

## THE RANCH

Belvedere Tiburon Joint Recreation Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 15, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Dairy Knoll, 600 Ned's Way, Tiburon

The public is invited to attend.

**Call to Order:** 7:04pm

Committee:

Afsaneh Zolfaghari - Belvedere, Chair	Present
Peyton Stein – Belvedere, Vice-Chair	Present
Howard Block – RUSD Representative	Absent
Erin Burns – Tiburon Representative	Present
Jim Fraser – Tiburon Councilmember	Present
Jane Jacobs - Tiburon Representative	Present
Bob McCaskill – Belvedere Councilmember	Present
Jerry Riessen – Tiburon Representative	Absent
<b>Staff in attendance: Cathleen Andreucci</b>	

### I. Public Comment

Two members of the community and our contract instructor for tennis attended and voiced their opinions about the use of the Tennis Courts. We agreed to place Tennis as a discussion item on the next agenda. *Letters attached*

### II. Minutes

**A. Approval of Minutes** for the Regular Meeting held May 16, 2016  
*Jacobs/Fraser 6:0 approved*

### III. Cash Report

**A. Review of July FY 2016/17 Cash Report:** Andreucci reported that spring and summer look good. There are additional expenses to be recorded for summer but we feel confident we will meet our budgeted numbers. Fall registration is open and early numbers are better than last year for the same time period. Andreucci reported that day one registration numbers are historically a good indicator of the season. Programs of concern are the Adult Program and Ballet. Adult is primarily due to a decrease in Bridge attendance.

### IV. Discussion Item

**A. Summer Recap:** Andreucci presented the summer camp metrics from 2009-2016. Our camps are in great shape and continue to grow. *Metrics attached*

**B. Fall Program and Special Event Update:** Registration is open for fall programs which start the week of August 22nd. The program is very similar to recent fall seasons with a few exceptions. We will start a winter basketball league for 1st and 2nd grade children and we are offering more tot programs including 2 tot drop in programs

at Dairy Knoll, an art program and Pee Wee All Ball. Tot numbers are finally on the upswing!

There are many Fall Events on the horizon including the Labor Day Parade (9/4), Belvedere Tiburon Golf Open (9/15), Tiburon Taps Beer Festival (9/24), Tiburon Whole Foods Half Marathon 10K & 5K (10/2) and the Boo Bash (10/22). If you are available to volunteer for any, let Cathleen know.

**C. RUSD Update:** No report

**D. Donor Tiles:** The donor wall is up! We have about 26 tiles left to sell. It is easier to entice potential donor to purchase a tile if there is a tangible item to support. Andreucci suggested Bocce Courts on the property and was encouraged to talk with the Town manager about the possibility and create a draft budget.

V. **Adjourn:** 7:50pm

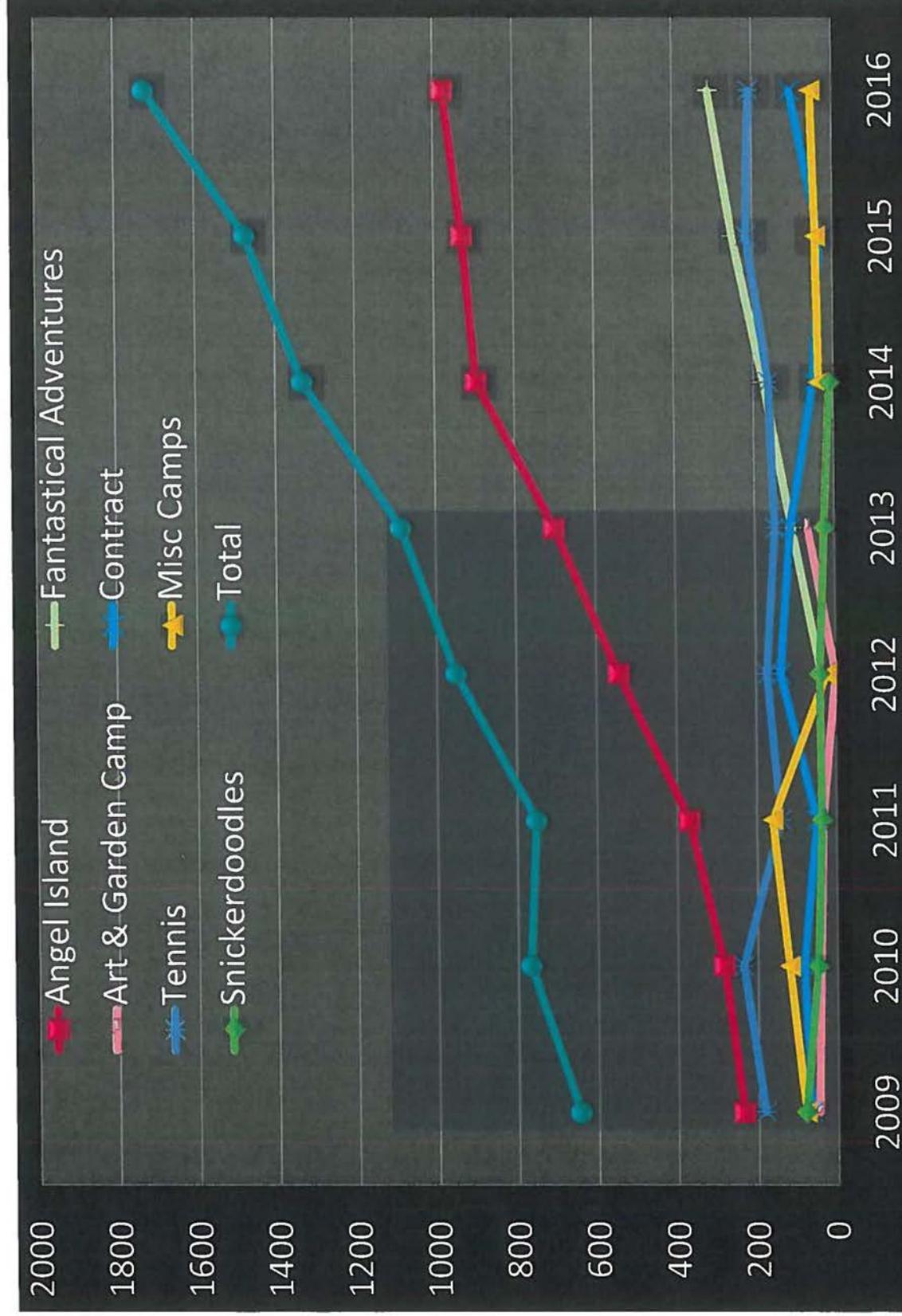
# Summer Camps 2009-2016

Number of Children served



# Summer Camps 2009-2016

Number of Children served



My name is Lori Horne.

We are here to defend the use of the Tiburon/Belvedere courts by residents of Tiburon and Belvedere. These courts belong to the public and their use should be primarily, if not exclusively, for the use of residents.

You have just heard the statement by Maria Elena Russo. I too am a resident of Tiburon, since 1988.

In the past few years, I have begun to play tennis, and count on using our public courts. Right now, the Higgins Organization has total and complete use of one-third of OUR 6 public courts .

We are not questioning the activities provided to our children, but rather the availability of the public courts for our **adult** residents.

Currently, The Ranch is surveying key holders about their use of the courts. They are also aware that the Higgins Organization is taking pictures of the courts during the summer months to hopefully show that they are empty some of the time.

**I am requesting that instead of asking us, the residents, to PROVE that we need the courts, could we instead focus on who is using the courts as part**

**of the Higgins classes, lessons, etc.** We are fully aware that most of the adult classes have many participants that are NOT residents of either Tiburon and Belvedere. In fact, many come from Strawberry, Mill Valley, Corte Madera, and elsewhere, and **do NOT have keys**. I suggest that Mr.

Higgins send The Ranch a list of the participants in his classes, along with where they live to see who is in the class. If the Ranch has this list, then we would like to see where the participants live.

When Mr. Higgins says that he has too many adult students and not enough court time, we think The Ranch should inquire as to who these students are and where they live. We are likely to find out, they are not from our cities.

The Del Mar courts are used for Higgins private lessons, and he has priority there over public use. Why is this necessary? Are all of his private students residents of Tiburon/Belvedere? If not, why should he have priority there?

Cathleen Andreucci has told me that she is concerned that we support the Higgins operation since his pros have to make a living and we need them in order to provide good tennis instruction here in Tiburon/Belvedere. We do not think it is the mission of the Ranch to support an entrepreneur and his employees at the expense of the residents of our towns.

In the end, you have to decide: which is more important, our supporting an entrepreneur, or having **public courts** that are available for play by residents

MARI

Good evening!

My story.

I am the Mother of a 12 year old boy, a tennis player like myself. I have been a resident of Tiburon since 2008.

The road has not always been easy. My son and I went to play tennis at Del Mar several years ago and I was promptly informed by Adam, a pro who works for William Higgins, who was teaching a private lesson, that if any Higgins pro arrived to teach a private lesson we would have to leave. I drove to the town hall to complain to the Tib/Belvedere rec center. That was the first of many conversations that I have had with the Ranch, complaints that have been summarily dismissed without a thought. We never went back to Del Mar.

Since then I have been asked to leave the Lagoon courts by Adam several times and have been unable to get on court repeatedly. Last summer I contacted the Ranch about the lack of court availability and received the following email in response: Please keep in mind that Higgins tennis program has priority use at the Del Mar and Lagoon Courts. Does the response give you the impression that they care about Tib/Belv residents?

The situation became untenable when William Higgins showed up at the Pt Tiburon (Beach Road) courts two months ago with a group of women that he said had the right to be at those courts because they were reserved for a class! Given that the courts were both being used he would leave and go to Lagoon but that he would be back next Thursday. Play did not resume in either court for a while, everyone was stunned.

At that moment I decided I had been harassed out of Del Mar, blocked away from Lagoon and I was not going to take it any more!

Why are we here? We worked with Cathleen to reach an agreement, an agreement that still gives away too much to a private corporation. The ink wasn't even dry and Higgins was already violating it. Cathleen also informed us that Higgins wanted to contest it.

What we want?

- 1) We want The Ranch to remember that they are here to represent the residents of Tiburon and Belvedere.... The Ranch appears more concerned with granting Higgins every wish, at the expense of the residents of this town. Why?
- 2) We request that Higgins be limited to total use of the Del Mar courts and only utilize the Lagoon courts for Reed School students after school classes.
- 3) We request that Pt Tiburon (Beach Road) be completely off limits to any Higgins endeavor.
- 4) We request that No Private LESSON be held at Lagoon and Pt Tiburon.(Beach Road)
- 5) We request that in the summer time (only) Higgins be held to just the right court with no additional hours added. If necessary limit these classes to residents only (classes are overloaded with non residents).
- 6) Community representative to discuss changes of schedule

Letter to the Editor,

August 12, 2016

In light of the recent article that was published in The Arc on August 10th, I wanted to respond to some of what I know to be inaccurate assertions about Higgins Tennis.

Higgins Tennis is a family-owned small business that I have built from the ground up into the flourishing program it is today. We are extremely proud to have partnered with The Ranch to serve Tiburon and the surrounding community. Over the last eight years we've worked with over 1000 families to provide high-quality tennis programming while maximizing court space so that as many people can play as possible. We have never had nor will have the intention to expand our program to the point where we would take court time away from people such as key holders who simply want to play the wonderful sport of tennis. Our goal is to guide and teach players to improve their game so they can play with confidence on the local public courts on their own.

Sincerely, William

Higgins

Owner, Higgins Tennis