

ATTACHMENT A

October 18, 2021

Dear Members of the Board of Community Services,

As a part of the pickleball committee presenting at your October 27, 2021 meeting, I look forward to making you and the public aware of the many aspects of pickleball, as well as to tell you of our goal of growing the sport.

From a personal perspective, I have been delighted to be able to play at Finley nearly 6 days a week and 1 day a week at Windsor the past 10 years. As you can imagine, the journey of welcoming and teaching players, as well as cultivating friendships has been remarkable. It's what I treasure about being a Santa Rosa ambassador, as well as the North Bay District Ambassador for Sonoma, Solano and Napa counties. Seeing friends share stories of births, deaths, surgeries, marriages, divorces and sadly, 7 families losing their homes to fires, has been one of the unique components of the game. We play, we laugh, we talk, we cry, we eat, we sing.

As well, over the years, my husband, Ken, has enjoyed running the annual Wine Country Games Pickleball tournament, with many volunteers. We have enjoyed hosting round robins, ladders and clinics to fulfill the players' competitive interest.

Currently, Ken and I teach beginners at Finley twice a week from 8-9. Today, we had 12 players who learned protocol for the morning after rain. They felt purposeful using squeegees and towels to get courts ready for play.

And finally, my part-time job at a preschool has allowed me to teach the children the joys of pickleball. Each classroom has a set of pickleballs - even the infants, and we roll and play catch. When the schoolagers get off the bus to go to their playground, they immediately ask me to play pickleball on their basketball court. Having taught middle school and preschool for 15 years, this new subject area has been inspiring.

I think you will enjoy the stories and testimonies of our pickleball community. And I look forward to your approval for increasing court usage at Finley by cross-painting on the tennis courts.

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