



TENNIS COURT STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

Date: March 28, 2022

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, Mike Troutman, Interim Athletic Supervisor

Friends of Chapel Hill Public Tennis:

Sue Balog, Jerry Edwards, Janet Ranheim (Love to Serve), Kim Roberts, 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 provided short welcome messages; everybody introduced themselves
2. Jerry commented that the Parks & Rec vision statement is “create, inspire, and preserve”. ChapelHillTennis.org has been using “preserve and improve”. So “preserve” is a common theme and we must let the vision be our guide as we move forward.

Announcement: Launch of “Love to Serve Foundation”

1. Janet Ranheim presented the history and mission of the “Love to Serve Foundation”.
2. The foundation is a non-profit with a mission to promote diversity and equity in the sport of tennis through empowerment, education, and mentorship in under-resourced communities. Initial initiatives are started in Durham, but they have plans for programs in Chapel Hill.
3. For more information, view their website at LoveToServeTennis.org.

Quick Updates of Maintenance Items

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

Ephesus

1. Backboard. It was installed Friday, March 25 on the wooded side of court 3. It looks great! The court number sign and windscreen still need to be put back up.
2. Hooks. Sue requested that hooks be bought and installed for hanging squeezes and brooms on the fence where they would be held off the ground. Kim mentioned there are “S” hooks for doing this. Mike said he would investigate for Parks & Rec.
3. Lights. Jerry asked if there was strategy for replacing burned out light bulbs. Currently there are two bulbs out but recognized it is not cost effective to fix at this time.
 - a. As more bulbs burn out, there will be need to repair. How will this be handled?
 - b. Phil ask if there was a number, and a general answer was if more than one bulb is out on a specific court, they should be replaced. However, six bulbs were out last year before they were replaced and that went too long.
 - c. The town has contract in place with Home Electric for light repair.
4. Bamilex resurfacing. Now scheduled for summer 2022.
5. Drainage work. The town contracted for drainage work around the tennis and Pickle Ball. Work began on March 21 and has been completed.
 - a. Purpose is to divert water away from the courts and distribute to side.
 - b. Money from the 2/3 bond was used for this project.
 - c. Scope of work included swale, two catch basins, pipe work, a channel drain and more concrete, as well as a gravel walkway.
 - d. The concrete slab is next to side walk entry. Four benches have been moved to the slab area for Pickle Ball players to have a place to sit and mingle while waiting for a court. Potential congestion problem for tennis players walking up sidewalk to get to tennis courts.
 - e. See town announcement of work [<Here>](#).

Cedar Falls and Hargraves

1. Hargraves lights. Fixed and all lights should be working. Players should report to Parks & Rec if/when lights are not working.
2. Cedar Falls Timer. A new timer has been ordered for Cedar Falls but no date was given for when repair will be completed..

Oakwood and Phillips

1. Oakwood (the forgotten court). Question was asked if there could be a repair to surface since it basically is unplayable. At this time there are no plans but if money is left over from 2/3 bond, it could be used for Oakwood. Oakwood serves the Glenwood Park area.

2. Phillips courts are shared with school system. No update or maintenance items were discussed or requested during this meeting.

Projects and Discussions

Cedar Falls (CF) and Hargraves Tennis Renovations Project

Marcia provided updates. This project is being funded by 2/3 bond and application for USTA grants. CF will retain six full size tennis courts with lines for junior court play. The tennis community is very supportive of these projects!

1. Project description: Link to view project is [<Here>](#).
2. Current status: Plans are being submitted for review to supporting organizations, such as USTA, town departments, OWASA and DOT.
3. CF construction: Based upon current status, it is anticipated construction will start at CF during the fall. An estimate of 9 months was mentioned, but Phil commented that work could extend out due to weather conditions during the winter months.
4. Hargraves construction: Plans also are continuing for Hargraves resurfacing. A previous suggestion was made to start construction after CF, but several members of tennis community suggested having this work start and be completed as soon as possible also. There is worry that waiting could impact funding issues and scheduling down the road causing more delays.

Ephesus Resurfacing

1. Americourt has recommended the product Bamilex to resurface the court and provided an estimate (~ \$80K).
 - a. Funding to come from 2/3 bond.
 - b. Work is estimated for this summer. The courts will be repainted and look like new. Tennis community fully supports this effort.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.

2. In good news, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) recommends using American Rescue Plan (ARPA) for this long term solution. A news bulletin for PG&R projects and priorities can be viewed at: [<PG&R Projects and Priorities>](#).

Other Topics

1. Contact form. Kim asked about Parks & Rec having a way for users to report maintenance issues at a court via the website. There was discussion about adding a category to “C-click (?). The website does have contact names and numbers for users to call in issues.

2. Important links

American Rescue Plan Act

<https://www.townofchapelhill.org/government/newsroom/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa>

The town is asking for citizens to provide input on how to allocate and spend the ARPA money. It was suggested tennis community should respond.

Priorities

[Project Priorities](#)

3. Donating tennis nets. Kim mentioned organizations in Durham are in need of tennis nets and that when nets are replaced, the old nets could be donated. Contact Kim Roberts (@Eno Community Tennis Association) for more info.
4. Ephesus court sharing. Phil indicated that the Pickleball ambassadors have submitted a written proposal for co-sharing the Ephesus tennis courts with Pickleball play. He had not read the proposal yet, but wanted to make the tennis community aware of its existence. Tennis community looks forward to seeing how this could be a win-win solution (see [Seeking Win-Win Solutions](#)).

Closing

1. Preserve. Tennis courts are run as a public court focused on Chapel Hill local citizens of all ages. It does not have to be used 100% of the time, just look at the ball fields, playgrounds, greenways, and other public facilities all of which need to be preserved. We encourage P&R to honor its vision statement of “create, inspire, and preserve”
2. **Next Meeting. May 23, 2022 @1pm**
Scheduled every other month in 2022. 4th Monday @ 1pm