

Tinti, Elisa

From: Hirsch. Michele
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 1:43 PM
To: Alderman
Cc: Schoonmaker, Jack
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Concerns over Loughran Park Pickleball expansion

From: Alison Shepard <alisonshepard12@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 1:34 PM
To: Hirsch. Michele <Ward9@kingston-ny.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Concerns over Loughran Park Pickleball expansion

Hi Ms. Hirsch,

My partner and I are residents of Roosevelt Park in Kingston, and have lived here since 2017. I'm writing with concern over the recent news of the expansion of pickleball courts and Loughran Park. I'm asking for your consideration and assistance to reconsider this proposal, in order to help preserve the quality of life for residents of the neighborhood.

Our home is on North Manor Avenue, with our backyard bordering Loughran Park. We originally chose our home based on its incredible quiet and calm neighborhood. At the time when we moved in, the only noise from the park was the occasional baseball game or children playing.

Unfortunately, as the popularity of pickleball has grown, the noise level from the two current courts has become extremely disruptive. There are frequent screams, cheers, curses, and more from the players, often which can be heard indoors. Our quality of life has plummeted as this noise has grown, and I'm extremely concerned about what the 8 more courts will bring. This means roughly 36 more people (4 people per court), and thus an exponentially higher noise level. Does the park have feasible plans for soundproofing these courts, and protecting the peace and quiet of the surrounding neighbors? And if not, can real soundproofing measures please be considered?

I'm also very concerned about parking - will the lot be expanded in order to accommodate the 36 additional players? Or will parking extend onto our streets, potentially blocking space in front of homes where homeowners should park? And how will overflow parking be prevented?

Safety is another huge factor - will there be added security in the park, to ensure that rules (both noise and loitering) is enforced? As awareness of the park has grown in the past few years, so too have incidents of loitering, noise violations, and illicit activity. I'm very concerned that this will only increase as more and more people are aware of our tiny neighborhood park. Additionally, these added courts put a huge strain on traffic and street safety in the neighborhood - putting neighborhood children, walkers, cyclists, and more in danger.

Most of all, I ask that the homeowners of the neighborhood please be taken into account. This expansion is at a major expense for our quality of life. There are many public parks in Kingston with expansive land and parking - such as Kingston Point, Hasbrouck Park, etc. These parks do not border residential homes,

and sound, light, traffic to them would not have any negative effect on local homeowners. My neighbors and I are all wondering why we, as local homeowners and taxpayers, were not consulted about these park changes, and the impact to our community and lives?

I ask that you please give my concerns consideration, and please raise these to the appropriate parties. There are many larger and less intrusive parks in Kingston where these courts could be a value to the community. Whereas the current plan only benefits the pickleball players, while punishing countless surrounding homeowners. Please help us to advocate for a change in plans, and protection for our neighborhood.

Thanks so much,
Alison Shepard

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Holly Sheppard <holly@figandpigcatering.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 7:42 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Pickleball Courts

Hello!

Thank you for reading this. Please consider putting in pickleball courts in loughran park with lights . Currently the old tennis courts are being used but are extremely dangerous due to broken concrete and cracks. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the nation and brings the community together. It's also financially accessible to everyone no matter their socioeconomic background. Pickleball is one of the only games a senior citizen can beat a 20 year old. It's truly a beautiful sport that helps people stay fit, young, and get to know someone you wouldn't typically have anything in common with. We need courts everywhere but especially in kingston.

Thanks!

Holly

Sent from my iPhone

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Nancy Howell <nancy@nancyhowell.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 7:46 PM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Pickleball courts at Loughran park

Dear E M Tinti,

The Kingston pickleball community is VERY excited about finally getting some quality courts to play on. It's been five years of me writing every year to ask if the renovations are happening. (Every year I hear yes.)

I applaud you all beginning the work.

As for the noise issue...as a former school coach, I doubt that the noise from pickleball game rivals the sounds coming from kids shooting baskets, summer rec programs, or events in the park. Parks ARE appropriate places for the exuberance of recreation, game excitement and fun. Also, moving the courts over to the larger pad will take pickleball further away from the few homes nearby.

I hope this letter finds you well, and proud to be helping the mostly senior pickleball players that have a really nice community at Loughran Park.

Sincerely,

Nancy Howell

Pickleball enthusiast and neighbor to Loughran Park.

NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE!

Nancy Howell
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(845) 481-4323

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Tinti, Elisa

From: Tinti, Elisa
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 3:27 PM
To: Shaut, Andrea; Alderman
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Support for Samadhi as a Vital Community Resource

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From: Smith, Summer <ssmith@kingston-ny.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 3:04:03 PM
To: Tinti, Elisa <emtinti@kingston-ny.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Support for Samadhi as a Vital Community Resource

Not sure if this was sent to the Council or just me ...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Katy Lord <katylord@proton.me>
Date: Feb 13, 2025 2:49 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Support for Samadhi as a Vital Community Resource
To: "Smith, Summer" <ssmith@kingston-ny.gov>
Cc:

Dear Kingston Common Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my heartfelt support for Samadhi, one of Kingston's most essential community resources. In a time of growing uncertainty and hardship, Samadhi has been a lifeline for many individuals, myself included, who are struggling with addiction, mental health challenges, and the complexities of rebuilding their lives.

Unlike traditional recovery programs, Samadhi offers a mindfulness-based, multifaceted approach to recovery that addresses the root causes of trauma and substance abuse, helping individuals develop healthier coping strategies. What sets Samadhi apart is its commitment to inclusivity and diversity—serving clients of all faiths, backgrounds, and orientations, and offering services in both English and Spanish. The groups and therapy sessions offered are consistently well-attended, reflecting the community's deep need for such a healing environment.

Samadhi has made a profound difference in my own life. After experiencing a complex cybercrime and navigating the difficulties of homelessness, I found solace and unwavering support at Samadhi. The CRPA peer advocacy program, somatic therapy, and the guidance of Dr. Maya Hambright have been instrumental in my recovery, helping me maintain my sobriety through one of the toughest years of my life.

Samadhi also offers innovative and creative therapy groups, including art, sound, meditation, and movement therapies, providing individuals with accessible ways to express and process their emotions. The dedication of the staff and community members ensures that Samadhi remains responsive and effective in its approach to recovery.

The outreach team at Samadhi goes above and beyond to assist individuals often overlooked by the system, providing support with appointments, navigating legal hurdles, and simply offering a compassionate ear. In addition, the supportive Samadhi community helps one another with everything from medical appointments to court dates, demonstrating the collective effort that is essential to recovery.

For those who would otherwise be lost in the system, Samadhi provides a sense of belonging, shelter, and guidance. It is more than just a program; it is a safe space where individuals can rebuild their lives, regain their dignity, and move forward with hope.

As someone who has benefited greatly from the services Samadhi offers, I want to make sure this vital institution continues to thrive and support our community. I'm currently drafting a petition to raise awareness of Samadhi's essential role and to rally support for its continued work. The generosity of time, the dedication to healing, and the sense of community that Samadhi provides are invaluable treasures that Kingston cannot afford to lose.

I ask for your support in protecting this vital resource and ensuring that Samadhi's impact continues to grow. Addiction and mental health struggles touch many people in different ways, and institutions like Samadhi are essential for fostering hope, healing, and resilience in our community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope we can work together to ensure that Samadhi's vital work continues to support those in need.

Warm regards,

Katy Lord

Community Journalist, Kingston, NY

<https://katievelvet.substack.com>

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