Caron, Antokal, Lapin, Patinkin (4)

NAYS            None (0)

ABSENT:        Cohen (1)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:42 p.m.

**ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION IF ANY**

Motion made by Commissioner Lapin, seconded by Vice-President Caron, after review of Closed Session Minutes pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21), the following will be made available for public inspection: July 16, 2020. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES:            Lapin, Caron, Antokal, Patinkin (4)

NAYS:            None (0)

ABSENT:        Cohen (1)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Motion made by Treasurer Lapin, seconded by Vice-President Caron, to approve a merit salary increase and bonus effective on the Executive Director's anniversary date. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES:            Lapin, Caron, Antokal, Patinkin (4)

NAYS:            None (0)

ABSENT:        Cohen (1)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

Motion made by Vice-President Caron, seconded by Commissioner Antokal, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:50 p.m. Roll call vote as follows:

AYES:            Caron, Antokal, Lapin, Patinkin (4)

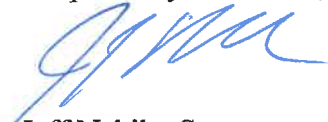
NAYS:            None (0)

ABSENT:        Cohen (1)

Motion passed in a roll call vote.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Jewett Park Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Nehila, Secretary

## Jeff Nehila

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**From:** ALISA KLEIN <alisa.klein@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** Jan Caron; Joe Cohen; Gil Antokal; Greg Lapin; Rick Patinkin; Jeff Nehila  
**Cc:** Mayor Harriet Rosenthal; Daniel Nakahara; Jeffery Ryckaert; Kent Street; bstruthers@deerfield.il.us; dshapiro@deerfield.il.us; wseiden@deerfield.il.us; Trustee Mary Oppenheim; tjester@deerfield.il.us; rbenton@deerfield.il.us  
**Subject:** Pickleball

*Requested to be read  
aloud Dec 7  
for Dec 10 mtg*

Dear Park District Commissioners,

I'm writing to follow up with you regarding the building of pickleball courts in Deerfield. I am so happy that the courts did not go in at Deerspring, as we in this neighborhood have enjoyed our park "more than ever" during the difficult pandemic. Although we have always appreciated this nearby amenity, when we could do little more than spend time outdoors it was especially appreciated. I've been doing a lot of walking, and when I do, I almost always see people (and dogs) enjoying the park's only open, safe, green space. I was going to take pictures of residents enjoying the space, to show them to you, but it turns out that moms don't want you taking pictures of their little ones (even from great distances when you can't see their faces.)

Jeff Nehila said that you will be considering the pickleball courts at the end of the year as you discuss the upcoming budget so I wanted to remind you of why I, and so many of my neighbors, are not in favor of putting the courts at Deerspring. I will make this a brief list as I know you have heard these issues in the past and are aware of our complaints:

- The area that was being considered is the only safe, open, green space in this area of Deerfield, and it is consistently used for unstructured recreation
- The paving and fencing with noise abatement material would be unsightly and not in keeping with the current aesthetic of the park
- There is little ambient noise in this neighborhood to absorb the sound of pickleball along with the sound of the pickleball players, and the noise will be a nuisance to those using the park and to the homeowners who live near the park, with the nearest property 200' away
- The noise will certainly be an issue, even with sound abatement, according to noise expert Dr. Lance Willis who has been working on pickleball abatement for many years

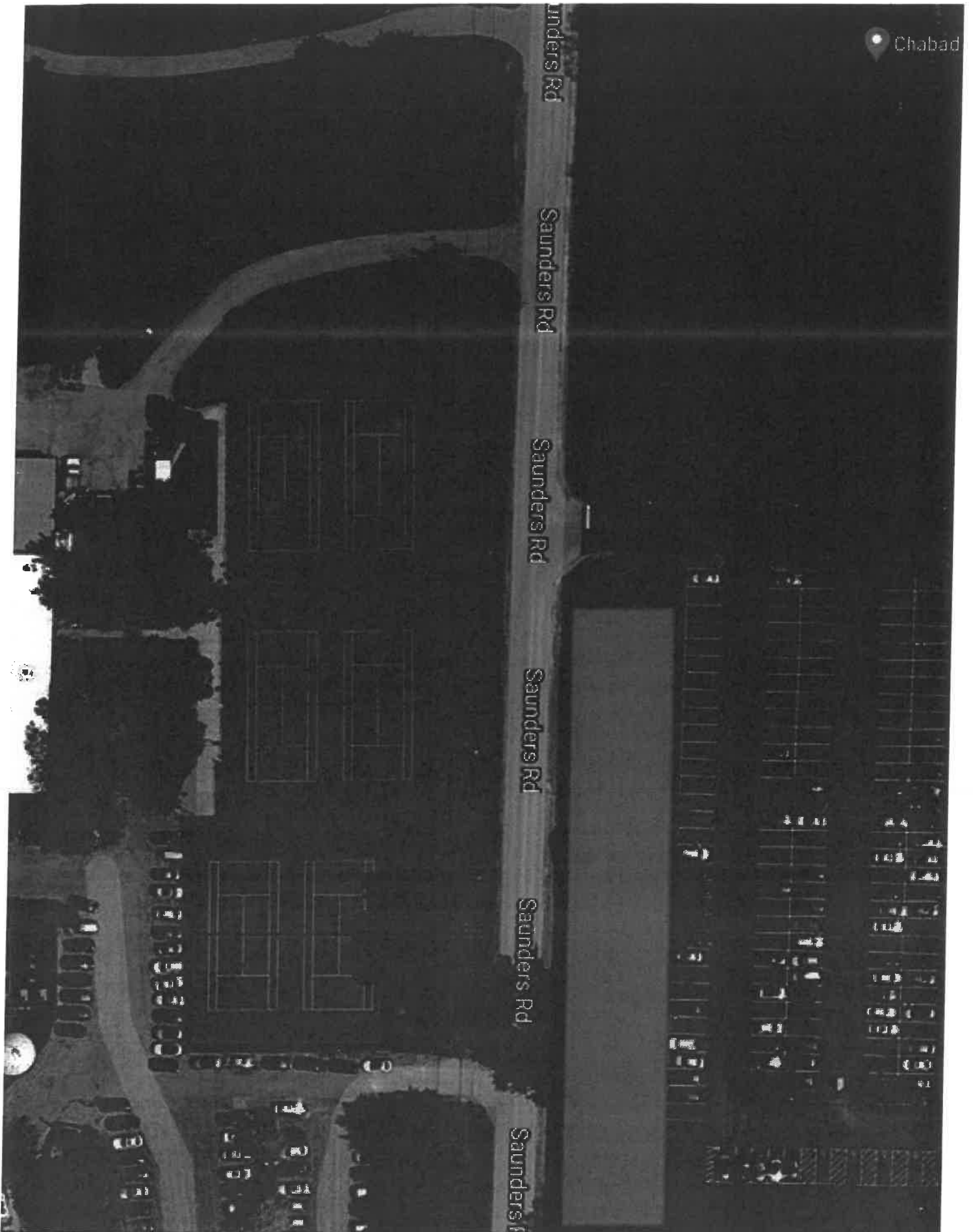
A pickleball court requires only 1800 square feet of space. I would like to request that if the Park District wants to build pickleball courts in Deerfield, that you take another look at alternative sites. May I suggest that you take another look at space at the golf course? Near the parking lot there are 2 large open spaces, as noted on the drawing below. They are

approximately 180' X 60' and 50' X 300'. Some of the parking for cars and golf carts might have to be shifted, but there seems adequate space for both courts and additional parking. And there are no homes nearby.

Having pickleball at the golf course also offers revenue opportunities as you could charge (perhaps non-residents) for court use, sell pickleball equipment at the pro shop, and encourage players to use the restaurant and bar.

I would be happy to discuss any of these issues. Thank you for your consideration.





Alisa Levy Klein  
ALISA KLEIN  
(847) 845-2405

On Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 11:39 AM Mary Anne Jackson <[sales@myownmeals.com](mailto:sales@myownmeals.com)> wrote:  
Hi Rick and Jeff,

Please see the attached "drawings", if you can call them drawings. I used the information available and really do not have enough information for scale. But it looks to me as I drive by that this is a potential and certainly worthwhile consideration.

At the very least, I believe you can build three and maybe 5 courts in this space if you open it up. The advantages:

1. no drainage issues - connect to Village sewers as needed.
2. an area not being used by humans to play or "frolic" in at this time. And minimal disruption of "wildlife" for those concerned about deer.
3. with a bit of creative thinking and engineering, the relatively useless park space can be put to good use for everyone.
4. It is on a main street so it is visible and will attract enthusiasm and interest in the sport to people who otherwise would never even have known about or considered learning about the sport. As you know, I just learned about it with the posting of the sign in November for the very first time. As an old-timer with grandkids, it could be fun and I am sure others would say the same.
5. The sound barriers can be constructed in such a way as to direct sound back to the street (I believe with the right engineering considerations) and will not be considered an eye-sore to others since it is not in the "pretty" part of the park, which I really need to emphasize is actually being used now and would be lost.
6. Another very important consideration I think is being overlooked is this.
  1. By putting courts either in a central and highly visible location like Jewett Park or on Deerfield Rd., people will be drawn to them to use them and to be engaged.
  2. "Burying" them in a neighborhood will take effort trying to let those not currently watching this to disregard them completely.
  3. I cannot tell you how disturbing it would be to have all this money, time, energy and angst put into a location that will lay fallow too often because they are "out of the way".
  4. Even a place (although I am not suggesting it as a location) like brickyards, people drive by and see what's doing there.
  5. From a marketing/sales perspective, having a visible and accessible location like on the revised Lions driveway entrance recommendation attached, would do the entire project, Village, and general public use of the park so much more in positive advantages than the current - back of the park - location.
  6. People can walk along the main street to get there from so many points. Those who drive can park (and walk for a warm up as I

clearly mentioned at the meeting - so no excuses on the walking from parking!!)

I don't have the luxury of time or the benefit of Park administration experience or the engineering to do a proper proposal. But to me, the advantages of this location are so extensive to the general health and well-being of the park and to the future active use of the courts, that it warrants serious consideration and creative maneuvering.

This part of the park has never been part of the engineering drawings so I ask you to please have someone more creative than I am to work on figuring out how this space can be developed. The three attachments show my crookedly drawn lines on a pdf - again I'm an ideas person not the artist/engineer!

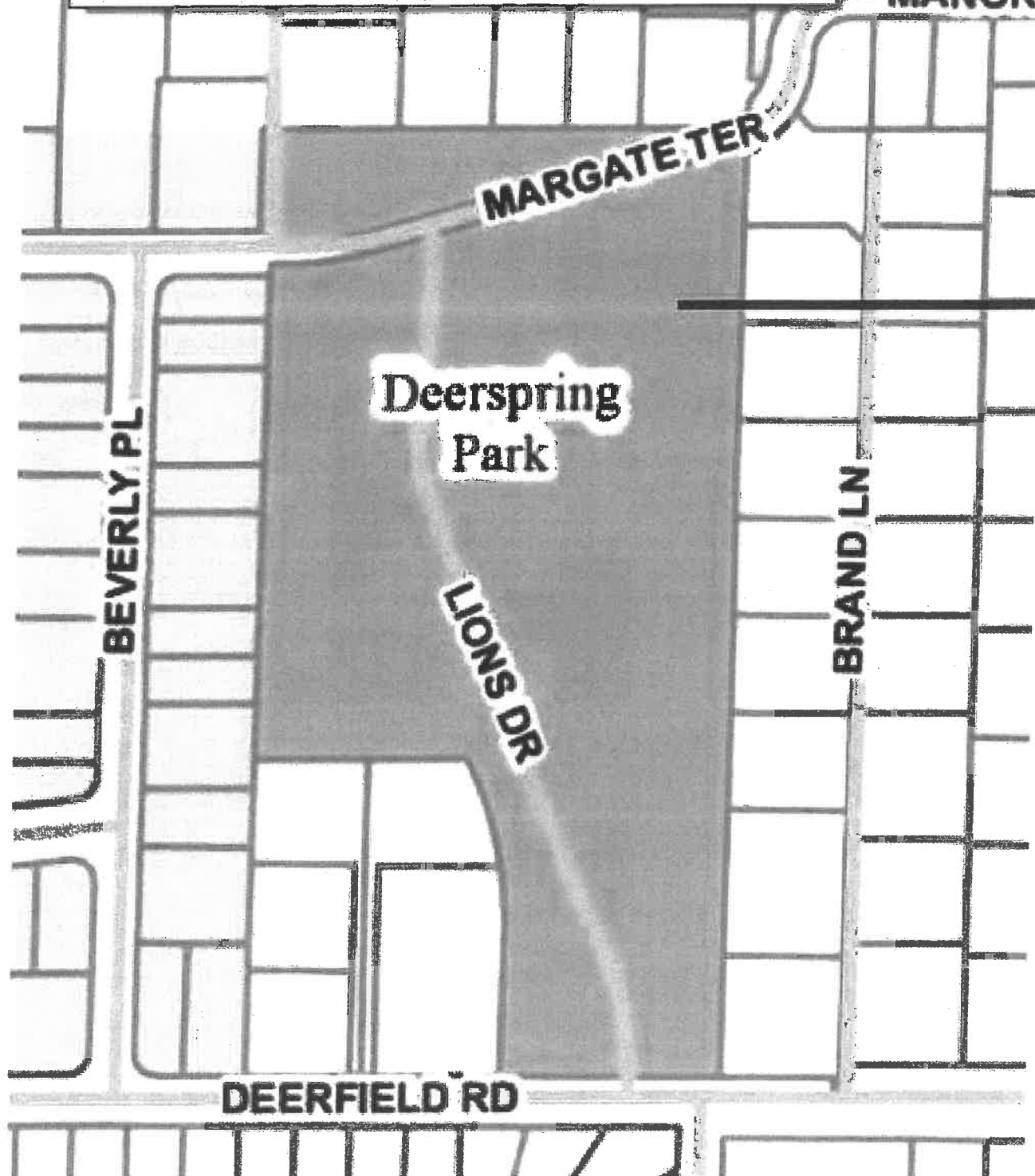
- One is Lions Driveway as it is today.
- One is as modifying the driveway entrance from Deerfield Rd.
- The last is an aerial from google maps showing the homes in the area.

Respectfully,  
Mary Anne

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fax +847-948-0468  
[sales@myownmeals.com](mailto:sales@myownmeals.com)  
[www.myownmeals.com](http://www.myownmeals.com)

Click to decrease the magnification of the entire page

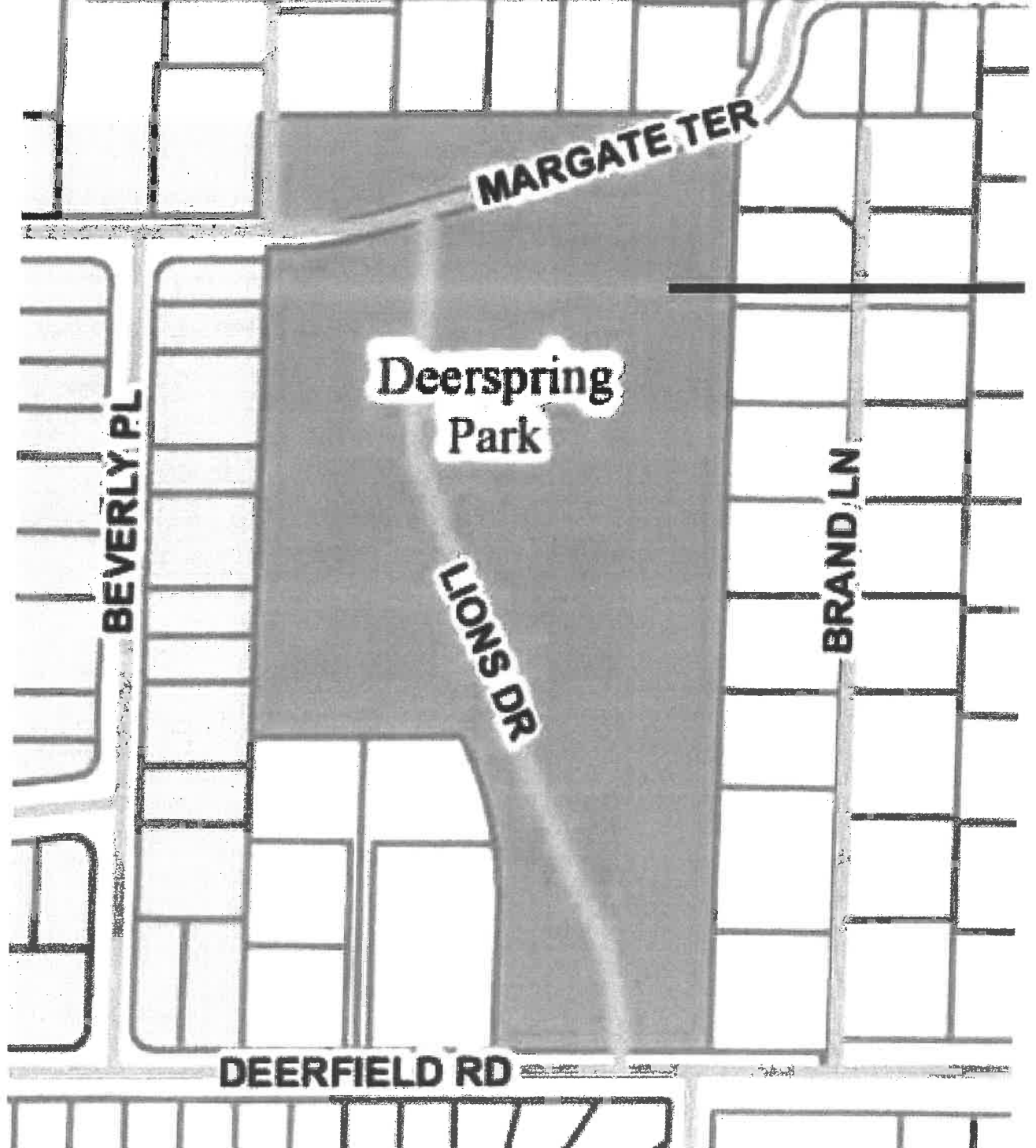
MANOR



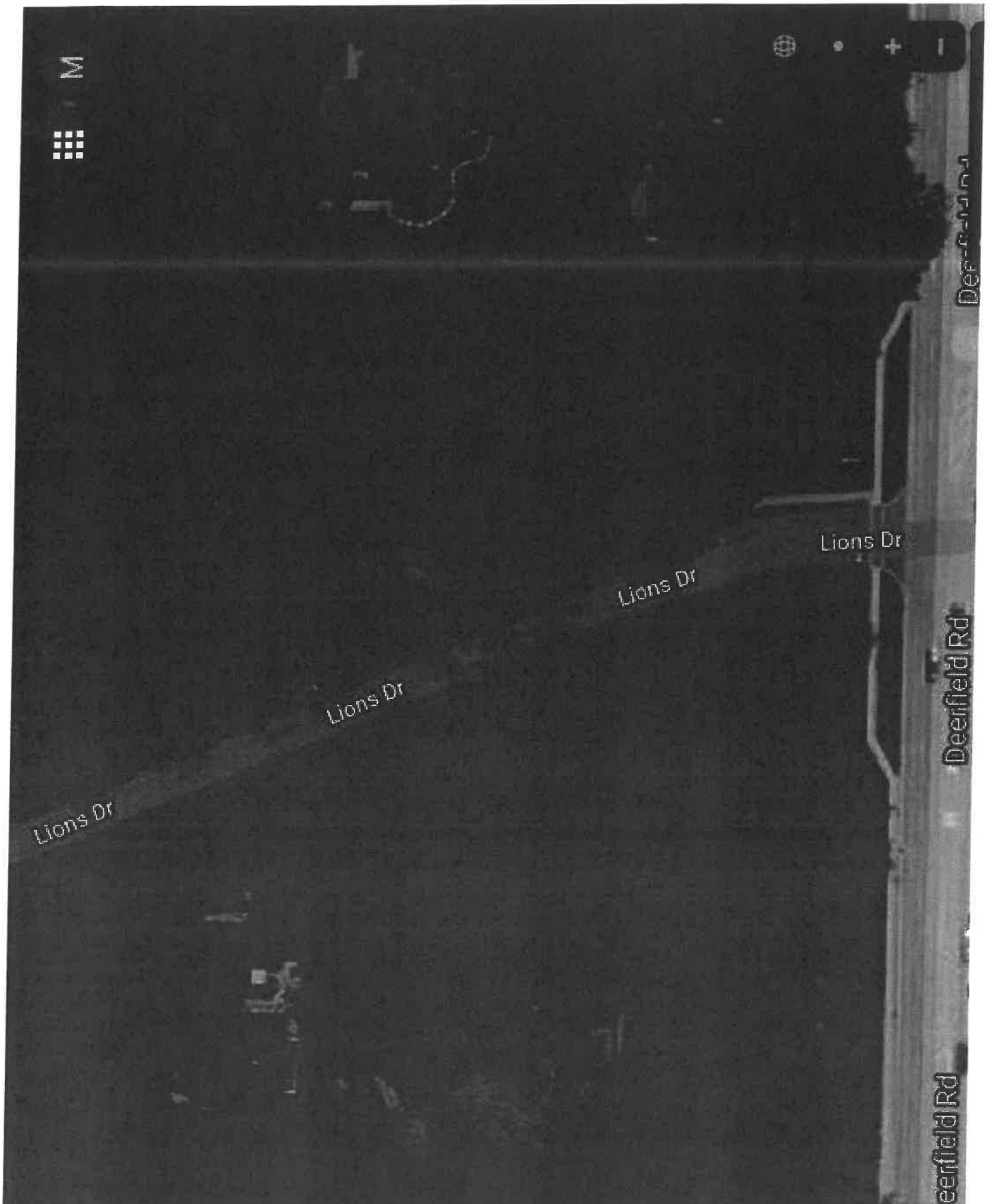
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MANOR



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## Jeff Nehila

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**From:** acm0526@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 5:06 PM  
**To:** Jeff Nehila  
**Subject:** Deerspring Park

Hello Deerfield Park District Executive Director Jeff,

This email is from long time Deerspring Park neighbors Aimee and John Moyer.

We request that this mail be read aloud at the December 10, 2020 Deerfield Park District Board meeting.

For over 28 years we have owned and lived in our home at 1010 Meadowbrook Lane, around the corner from Deerspring Park.

We are writing in very sincere hopes that you will NOT approve pickle ball courts at Deerspring Park.

We feel strongly that pickle ball courts at Deerspring will harm many more Deerfield homeowners and citizens than they will help.

Pickle Ball is a limited interest niche sport.

How many Deerfield citizens have requested pickle ball courts?

Why would pickle ball courts be placed in a smaller park like Deerspring?

Please do not change the park in a way not compatible with the neighborhood, by paving green space, cutting down trees, and creating a potentially dangerous to small children water retention area, for unsightly, expensive, lightly used pickle ball courts..

Thank you for considering our opinion.

Aimee and John Moyer  
1010 Meadowbrook Lane  
Deerfield, IL 60015  
847-309-3753



## Jeff Nehila

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**From:** araratjan@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, December 7, 2020 6:35 PM  
**To:** Jan Caron; Joe Cohen; Gil Antokal; Greg Lapin; Rick Patinkin; Jeff Nehila; hrosenthal@deerfield.il.us; dnakahara@deerfield.il.us; jryckaert@deerfield.il.us; kstreet@deerfield.il.us; bstruthers@deerfield.il.us; dshapiro@deerfield.il.us; wseiden@deerfield.il.us; moppenheim@deerfield.il.us; tjester@deerfield.il.us; rbenton@deerfield.il.us  
**Subject:** Pickleball courts at Deerspring Park

Hello,

We live at 448 Margate Terrace, and, as we understand, pickleball courts are still being planned to be installed in Deerspring Pool area. Our family strongly opposes these plans! We need more green spaces and should protect the environment rather than destroy it for a temporary fad that may go away in a few years. As you may know, there are various animals living in the area, and we believe that putting these courts will be extremely detrimental to these animals. Further, these courts will destroy the fabric and appearance of this part of Deerfield, which, we believe, is one of the major draw factors for people to consider living in this particular area.

Please feel free to contact us at 847-505-3010 if you would like to receive additional insights/comments.

Thank you,

Asatryan Family

## Jeff Nehila

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**From:** Rebecca Soldwisch <dasras@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:13 AM  
**To:** Jan Caron; Joe Cohen; gil@board.deerfieldparks.or; Greg Lapin; Rick Patinkin; Jeff Nehila  
**Cc:** hrosenthal@deerfield.il.us; dnakahara@deerfield.il.us; jryckaert@deerfield.il.us; kstreet@deerfield.il.us; bstruthers@deerfield.il.us; dshapiro@deerfield.il.us; wseiden@deerfield.il.us; moppenheim@deerfield.il.us; tjester@deerfield.il.us; rbenton@deerfield.il.us  
**Subject:** Re Park District Meeting 12/10/20---Pickleball at Deerspring

Dear Mr. Nehila,

Please see my letter below; I formally request it be read aloud at the December 10, 2020 Park District meeting per guidelines for virtual public comments. Thank you.

Best,  
Rebecca Soldwisch

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Dear Park District Commissioners, Mayor Rosenthal and Deerfield Trustees,

I am writing in regards to building of formal pickleball courts at Deerspring Pool. I live at 1009 Meadowbrook with my husband and we have the distinction of owning one of the houses deemed closet to the proposed location of pickleball courts. I wrote a letter last year when this was initially proposed, attended every forum each time it was discussed, and signed the petition opposing these courts along with many others because they are a detriment to our park, the neighborhood and especially harmful to the homes that most closely about Deerspring Park like mine, our neighbors living in Meadowbrook, homes along Margate/Manor and Brand Lane.

The many reasons the idea of these courts being placed at Deerspring was a bad idea in 2019 is unchanged in 2020, and looking forward to 2021: noise, drainage, traffic, and loss of open, green lawn space. This sport IS noisier than other racket sports and it is well documented that pickleball, in spite of its popularity, causes a decrease in quality of life for those living near courts due to the repetitive pop-pop-pop of the ball and loud cheering of the players. Such is the noise nuisance from these types of courts, that many communities become embroiled in lawsuits leading to expensive sound abatement measures. I continue to wonder why, if Mayor Rosenthal herself previously agreed courts were too noisy for Jewett Park (which is larger and could better accommodate these courts) they are not considered too noisy for me and my neighbors who live closer to Deerspring?

There are currently two tennis courts at Deerspring, and both are lined for pickleball play as well as tennis. I was barely out my patio door this spring when I heard the grating pop-pop-pop of someone playing pickleball early one Sunday morning (which I taped on my phone while standing at the threshold). Instead of being able to leave my patio door open to hear the birds chirping and the breeze as it passed through the trees, I had to close my door to the outdoors in order to drink my morning coffee in peace. This is not what living in Deerfield should be like; we, like many people, moved from the city to the suburbs specifically to enjoy a quieter, slower

pace. Expanding play to dedicated courts would only increase the noise tenfold...and bring about an even bigger loss to our community: enjoyment of wide open recreational space from a green lawn.

A silver lining in the pandemic of 2020, is how it brought people much closer to their home and family. While there may be hope on the horizon with a vaccine, there is no denying that having parkland—especially within close walking distance to your home—was a blessing and a gift this past year. The open lawn at Deerspring has always been utilized by people out walking their dogs, and kids needing more room to romp, but this year was different because more people needed and relied on the ability to walk a *half mile or less* to enjoy grass to toss a Frisbee, do cart wheels, play tennis, watch the deer grazing--and yes the occasional pickleball game—and our park was able to accommodate safe, social distancing because the lawn these proposed courts would occupy was left open & unspoiled. Had these courts been built last year, our community would've had nothing but fenced hard surface instead of soft, green grass.

I ask again that the request for placement of permanent, dedicated pickleball courts be denied at Deerspring in favor of the preservation of green lawn, permeable ground, and tall leafy trees that are cherished and utilized by families as a place for continued recreation to play or just stroll. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Soldwisch  
1009 Meadowbrook Ln

## Jeff Nehila

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**From:** Tim Hogan <thogan@nmlp.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** Jan Caron; Joe Cohen; Gil Antokal; Greg Lapin; parks.org; Jeff Nehila; hrosenthal@deerfield.il.us; dnakahara@deerfield.il.us; jryckaert@deerfield.il.us; kstreet@deerfield.il.us; bstruthers@deerfield.il.us; dshapiro@deerfield.il.us; wseiden@deerfield.il.us; moppenheim@deerfield.il.us; tjester@deerfield.il.us; rbenton@deerfield.il.us  
**Subject:** Pickleball at Deerspring Park

**"PLEASE READ THESE COMMENTS IN THE PUBLIC COMMENTS SECTION OF THE December 10, 2020 MEETING"**

Tim & Jill Hogan reside at 1200 Meadowbrook Lane for the past 22 years and for another 20 years prior to this at other addresses in Deerfield.

We love our community very much and want to protect it and ourselves from installations which add to our water problems in the Deerspring and Meadowbrook areas.

We feel that installation of pickleball courts in the Deerspring Park will only add to our water issues. We feel strongly against such installation and suggest the Park District find other more-suitable areas for pickleball courts.

Thank you.

Tim & Jill Hogan  
12000 Meadowbrook Lane  
Deerfield, IL 60015

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## Jeff Nehila

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**From:** Richard J. Koerner <koerner.richard@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 9:00 AM  
**To:** Jeff Nehila  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts at Deerspring - PLEASE READ these comments in the public comments section of the December 10, 2020 meeting.

PLEASE READ these comments in the public comments section of the December 10, 2020 meeting.

TO: Jeff Nehila  
FROM: Rich and Mary Kay Koerner, longtime Deerfield residents  
SUBJECT: Proposed Pickleball Courts at Deerspring Park

My wife and I are dead set against the idea of destroying one of the most beautiful parks in the Deerfield Park District and one that we have enjoyed since moving to this Deerfield location in 1987. We have lived in Deerfield since 1981. We specifically chose Deerfield because of its beautiful, tree-lined streets.

All of our sons have worked at Deerspring and we have pretty much gone to the pool every summer. We have been continually dismayed by the Park District as it seems to have its own agenda or at least politically charged people with desires that are met and more often than not to our liking. Deerspring Pool can barely manage to put in the steps every day for those with issues getting into the pool, but we are going to tear out some of Deerspring's natural and green beauty and put in an expensive Pickelball Court. The world continues to have wildfires and grandiose plans to clear off trees and we are going to remove arboreal beauty for no reason. At this point, there should be a moratorium on removing any healthy tree without good reason.

In the past several years we have been saddened by the loss of Ash trees at Deerspring but at least we are still able to enjoy the beauty that surrounds the pool. The proposed Pickleball courts would clearly change that. No longer would we have the lovely grassy area we enjoy with our children, grandchildren, and dogs. Pickleball will bring more cars, more noise, and perhaps even water issues. I walk my dog every day and I would certainly miss the beauty of this park.

I don't understand why this court wouldn't be put in a less residential situation. The ramifications of this change will affect us all in our neighborhood as well as beyond for years to come.

Please find a better location for this proposed change.

Rich and Mary Kay Koerner

Richard J. Koerner

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"Les idées ne sont pas faites pour être pensées, mais vécues."

"Ideas are meant to be lived , not just thought."

Malraux

"Toutes choses sont dites déjà; mais comme personne n'écoute, il faut toujours recommencer."

"Everything that needs to be said has already been said. But, since no one was listening, everything must be said again."

André Gide

Envoyé de mon iPad

## Jeff Nehila

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**From:** Peter Levy <pal417@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 6:07 PM  
**To:** Jan Caron; Joe Cohen; Gil Antokal; Greg Lapin; Rick Patinkin; Jeff Nehila  
**Cc:** hrosenthal@deerfield.il.us; dnakahara@deerfield.il.us; rbenton@deerfield.il.us; tjester@deerfield.il.us; moppenheim@deerfield.il.us; wseiden@deerfield.il.us; dshapiro@deerfield.il.us; bstruthers@deerfield.il.us; kstreet@deerfield.il.us; irvckaert@deerfield.il.us  
**Subject:** Pickleball at Deerspring Park  
**Attachments:** PARK DISTRICT LETTER RE PICKLEBALL (02983268xAA9B3).pdf

Please read attach letter and PLEASE READ THIS LETTER AT THE DECEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING OF THE PARK BOARD

*Peter A. Levy*  
*920 Brand Lane*  
*Deerfield, Illinois 60015*  
*Mobile: 847-691-2900*  
*Email: [pal417@icloud.com](mailto:pal417@icloud.com)*

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER ALOUD AT THE DECEMBER 10, 2020  
PARK BOARD MEETING

Deerfield Park District

December 9, 2020

Re: Pickleball at Deerspring Park

VIA EMAIL

Commissioners of the Deerfield Park District:

I stand here (virtually of course) in front of you today to again raise my concerns with locating pickleball courts in Deerspring Park, one of the few parks on the east side of Deerfield. My concerns fall into three categories; namely noise, traffic/safety and better locations with associated facilities available at those locations.

As to noise, I recognize that the Park Board retained an expert in noise to analyze pickleball noise in the context of selecting a location and to apply his conclusions on pickleball noise level in selecting Deerspring Park. I actually spoke with the gentleman after the first meeting and he was clearly an intelligent individual and had an excellent resume. On the other hand, he had never analyzed the noise from a pickleball court before this engagement and that gives me some cause for concern. His analysis is that although I may hear something (being located on Brand Lane and backing up to the Park), it would not be all that loud or disturbing. On Tuesday of this week I happen to be on my porch for a few minutes and could clearly hear a gentleman practicing his pickleball serving on the Deerspring tennis courts. I also clearly hear them play tennis in the summer (although it is not that disturbing as the ball and the tennis racket are much softer and have much more give than a hard plastic pickleball hit by a solid hard racket). I cannot imagine how much additional noise will be created when 16 people are playing with the constant back and forth of the pickleball all day long. Also, unlike some other locations, there are residences on 3 sides who will all be adversely affected by the constant battering of the pickleball. From the perspective that there may be better locations, the mere existence of residences on three sides would appear to disqualify Deerspring as a location for the pickleball courts.

As to traffic and again I realize that there was a traffic analyst who reviewed Deerspring and concluded no adverse effects from locating 4 pickleball courts, my common sense leads me to be skeptical in that conclusion. There may not be a pure traffic issue (although I remain unconvinced), there is clearly a traffic/safety issue. As I understand it, pickleball is most



commonly played in doubles which means if all 4 courts (or 16 players) turned over at the same time (say on the hour), there would be anywhere from 20 to 32 cars coming in and out of Deerspring over a say 10 to 15 minute period every hour (and the 20 cars assumes that some players will drive together which in suburbia rarely happens) with most of these cars driving down Lions Drive right past the playground and swimming facility with people constantly coming and going from those facilities [and I cannot remember the last time I saw someone driving at 10 miles per hour (which is the posted speed limit)]. The other alternative is for them to drive down Margate and today (Wednesday), because of the nicer weather there are 8 or 10 cars of the parties using the tennis courts who have parked on the north side of Margate (creating another traffic hazard for people who drive down Margate to get to their homes). To me, this all sounds like recipe for disaster and another reason not to locate pickleball in Deerspring Park.

Lastly, I believe that there are other locations in Deerfield that have no residences on any side or only one side, have ample parking, where traffic does not have the potential dangers that exist in Deerspring, have readily accessible bathroom facilities (which do not exist at Deerspring) and could potentially create avenues for the Park District to generate revenues. The following are by no means the only potential places for pickleball courts, but they do reflect the fact that with a little outside of the box thinking, there are places in Deerfield for pickleball courts that are better than Deerspring. I have included with this letter some overhead photos of some places I have considered and on which I have superimposed the pickleball court configuration, all to scale. My thoughts on some of these locations are as follows:

1. Deerfield Golf Club - the Deerfield Golf Club has plenty of land, parking, bathroom facilities, a pro shop (which could devote a wall or shelf to selling pickleball equipment) and a restaurant (where pickleball players could go after their game to continue their socializing). In one of the photos I have attached a drawing showing that the pickleball courts could utilize a portion of one of the 2 putting greens (most, if not all other, of the public golf courses on the North Shore have only one putting green) and in doing that, there would be no residences within earshot, it would be adjacent to parking and traffic should not create nearly as dangerous situation as exists in Deerspring. I believe that there may be other locations in that vast tract of land would also provide a more suitable location for pickleball, such as using a portion of one of the two chipping greens (again most public golf courses on the North Shore have either no or 1 chipping green) and perhaps a small portion of the driving range and again have all of the "benefits" associated with being located at the Deerfield Golf Club.
2. Sachs Center – there is a huge totally underutilized parking lot behind the Sachs Center that would provide an excellent location. Neither traffic nor parking would be an issue. Park District could even provide night pickleball as there currently are no residences anywhere to be seen. I have no idea if Park District or the Village owns any of the land on which the Sachs Center is located and I recognize that the Village has, I believe, approved an apartment building being constructed at the southernmost end property (but who knows in this economy if it will ever get built). The Sachs Center also provides bathroom facilities and perhaps the opportunity to sell equipment.
3. Jewett Park – I know that Jewett Park is where this all started, but there might be other locations in the park that meet the noise issue especially considering that there are trains running past the Park all day and night and so pickleball would only potentially effect

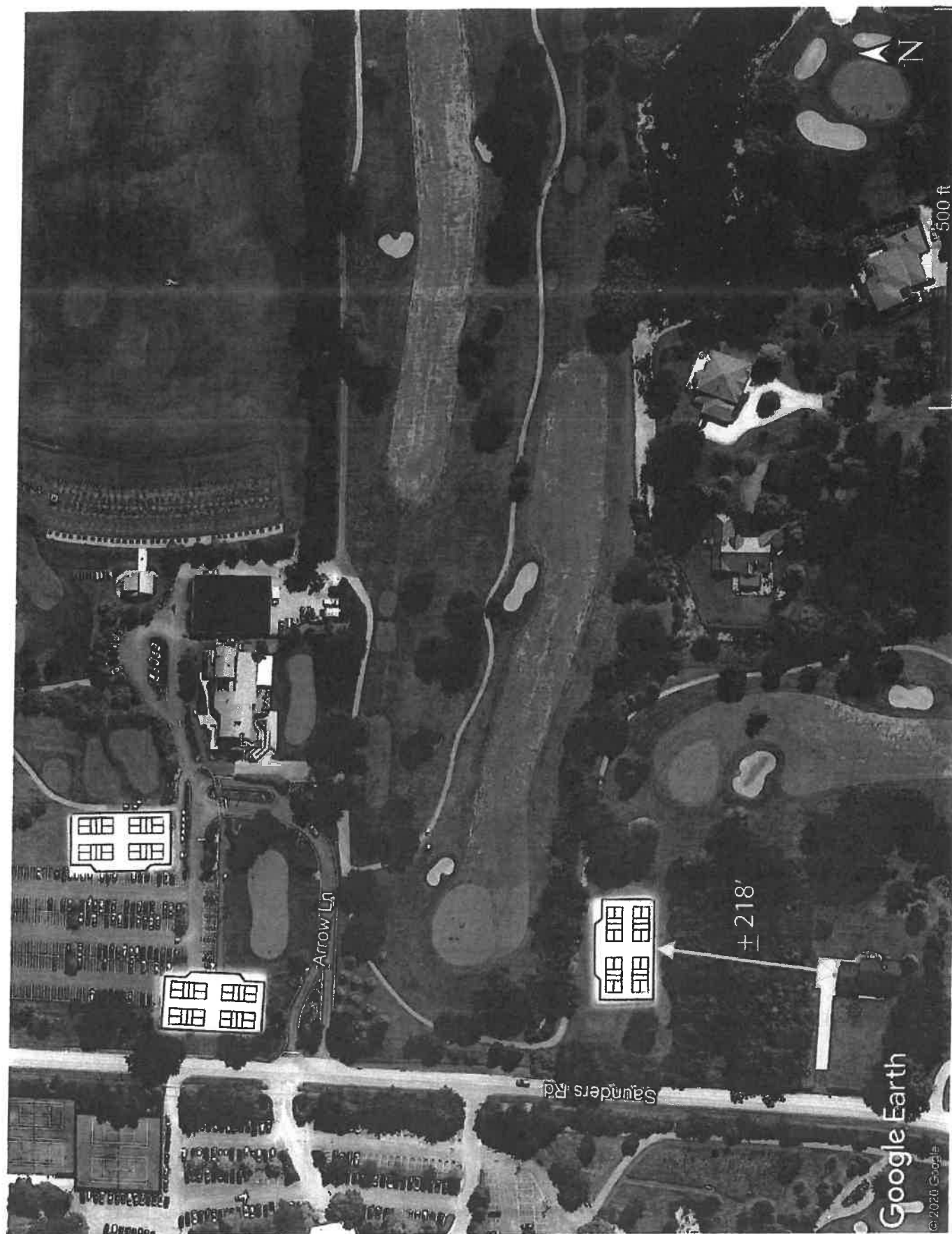
residences on one side. One of those locations I have depicted on one of the included photos.

My point is that if pickleball is something that the Park District wants to provide to its citizens, then it is incumbent on the Park Board to do a thorough analysis and avoid the apparent pitfalls of Deerspring (like noise, traffic/safety and loss of tranquility).

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A. Levy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Levy" clearly distinguishable.

cc: Trustees of the Village of Deerfield (via email)

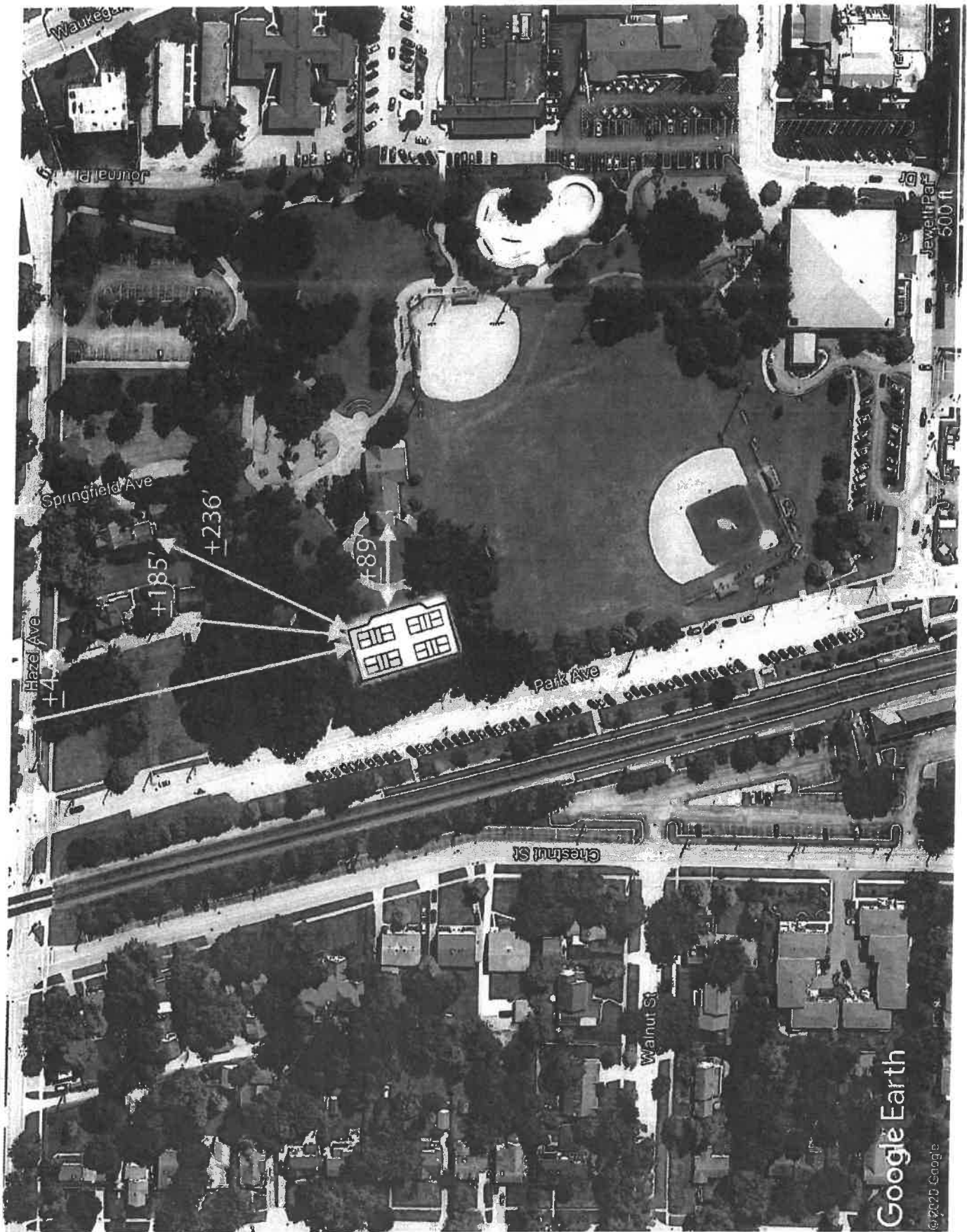




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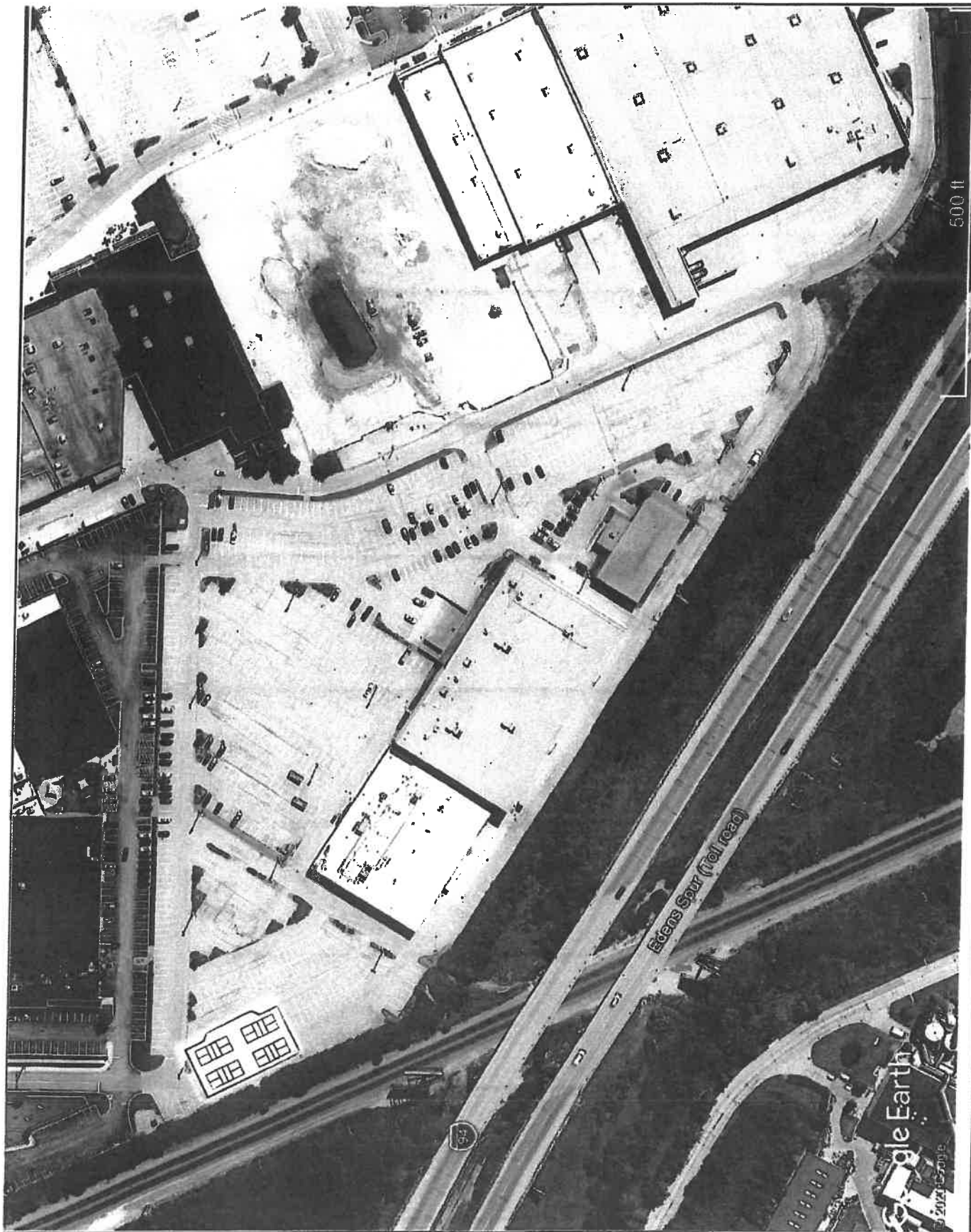
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Google Earth

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## Jeff Nehila

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**From:** Pamela Levy <paml20@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 6:34 PM  
**To:** Jan Caron; joe@board.deerfieldparks.ord; Gil Antokal; Greg Lapin; Rick Patinkin; Jeff Nehila  
**Cc:** dnakahara@deerfield.il.us; jrycaert@deerfield.il.us; kstreet@deerfield.il.us; bstruthers@deerfield.il.us; dshapiro@deerfield.il.us; wseiden@deerfield.il.us; moppenheim@deerfield.il.us; thester@deerfield.il.us; rbenton@deerfield.il.us; hrosenthal@deerfield.il.us  
**Subject:** Please read this out loud at the board meeting

>

> I hope you will consider finding a better option for pickleball other than Deerspring Park.

> We can assume that any location in Deerfield will make the pickballers happy, but your choice of Deerspring Park will make the neighbors very sad.

> It would be so disruptive and disturbing for the community surrounding the park.

> There appears to be some open land in the Deerfield golf course area, and the social aspect of pickleball would benefit from the clubhouse, also there is always plenty of parking there.

> We have strong concerns about the noise level, drainage and traffic.

> Please consider an alternate location. We would appreciate if your decision would respect and maintain our peaceful neighborhood as is.

> Wishing everyone a healthy, safe and happy holiday.

>

> Pamela Levy

> 920 Brand Lane

> 847-845-5088

## Jeff Nehila

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**From:** Dave & Rebecca <djuras@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 5:23 PM  
**To:** Jan Caron; Joe Cohen; Greg Lapin; Rick Patinkin; Jeff Nehila; Gil Antokal  
**Cc:** hrosenthal@deerfield.il.us; dnakahara@deerfield.il.us; jryckaert@deerfield.il.us; kstreet@deerfield.il.us; bstruthers@deerfield.il.us; dshapiro@deerfield.il.us; wseiden@deerfield.il.us; moppenheim@deerfield.il.us; tjester@deerfield.il.us; rbenton@deerfield.il.us  
**Subject:** Re Park District Meeting 12/10/20---Pickleball at Deerspring

Dear Mr. Nehila,

Please see my letter below; I formally request it be read aloud at the December 10, 2020 Park District meeting per guidelines for virtual public comments. Thank you.

Best,  
David Unger

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Dear Park District Commissioners, Mayor Rosenthal and Deerfield Trustees,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE any plan to continue to allow Pickleball at Deerspring Park. I have the unfortunate distinction of being one of the closet homes to the park and the proposed courts. I knew of, and welcomed having the park nearby, understanding that there would be some pool and tennis noise, but I oppose any pickleball play in such close proximity to my and my neighbor's homes.

It is sad is it that any resident would consider living near a park in Deerfield as being unfortunate but alas I am deeply troubled by how my property and my neighborhood will be negatively impacted by the noise if this plan is approved.

As I write this email sitting in my home, I have a direct line of sight to the pool and water slide. A thousand little things called leaves (which the park district has said protects my house from sound) have fallen from the trees and I can hear cars driving on Margate. But it is not the occasional sound I am concerned about – it is the proven detrimental impact the sound of multiple pickleball courts in use – a sound that is uniquely disquieting. Noise pollution will disturb the neighborhood, displace wildlife and make those within earshot uncomfortable during court play - between the striking sounds of the ball to the shouting among players (up to 16 people on 4 courts). And yes I already have to deal with it now with a few pickleballers already playing at the tennis courts.

Beginning in December 2019, the neighborhood has provided the Park Board with feedback about the numerous negative impacts these courts would have on our park. Concerned neighbors have provided signed petitions; We have provided information on acoustic studies that directly *refute* park district claims regarding the impact



of noise and remediation needs, and we have spent hours and hours of our time to be visible and public about our concerns. Yet here we are again, December 2020, discussing the same flawed plan.

The many reasons the idea of these courts being placed at Deerspring was a bad idea in 2019 is unchanged in 2020. It is well known that this sport is noisy, very noisy. So noisy that lawsuits are very common once these courts are installed. With the Jewett Park renovations further along after another year it seems all the noise remedies the Park District have proposed to the homeowners (i.e. taxpayers) near Deerspring could be used in Jewett which is much larger, and has higher overall ambient noise, where these courts would be less of a burden. Looking at the towns around us, those that have courts have placed them along golf courses and schools where resident impacts are minimized and there is presumably better parking. It is clear our Park District wants courts so badly they are willing to circumvent the science of sound just to claim a few more courts exist in our borders even if the right space is not physically available.

I ask again that the Park District find an alternative away from so many residential homes and, if they can't find that space without creating a hardship for homeowners, accept that there is no room for more Pickleball courts in Deerfield.

Sincerely,

David Unger  
1009 Meadowbrook Ln