



PARKS AND RECREATION  
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## TENNIS COURT STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

**Date:** September 27, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

### **Attendees:**

#### **Parks and Recreation Department**

Phil Fleischmann, Parks and Recreation Director, Kevin Robinson, Park Maintenance Superintendent, Marcia Purvis, Parks and Recreation Senior Planner, Nikiya Cherry, Recreation Manager and MaryLee Tyndall, Administrative Assistant

#### **Tennis Community Representatives**

Jerry Edwards, Kim Roberts, Tiger Zong, and Diane Willis

**Meeting Purpose:** Continuing discussions and updates to facilities and new facilities, communication, and provide updates to the tennis community.

### **Update on Ephesus Park Complex:**

- Stewart Engineering has prepared the geotechnical report which included soil boring samples. Soil analysis showed moist soil underneath the courts. Courts are generally in good/fair condition, but poor construction, aged asphalt, and water drainage across the courts have been determining factors in deterioration. The recommendation is to redo the courts, not overlay, and address the drainage. The opinion of probable construction costs is due in October.
- Americourt will be on-site in early October to review the current conditions. Staff will contact tennis and pickleball community members with the date and time so they can attend.
- Tennis Community members who were in Chapel Hill during a renovation that involved a rubber like coating indicated that pockets developed underneath the surface making dead spots. This is similar to what the pickleball courts are experiencing now. They indicated that having a historical record of previous installations may be helpful in making decisions going forward.
- Staff checked light bulbs this week, benches received have been installed, and tree and vegetation trimming are underway. Staff indicated that four benches were delivered but the tennis community has only seen three benches at the tennis courts (currently

locked against the fence). Staff will investigate and report exactly how many benches were delivered and dates for the remaining benches (for a total of 8).

- Courts will need to be closed to allow equipment into the area to complete the tree work. Staff will notify Tennis Committee members and the public before the work begins.
- Tennis Community asked who the company is that is providing the noise reducing screen. Staff has contacted Acoustiblok regarding a product called Acoustifence. Staff would like to find a company that can visit the site to determine if the product will work. Product quote is due in October.
- Tennis Community thanked staff for these short-term fixes' temporary fixes to the tennis surface such as filling in cracks and restoring nets. However, tennis community notes there is uncertainty over the longer-term funding, plans and dates to provide more permanent solutions at Ephesus to the court surfaces. Some questions may get answered with the upcoming Americourt on-site visit.

#### Cedar Falls Park Tennis Courts Project:

- Staff reviewed the schedule and asked for ideas on the community engagement process and additional options on the tennis courts layout.

#### Hargraves Park Tennis Courts Project:

- Staff reviewed the schedule and noted that the construction phase would be staggered to not coincide with the Cedar Falls Park tennis court construction project.

#### Discussion of court usage observations:

- Tennis community representatives asked why Parks and Recreation has a staff person monitoring court usage at Ephesus. They also asked what Parks and Recreation's response was to a pickleball request to utilize one tennis court two nights per week to address demand for advanced / intermediate league.
- Staff indicated that the court usage data was not being used and that they had turned down pickleball's request to utilize the tennis court. (The court usage data may be helpful to gaining an understanding of the general utilization of the complex.)
- Tennis community members emphasized that pickleball and tennis on the same court areas would be disruptive to tennis and stated it is crucially important for the tennis courts to be available as "drop-in" courts to the local families and players.
- Tennis community representatives wanted to know what other tennis sites were being monitored. Staff replied none were however, that occasionally staff record utilization when checking other athletic sites such as Southern Community Park.
- The staff is working to be transparent with all groups and will be asking the Pickleball and Tennis stakeholder members to give the Parks Greenways and Recreation Commission (PGRC) an update on what each group needs, preferably at the same meeting.

#### Updates on other Items:

- Staff is meeting with Kelly Gaines, Executive Director of NC Tennis Association, to discuss projects and funding opportunities on September 28, 2021

#### **Upcoming meeting dates:**

Monday, October 25 at 1:00 pm

Monday November 22 at 1:00 pm

Notes compiled by Marcia Purvis and Jerry Edwards