

Date: 2/09/21

To: Committee of the Whole
Village of Algonquin
2200 Harnish Drive
Algonquin, Illinois

Re: *Tennis Courts @ Willoughby Farms*

Dear : Committee

I moved to Algonquin 28 years ago. The local community has since evolved and grown. We have all made friends and seen the younger generations go thru the community. I moved into the Willoughby Farms development, I have made friends that embrace Tennis as our sport of choice. I have also joined a group that was sponsored by the Village called the Algonquin Community Tennis Association. Thru this group we have socialized and met additional tennis enthusiasts. Our relationships have grown beyond tennis and have developed into true friendships in my local community. Our meeting place is the Willoughby Farms Park tennis courts. Over the years we have seen an evolution of the tennis courts beginning with a lack of maintenance at the courts. We have tried to work with the Village to fix, restore and maintain the courts. \

Some of the issues include:

- Bees nests in the net poles
- Kids playing soccer on the tennis courts
- Kids riding bikes on the tennis courts
- Kids sitting on the tennis nets
- Residents using the court as a dog park
- Removal of dog droppings
- Nets falling apart or needing adjustments or replacement
- Dirt and leaves on the courts
- Cracking court surfaces
- Spalling of court surfaces

Issues with SeeClickFix:

I pointed out to Parks and Recreation that the courts were cracking, I was met with a response that there is no budget to fix the courts.

I posted a complaint about the 1 inch wide cracking and delamination of the tennis court surface, I directed the village to a product that is recommended for crack maintenance that is sold by Midwest Sports. The solution was different and included application of expandable foam. A product that is compressible and degrades with UV over time. It also became a tripping hazard over time and did not last for more that 1/2 season.

I posted a complaint about the 2 inch cracks, I mentioned the liability and tripping hazard. The response was locking the tennis courts for the entire summer. This caused our association to find other tennis courts i.e. Ted Spella Park. This overloaded the demand at other tennis courts, causing us to go to West Dundee on numerous occasions. Later that year the cracks were repaired with a material that was compressible and painted. None of the spalling was addressed. This fix was not an appropriate fix and did not last.

Technical:

Tennis courts are basically asphalt and move i.e. expand with heat and contract with cold causing cracks. Water then gets a chance to enter the subsurface and expand with freezing and thawing.

The problems do not go away without attending to the cracks with appropriate materials and techniques and processes.

Proposal:

Because of the expense of replacing tennis courts, I would like to propose a planned action and inspection maintenance program by a qualified contractor. This takes a budgeted monthly-inspection and yearly crack repair effort by a qualified and engineered solution. Along with minor adjustments including net tensioning, net replacement and court cleaning etc.

Additional:

To make our parks and recreation facilities more usable the village might want to consider adding toilet facilities for obvious reasons.

This approach also applies to other facilities including baseball fields and basketball courts and parks in general.

Conclusion:

This issue is more than just tennis court maintenance, the courts are a meeting place and in a sense it is the glue that holds a portion of our community together and adds to quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Morecraft