

**TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO**

Staff Report  
October 13, 2011

For the meeting of October 18, 2011

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 late 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.

**DISCUSSION**

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.

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.

In addition, staff is researching the potential installation tennis court fabric on the back fence of courts one and two to help reduce the noise from the courts.

Respectfully submitted,



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
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	Christine Sansom	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