

CH Tennis Stakeholders Meeting

Remarks – Jerry Edwards

July 15, 2021

History

- Most of us have played on CH public courts for long time. Rick and I have been playing at Ephesus since 1983.
 - With this history, people are here today to advocate for preserving and updating CH tennis facilities.

Users of CH Public Courts

- Tennis community consists of families, youth, students, and adults
 - Mostly all local to CH, taxpayers, who show up to play tennis
- Also groups
 - Middle schools and ECHS JV have used courts for team practices and matches.
 - FYI ECHS has 12 (7Women and 5Men) NC team tennis championships.
 - Tennis Lessons. Empact has offered camps to over 200 youth this summer at Ephesus
- CH has pride in supporting both our youth, our parks, and athletic programs and facilities.
 - So why has tennis on our public courts declined in recent years?

Reason 1: Town Philosophy For Maintaining Courts

- Do nothing except basic maintenance
- When courts get too bad, condemn them and remove nets
- After users complain enough, investigate and ask town for funding
- Chose contractor, repair a few of the courts (process takes minimum of two years)
- Users are stuck playing on deteriorated courts for majority of time

Reason 2: Decrease in number of courts

- Down four courts
 - 3 @ Ephesus – conversion of courts (2) to pickle ball and net taken down on court (1) because of crack
 - 1 @ Cedar Falls – And now a proposal to convert adult court to smaller junior court
- Makes it more difficult to find an open playable court

Reason 3: CH courts generally are uninviting

- Courts are uninviting
 - Courts have cracks, nets and straps that are worn
 - Older courts are showing wear and tear with bad or mildewed surfaces
 - No benches or chairs for sitting
 - Signage, lighting, and cleanliness varies
 - Noise levels at Ephesus can be distracting for tennis players
- Compare courts to Durham at Garrett Road, Carrboro at Wilson Park and Hillsborough at Fairview and ask “why the difference?”.

Reason 4: Users Voices have been ignored

- Tennis community consists of families, youth, students, and adults
 - Historically not a group organized by social media but by word of mouth
 - Mostly all local to CH, taxpayers, who show up to play tennis
 - These voices have not been heard by the town
 - Communications seldom reach this group regarding upcoming decisions
- Coming soon
 - Chapelhilltennis.org

Shorter Term Goals – Tennis Community

- Commit to preserving the existing tennis courts
 - Keep the 6 adult courts at Cedar Falls
 - Paint junior lines if needed
- Maintain and repair (even if temporarily) the existing courts
 - Fill in cracks and put the net back up at Ephesus
- Provide new benches
- Continue to keep courts and surrounding area clean

Longer Term Goals – Tennis Community

- Acquire town funding on continual basis for court maintenance and updates before courts become condemned
 - Schedule and execute
- Refurbish all the courts
 - Start with Cedar Falls and Ephesus (most used, worse shape)
 - Improve appearance and appeal of all courts
- Improve interaction
 - Seeking open communication, fairness and transparent process