

TENNIS COURT STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

Date: January 24, 2022

Time: 1:05 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, Mike Troutman, Interim Athletic Supervisor, Renuka Soll, Chair PG&R Commission

Friends of Chapel Hill Public Tennis:

Sue Balog, Jerry Edwards, Bethany Garrison, Elizabeth Heetderks, Kim Roberts, Jane Thraikill, Diane Willis

Meeting Purpose

To collectively identify strategies to preserve and improve CH public tennis court facilities, to enhance communication, and provide an update on current projects. To acknowledge completed positive change in these areas.

Welcome and New Participant Introductions

1. Phil and Jerry stated that progress was made in 2021 in regards to projects and open communication. We all look forward to continuing this progress in 2022, working together.
2. Jane Thraikill and Bethany Garrison introduced themselves and indicated they work with a tennis program called "Love to Serve".

For complete list of updates and current status, visit [Court Maintenance List](#)

Quick Updates of Maintenance Items

Full list of requested court maintenance items with completion status may be found at: [Court Maintenance List](#)

Ephesus

1. Completed: eight benches, court sign numbers – all look great!

2. On hold: Noise reduction screen (needs more investigation into cost effective solutions, awaits input and suggestions from tennis community).
3. Ongoing: Backboard (expecting delivery in next week with installation in February, very exciting).
4. New request made to have dedicated tennis scraper/roller for drying water puddles. Suggested having hook to hang on fence. P&R said they would look into seeing if one already exists or acquiring new one.

Cedar Falls and Hargraves

1. Triangle Electric will replace new timer at CF.
2. Home Electric will be replacing bulbs at Hargraves and testing the timer.
3. Elizabeth commented that any decisions regarding maintenance expenditures should be evaluated knowing the courts will be renovated later this year.
4. Some benches have been delivered to CF (located inside the fence).

Oakwood and Phillips

1. These tennis courts were not discussed during this meeting.
2. However, from previous meetings, there were requests for finding funding for updating the Oakwood court, which serves the Glen Lennox area, to make it more playable. This topic should be covered in future discussions.

Projects and Discussions

Cedar Falls and Hargraves Tennis Renovations Project

Marcia provided updates. This project is being funded by 2/3 bond and application for USTA grants. The tennis community is very supportive of these projects!

1. Link to project description and public survey [<Here>](#).
2. Survey ended on Jan 24. No major changes to plan from survey. Some changes previously discussed in Dec 2 public meeting have been incorporated.
3. One suggestion was to have cement backboard, perhaps in separate area. General feedback from tennis community was to go with the slanted wood backboard (same one as ordered for Ephesus).
4. Next steps. Presentation to be made at upcoming PG&R commission board meeting on Feb 15, @ 7pm. Renuka recommended members of tennis community should attend to show support for project.

5. If approved, plan is to finalize architecture and submit for bids with estimate of starting construction in late spring. Work may take up to 9 months so Elizabeth was asked to coordinate with school system on impact of CF courts not being available for East HS teams and matches during this time.

Ephesus Resurfacing

1. Americourt has recommended the product Bamilex to resurface the court and provided estimate (\$70K). UNC has used Americourt for their courts at Cone facility and staff member indicated they are happy with them.
2. Work is planned to be done this spring. The courts will be repainted and look like new. Tennis community fully supports this effort.
3. This was stated as only temporary solution. It is expected given the drainage and clay soil condition, cracks will eventually return. However, the unknown is how long before cracks return, hoping it may be in terms of years, not months.
4. The adjacent PB courts were resurfaced recently with MondoTen but players have reported some dead spots have already returned. Clearly a long term solution requires addressing drainage and soil foundation.
5. In good news, efforts are underway for addressing this long term solution. A link to a news bulletin for PG&R projects and priorities can be viewed at: [<PG&R Projects and Priorities>](#).

Other Topics

More on Hargraves

1. Jane asked about “updates to Hargraves” tennis courts which serve the downtown area. Plans are to resurface the courts and update amenities (like water fountains) as part of the 2/3 bond funding. However, the current plan is to do this renovation of Hargraves after the Cedar Falls renovation.
2. Regarding Hargraves where youth tennis classes are given by EMPACT, there was a question about location of bathrooms and when they are open. A suggestion was to put a sign near the gate providing availability and location information.

Tennis Court Expansion and USTA Grant Link to Enroll

1. Kim asked if there is the possibility to expand the number of town tennis courts. She specifically inquired about the land adjacent to the current Ephesus courts. Phil pointed out that Mill House and Legion properties are only lands currently available for recreation expansion. Discussions by town officials and residents are ongoing regarding the future use of these properties.
2. Phil mentioned the department's need and desire to update the 2013 Parks and Rec Comprehensive Plan, especially since Pickleball was not a factor at that time, and other sports may need some additional attention. Currently there is no plan for starting that update process. Diane pointed out that the 2013 Plan outlined a path to combine the (36 acre) Legion property with the (10 acre) Ephesus Park to make a much-needed Community Park in eastern Chapel Hill. Since a lot of community input was given for the Legion property use in a charette in 2017, it would be important not to forget those ideas in any new planning.
3. Kim reiterated grants are available through USTA for court improvements and expansion. Go to www.usta.com/facilities to enroll for the Build It Forward, Raise the Net and Parks and Rec grants.

Tennis Meeting Scheduling For 2022

1. By consensus, it was agreed to continue these meetings but to hold them every other month. However, it was stated that communications should continue on a regular basis and not to stop information flow just to wait for the next scheduled meeting.
2. Meetings will be scheduled the 4th Monday @ 1pm of every other month in 2022.

Next PG&R Commission Meeting (Zoom)

Feb 15, 2022 @ 7pm. Presentation on Cedar Falls and Hargraves tennis projects is on agenda. Members of tennis community are urged to attend to show support for project.

Next Tennis Update Meeting (Zoom)

Monday, March 28, 2022 @ 1:00 pm

2022