The Town of
Weaverville
NORTH CAROLINA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mike DeSerio, Community Center Director
Somer Oberlin, Police Chief
Eric Cutshall, Assistant Public Works Director
Jennifer Jackson, Assistant Town Manager

CC: Mayor and Town Council
Michael Frue, Town Attorney
Weaverville Community

FROM: Scottie Harris, Town Manager

DATE: September 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Recreation Complex – Pickleball Operations

First of all, thank you for all of your time and efforts in supporting this recreational opportunity for our citizens and community. It is not unnoticed or unappreciated.

As you are all aware, there has been much discussion about the use of the pickleball courts. I have met with the neighborhood group, with representatives of pickleball enthusiasts, and with various members of Town staff. I have listened to and read the numerous public comments that have been given to Town Council over the last year. I have also looked into the matter myself and believe that I understand the positions of each.

Town Council entrusted me with the authority to regulate the hours and types of play on the courts through Code Sec. 18-40 and to manage this recreational space.

I am electing to **keep the hours of operation the same**, as restated below, and to make some **minor changes to the types of play on each court** as follows:

- **Summer Hours – April through September – 8am to 8pm** [*no changes*]
- **Winter Hours – October through March – 8am to 6pm** [*no changes*]
- **No operations between sunset and sunrise** [*no changes; consistent with Lake Louise Park*]
- **Types of play on the pickleball courts** [*changes to more effectively manage the large number of players during certain parts of the day and provide opportunities for beginners and those choosing not to mix in with an open play group*]:
    - **Open Play**
        - All Courts (A, B, C, D) – 8am–12 pm
        - Courts C and D – 4pm–close
    - **First Come/First Serve**
        - All Courts (A, B, C, D) – 12pm–4pm
        - Courts A and B – 4pm–close

For this recreational use to be a better neighbor, I want to **strongly encourage players to use quieter equipment**. To facilitate that, the Town has purchased **lower acoustic profile balls that we will make available for use at the courts**. These balls [Onix Fuse G2] are USAPA approved, are advertised as having a lower acoustic quality, and do not unreasonably interfere with game play. We have heard from regular

players on Weaverville courts who report that these balls play well and are, in fact, quieter. We have also ordered some paddle covers/mufflers that we will be experimenting with as well. There are other quiet equipment options that participants can also consider [https://equipment.usapickleball.org/acoustic-equipment/].

Messaging and new signage on all of this needs to be developed and I would like that done with oversight from the Assistant Town Manager.

I would like the cornhole game moved to another location within the Lake Louise Park and some **additional fast-growing evergreen trees planted** in that area as an additional buffer. We have some grant money that may be available for these trees, so please coordinate that purchase with the Assistant Town Manager and keep good documentation, including receipts.

We are trying to think outside of the box to identify any **short-term solutions for temporary or movable pickleball courts, like on unused property or parking lots further away from residences**, to ease the use of the pickleball courts at the Recreation Complex. We will also seek support from Town Council in the coming years to **explore opportunities to relocate the sports courts** and either repurpose the courts or redevelop the space. This longer-term plan will require land (either through purchase or long-term lease) and funding that is not currently allocated for that purpose.

These decisions have been made after a lot of input and thought, and I don't expect that I will revisit any of these operational matters without a significant change in circumstances.