

**Lodi UMC Dolly's Fund Application**

February 22, 2022

Organization: Lodi Area Pickleball in partnership with the City of Lodi

Contact: Bill Welch, 116 Merton Avenue, Lodi, WI 53555

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Proposal Name: Making Pickleball Courts Permanent

Timeline: May/June 2022 installation

Amount Requested: \$1,800.00      Total Budget: \$1,800.00

Other sources of funding: none identified; donations to cover any possible cost overruns

Accept Partial Funding: Yes

Provide final report: Yes

I verify that the information provided is accurate and pledge to provide a project evaluation report by December 31, 2022.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: February 22, 2022

A. Lodi Area Pickleball is an informal volunteer organization that has been providing opportunities for people to learn and play the game of pickleball for about five years. In partnership with the City of Lodi Parks Committee the group has painted lines for four pickleball courts on two rarely used tennis courts by Goeres Park. Lodi Area Pickleball provides nets, balls, instruction, and organization of the available playing days. The group plans to expand from two days to three in 2022. Additionally, the group has partnered with Lodi C.R.E.W. to assist with a summer youth pickleball program and winter indoor pickleball at the high school.

B. The City of Lodi currently has four pickleball courts that are equipped with portable nets that are provided by volunteers from the Lodi Area Pickleball group. The problem is that prospective players can only use the courts during a few designated hours (10 am-12 pm Wednesday and Friday) when the volunteer group sets up the portable nets.

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country with over five million active players. It provides players with exercise, skill development, and collegiality. Currently, pickleball is part of the Lodi School District physical education curriculum as a life sport that students can take forward into the rest of their lives.

Given the increasing popularity of the sport in the Lodi area the few hours that the courts are available to the public do not meet the needs of players. In partnership with the city, Lodi Area Pickleball wishes to install two sets of permanent nets so that courts are available for use all day throughout the week so that players are able to play the game more often and to provide more opportunities for new players to learn the game and experience the sport.

C. The grant money would be spent to purchase the posts and nets to equip two of the four courts with permanent nets that can be used from spring to late fall. Since the courts are part of the City of Lodi parks system the city crew will install the posts and the City will act as fiscal agent for the grant as the buyer of the equipment.

D. Pickleball provides people of all ages and abilities, especially senior citizens, with a fun, low impact opportunity for exercise and fellowship. The games themselves are short, designed for maximum participation of all players, and teams are mixed and re-mixed so that participants are able to build relationships and mentor each other.