

Stephanie Troyer-Boyd

From: Dave Tomlinson <davet59@hay.net>
Sent: November 12, 2021 10:10 AM
To: Bill Weber; Doug Cook; Dave Maguire; Dan Sageman; Lorie Scott; Ronn Dodge; Scott Ferguson; David Marsh; Jeff Wilcox
Cc: Shannon Prout; Stephanie Troyer-Boyd; davet59@hay.net; Ashley Farr; Randy Shaw; Kevin Williams; Stephen McAuley; Mike Houle
Subject: Grand Bend Pickleball

Email to Lambton Shores Council requesting a Monthly Rental rate for Indoor Pickleball at Thedford's Legacy Centre, Thomas Hall.

To: Mayor Weber, Deputy Mayor Cook and Councillors.

The Grand Bend Pickleball group (GBP) are requesting Council approve a monthly rental rate for the use of Thedford's Thomas Hall. This will enable the group to have 3 indoor Pickleball courts, utilizing temporary nets and temporary lines (corner markers and/or painters tape) which will be removed after the end of each session. The group is prepared to offer Grand Bend and area players a place to play in the winter months (December, January, February, March), as close as possible to Grand Bend, and not have to travel any further than necessary, in order to play their sport in a warm and safe place. With room for 3 courts, we would limit the number of players to approximately 20 and establish a waiting list to draw from if any players are unable to attend a session, maximizing the use of this facility. We would cancel a session and reschedule if a conflict arises such as; Council meetings, holidays, weddings, public meetings, etc.

Working with Shannon Prout on availability, our group has considered 3 other facilities; the Grand Bend Public school gymnasium, the Pt Franks Community Centre, and the gymnasium at the Forest Rec Centre. Due to public school children not yet being vaccinated, the school board does not allow public access at this time. The Pt Franks hall is too small for our 20+ players, with reduced ceiling height and limited to only 1 court. The Forest facility is further to travel and already tied up with YMCA activities, along with pickleball players from Sarnia and area also vying to rent the gymnasium, limiting available times for other groups. This makes the seldom used Thomas hall better suited for GBP as we can establish a consistent playing time throughout the winter.

Thomas hall is currently being utilized by the Thedford Shuffleboard group who use the hall Monday afternoons each week and pay a Grandfathered monthly rate rather than a per hour rate. GBP would propose to Council, that a similar monthly rental rate be established, with increasing the frequency of our use to 3 times a week (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings) playing 2 hours each day (9:30 - 11:30) with approximately 20 players participating. GBP would be willing to pay a rate of \$360 a month for the 4 months, in order to keep the cost of playing down to about \$2.00 a session per player, which is about average for other Pickleball indoor facilities. All players would need to be double vaccinated and we would ensure daily covid screening takes place. We are prepared to commence Sunday, December 5, 2021 if approved.

Our group appreciated Council and Municipal staff agreeing to paint lines on the basketball court in Grand Bend this past spring. The outdoor courts were maxed out the majority of times when we played with many players patiently waiting to take their turn and we could have easily filled 8 courts on occasion if they were available. We have submitted a budget consideration to resurface the existing cement pad there, as we anticipate even more new players in 2022. I currently have 60 contact names and numbers for players who have played in Grand Bend and want to remain in the loop of playing times and locations.

If you have any questions or clarifications, please let me know, and I hope we can discuss before the next Council meeting later this month, where I hope it will be on the agenda for approval.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dave Tomlinson, on behalf of Grand Bend Pickleball.

