THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 18, 2026

TO: City Council

FROM: D. Tyrell McGirt, Asheville Parks and Recreation Director

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON MALVERN HILLS MULTIPURPOSE COURTS OPERATING HOURS**

Asheville Parks & Recreation (APR) has completed its review of the neighborhood concerns regarding pickleball noise and operating hours at Malvern Hills Park. To balance the popularity of pickleball with the well-being of surrounding residential areas, APR is implementing a standardized mixed-use court policy for neighborhood parks. Effective June 22, 2026, operating hours at Malvern Hills Park (as well as Montford and Kenilworth parks) will be standardized to close at 9:00 p.m. instead of 10:00 p.m.

Citizens and neighborhood association leadership are currently being notified of these changes, which have been developed in collaboration with local stakeholders.

- **Adjusted Operating Hours:** Daily operating hours for the courts at Malvern Hills, Montford, and Kenilworth parks will be standardized to 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (moving the closing time up by one hour).
- **Light Timer Adjustments:** Staff will reprogram the automatic timers for the court lights at these three locations to shut off precisely at 9:00 p.m. to ensure compliance.
- **Shared-Use Equipment:** To foster a collaborative, mixed-use environment, APR has authorized and supported the Asheville Pickleball Association (APA) in providing rollaway pickleball nets for each court at these locations.
- **Public Notification & Signage:** Temporary signage is being installed immediately on the court gates to inform current players of the upcoming schedule changes. Permanent signage will be installed in the near future.

This operational shift follows a review of feedback from Malvern Hills neighbors. Notably, the local neighborhood association took a collaborative approach by meeting directly with members of the APA to discuss shared solutions.

Staff believes that rolling back the operating hours and light timers to 9:00 p.m. provides a meaningful resolution to evening noise disruptions for adjacent households, while still maintaining accessible recreation opportunities for the broader community.

Please let us know if you require any additional details or further briefing on this matter.