



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: MAY 20, 2019**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: PICKLEBALL UPDATE AND DEMONSTRATION FROM THE RIVERSIDE PICKLEBALL CLUB AND USA PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION

ISSUE:

Receive an update and demonstration on pickleball from the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, Riverside Pickleball Club and the USA Pickleball Association.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive a pickleball update and demonstration from the Riverside Pickleball Club and USA Pickleball Association.

BACKGROUND:

This year marks the 54th Anniversary of pickleball, as Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum invented it in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, Seattle.

Currently, the sport of pickleball is exploding in popularity. The number of places to play has more than doubled since 2010. There are 6,885 locations on the United States of America, Pickleball Association's (USAPA) Places to play map, including Bryant and Villegas Parks.

On Saturday, March 30, and Sunday, March 31, 2019, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD), Riverside Pickleball Club and ambassadors from the USA Pickleball Association hosted a Pickleball Open House and tournament at Bryant Park. Kim Waddell was the Tournament Director with assistance from Tom Lindedist, President of Riverside Pickleball Club and USAPA Ambassadors Stephen Waddell and William Lizotte,

DISCUSSION:

Pickleball is a court sport played on a badminton-sized (20' X 44') court with the net set to a height of 34 inches at the center. It is played with a perforated plastic ball and composite or wooden paddles and can be played indoors or outdoors with singles or doubles.

The USAPA formed in 2005 to promote the sport. It is the national governing body for the sport of pickleball in the US and provides players with official rules, tournaments, rankings and promotional materials. The USAPA also sponsors an Ambassador Program of 1,800 volunteers

dedicated to spreading the popularity and awareness of pickleball. Some activities for ambassadors include organizing and overseeing tournaments and acting as representatives for USAPA in communities.

The City of Riverside is also home to the Riverside Pickleball Club, led by Tom Lindedist, President. The club and its members introduce, promote and support the sport of pickleball.

In the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) 2018 Pickleball Participant Report, they reported pickleball has 3.1 million players in the US – an increase of 12% over the previous year. SFIA is the premier trade association for top brands, manufacturers, retailers and marketers in the American sporting goods and fitness industry. In 2016, SFIA produced a detailed Pickleball Participation Report that provided the following details:

1. 1.57 million were “Casual” participants who play 1-7 times a year
2. 930,000 were “Core” participants who play 8 or more times a year
3. The 2.5 million participants represent 0.9% of the US population
4. The regions with the largest number of participants were Pacific (CA, OR, WA) = 263,000

Interest and participation in pickleball is growing in more and more areas, and cities like Irvine, Palm Springs, Tustin, Hemet, Temecula, Moreno Valley, Eastvale, Menifee, Redlands and Beaumont have built indoor and outdoor pickleball specific courts to meet the rising participation level in the sport of pickleball.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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