



June 8, 2020

To the Mayor and Council:

Thank you for providing the Kingsville Pickleball, Inc. (KPI) membership the opportunity to present today. We are a very enthusiastic group of 70 plus tax paying players. Since 2013 we have accessed the town tennis courts for our play. Regrettably the relationship between KPI and the Kingsville Tennis Association (KTA) has been fraught with tensions and adversity from start to present. It is our desire to work together in harmony as is successful in many other locations.

In July 2019 a presentation was made at the PRAC meeting where we provided information on a cost efficient process to increase the four overlay pickleball courts on the tennis surface to eight courts. KPI has shared and shown the need for more courts in order to accommodate our increasing membership play time. At this same meeting the Kingsville Tennis Association (KTA) stated that they wanted the pickleball lines removed by the 2020 season. They stated that the present lines cause confusion for tennis play, that they cannot run a junior program, give lessons or run a sanctioned tournament.

In actuality, KTA's views are not consistent with the norm as many tennis clubs are incorporating and welcoming pickleball. Their municipalities are using blended lines on tennis courts to allow for both tennis and pickleball to be played on the same surface with great success. Tennis Canada has produced a publication, "Pickleball, Badminton and Tennis Integration". The guidelines for sanctioned tournaments and court usage rests with Tennis Ontario (pages 44 and 45 from *Rules of the Court from Tennis Canada*), with specifics regarding blended lines and the provincial sanctioning body in allowing said lines. In the same publication, page 4, are the rules for blended lines for National Events, like the Roger's Cup. The blended lines used on the Kingsville tennis courts at present are within these guidelines. We know that indoor tennis is played in gymnasiums where many sets of lines exist, including volleyball, basketball, badminton and pickleball. The colours are distinguishable and play is successful.

On May 21, 2020 two of our board members joined the PRAC meeting via Zoom as "Tennis/Pickleball update" was listed on the agenda. We believed, following email correspondence from Mr. Dan Wolicki, that an update regarding play on the courts as it regarded the Covid pandemic was to be outlined. We were taken aback when a prepared statement by the Tennis Association was read aloud to the committee by the Director of Parks & Rec., petitioning the immediate cessation of pickleball play on the tennis courts. Subsequently we were shocked when the committee agreed to the demands of the KTA and furthermore decided that KPI would be given the use of the courts at Ridgeview Park in Cottam. At the start of the meeting we were offered the unexpected opportunity to make a presentation to the PRAC members, however this was provided to us prior to hearing the presentation of the KTA. We had no knowledge of their request to terminate pickleball on the tennis courts and hence, were unable to

speak to the matter. While KPI had requested a meeting prior to the May 21st PRAC meeting to discuss use of the courts we were not afforded such a meeting, unlike KTA as outlined during their presentation. We feel that the handling of this matter was patently inequitable and unjust.

The talk of new pickleball courts is exciting and welcoming news to members of KPI. While KPI views positive advantages to these dedicated courts, we feel strongly that as residents and taxpayers we deserve advance notice of any public meeting that affects pickleball. This did not happen in regard to the May 21st PRAC meeting. Had we known, we would have been prepared to speak to the KTA position on behalf of our members. At previous meetings, for example at the aforementioned July 2019 PRAC meeting, both parties were afforded advanced notice of the agenda. As well, in May 2018 we received an invitation to present, as did KTA. The following is a direct excerpt from the email we received in May of 2018 from the Director of Parks & Rec.: *"In an effort to work toward an equitable and fair court allocation between Kingsville Pickleball Association and Kingsville Tennis Association the Parks Recreation Arts and Culture Committee would like to invite you to their next meeting...Each Group (Pickleball and Tennis) will have 10 minutes to make their presentation...."*. The latter protocol and effort to work toward equitable and fair allocation was denied KPI on May 21, 2020.

We draw attention to the following as outlined in the Terms of Reference- Parks, Recreation, Arts and Cultural Committee (Approved November 17, 2014)

The Purpose of PRAC is to operate as a link between the community and Council to make recommendations regarding:

1.1) Increasing recreation, sports and cultural opportunities for all residents

1.3) *The effective and efficient operation and use of parks and facilities....*

Furthermore within the Scope of Work - The committee shall :

3.2.1) *Improve and encourage full use of recreation, arts and cultural facilities and resources*

We ask that not only the Mayor and Council, but also the PRAC members hear from all parties affected. Due diligence must be followed in regard to information shared and decisions should be made based on accurate and factual information; fair and equitable decisions should be made for all parties affected.

In regard to fees collected, as per Council Meeting on November 25, 2019, it was recommended that Pickleball court fees collected in excess of court maintenance costs be placed in the Pickleball Reserve. In reviewing the General Ledger, both Tennis and Pickleball fees appear to be placed in the same account. The excess from Pickleball is not clearly stated and as such remains unknown to us. KTA states that through their membership varying amounts of money and donations were raised and used to build and maintain the courts. Be that as it may, so too has KPI contributed to court maintenance, alongside the Town of Kingsville and its taxpayers. Remarkably, the sole responsibility for the use of the courts and determination of its use has been given to KTA.

While not consulted in any fashion, KPI sees advantage to the use of dedicated pickleball courts in Cottam. However, those courts do not exist at this time, nor within the short foreseeable future. KPI is happy to partner with the town and Cottam Rotary to make the short term solution viable. Indeed the site itself is very appealing with its many amenities and opportunity for public exposure to our group, allowing for increased membership. Likewise, KPI was collaborating with the town to develop pickleball courts by the arena, as per the PRAC Master Plan. In point of fact, stated in the Master Plan on page 29, "The priorities which received the highest number of votes were: "Outdoor Pickleball Courts" followed by "Splash Pad at Lakeside Park...". At the PRAC meeting in May 2020, the plans for the splash pad were reviewed in great length with viable options reviewed. At this same meeting, when

discussions ensued, it was stated by Mr. Wolicki that the community vote should be honoured in regard to the splash pad location. As well, that the purpose of the vote was to hear the voice of the community. That same voice voted highest for Outdoor Pickleball Courts.

The KPI membership is anxious to have a set location that is viable for play. At present none exists for our group. We are very willing to work in collaboration with the town to make the Cottam courts viable until such time that the PRAC Master Plan sees the fruition of dedicated courts in town. While neither of these options are presently available we implore council to intervene and make the fair and equitable decision to allow KPI to continue with the use of the town tennis courts as we have since 2013, until courts are available to us. In its desire for courts and willingness to work with the town, KPI has developed a concept drawing for eight dedicated pickleball courts at Ridgeview Park. We will happily share this with the Mayor and Council should it be desired. We want to have access to courts where we can play and feel welcomed.

Many communities are either building pickleball courts or using dual purpose courts for both tennis and pickleball. We have researched and have information from local communities as well as communities across Canada which we would be willing to share in this regard. We feel strongly that as a town we too should be working harmoniously as a community to provide for our residents. We boost Kingsville as a town for retirees, and any amount of research will show that not only among retirees, but younger adults as well, pickleball is a growing sport to be embraced.

In our desire to promote and further the opportunity for pickleball in our community, Kingsville Pickleball, Inc. readily acknowledges making our share of mistakes. Frankly, it has been an arduous seven years. Nonetheless, having town representatives provide the way for one user group to evict another user group from the use of town facilities in no way fosters goodwill within our community. As experienced in surrounding localities, we are confident that we too can develop a cooperative and positive atmosphere within the Town of Kingsville as all members of the community work together for the good of all. Pickleball is growing bigger in numbers here and across Canada and beyond. We now have an opportunity to work together, moving forward to make our Pickleball site known as a great place to play.

In conclusion, we respectfully request:

- Mayor and Council alongside PRAC provide KPI access to the town tennis courts, as has been the practice since 2013, until such time as viable pickleball courts are ready for our use.
- In collaboration with KPI, support the temporary installation of pickleball courts at Ridgeview Park in Cottam within a feasible short timeline.
- In collaboration with KPI, move forward with the installation of permanent pickleball courts as per the PRAC Masterplan for the town of Kingsville, be it in Cottam or the arena location.

KPI Board Members- on behalf of the KPI Membership,

Helen Dean, President

Jules Kay, Secretary