

TENNIS COURT STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

Date: May 23, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM-2:15 PM (15 minutes longer than scheduled)

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees

Parks and Recreation Department:

Phil Fleischmann, Parks and Recreation Director, Atuya Cornwell, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Kevin Robinson, Senior Manager for Planning and Park Operations, Marcia Purvis, Parks and Recreation Senior Planner, Nikiya Cherry, Recreation Manager, Mike Troutman, Interim Athletic Supervisor

Friends of Chapel Hill Public Tennis:

Sue Balog, Jerry Edwards, Dale Finch, Janet Ranheim, 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 to everyone
2. Introductions were made by new participants Atuya Cornwell, P&R Assistant Director and Dale Finch, a frequent tennis player at Ephesus
3. Congratulations to Kevin Robinson on his promotion to Senior Manager for Planning and Park Operations.

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. Installed and beautiful. Discussion on backboard being used by Pickleball (PB) players. Initially there was concern the plastic PB could damage the board. The manufacturer was contacted and said PB plastic balls should not physically damage the board. So “green light” was given by P&R to let PB use the board. However, the noise

level still negatively affects tennis players. It is uncomfortable for tennis players to ask PB not to play while tennis is being played on adjacent courts. Although issues were discussed, no decisions were made.

2. Hooks, Squeezes, and Broom. Complete
3. Bamilex resurfacing. Vendor has indicated June or July but no firm date yet and duration of repair is unknown. When these become known, it will be important to notify EMPACT since they will be offering tennis camps during the summer.
4. PB sitting area along sidewalk. New concrete pad adjacent to sidewalk was installed as part of drainage project. PB benches were placed there for PB waiting area but sometimes overflow blocks sidewalk. Although people have been courteous, walking through crowd can become uncomfortable for tennis players. Sue asked about moving benches inside the courts. No other solution was proposed.

Cedar Falls and Hargraves

1. Lights and timers have been fixed. Yeah!

Oakwood and Phillips

1. Oakwood (the forgotten court). Court services the Glenn Lennox apartment area but is basically unplayable. It could be converted to PB but once again would mean loss of a tennis court for that area.
2. Phillips. No updates.

Projects and Bigger Discussions

Cedar Falls (CF) and Hargraves Tennis Renovations Project

Marcia provided updates.

1. Plans for CF with updated cost estimates are about 90% complete. Acquiring storm water permits. Possibility of bids going out in June.
2. CF construction is expected to begin in fall and winter. 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 excited and supportive of the project!
3. Hargraves is slightly behind CF but going through same process. Construction will like take place after CF is completed.
4. Phil stated a valid concern that with inflation and rising costs, bids may come in higher than previously estimated and budgeted. Will have to address this problem if this is the case.

Ephesus Tennis Preservation and Improvements

1. Lots of discussions. Tennis community has given response to PB proposal for co-sharing the tennis courts and re-phrased it as an “taking over the courts” to choose between:
 - a. Ending 50+ years of public tennis at Ephesus
 - b. Preserving, improving courts, and growing tennis at Ephesus
2. P&R has had several on-going internal meetings. Recommendation was made for PB and tennis representatives attend the June GP&R Commission board meeting in June.
3. Let’s continue to look for the win-win solutions
 - a. Southern Community Park was mentioned as option
 - b. Kim suggested look at parking lots that could be leased at shopping centers.
 - c. Phil asked about CF as temporary before reconstructions. And clarified town is still planning to apply for USTA grants which only allows tennis and tennis lines.
4. Phil asked about possibility of doing a survey to get more community feedback. The request is sincere effort to understand usage. However, from the tennis perspective:
 - a. Generally surveys have not represented the drop-in community, children, families, camps, students, and local citizens.
 - b. Tennis does not have a large social media presence to encourage people to mail in responses and does not have close political connections.
 - c. Perhaps feedback can be supplemented with pictures, videos and interviews of lessons and camps of youth, and adult players.
 - d. Usage should include player age breakdown, diversity, Chapel Hill residents, camps and lessons. As well as condition of courts and when they were last renovated.

Other Topics

1. Good discussion on what happens to monies received from P&R sponsored activities such as classes, rentals, or other paid events. Questions arose as result of tables in the PB proposal of forecasted monies that could theoretically be generated from future PB events.
 - a. Nikiya gave a good explanation explaining that monies received from P&R sponsored and advertised events, go into a general P&R fund. P&R then decides how and where to use these funds.

- b. For tennis, the town has contract with EMPACT (which provides a valuable and successful service to a large number and diversified group of students and players). For PB, the classes are currently given by volunteers from the PB group.
- c. Although courts can also be rented for events, it is unclear how charges for tournaments, ladders, etc. are initiated and by whom? And how many of these events have been held in past or planned?
- d. Sue has performed a good analysis on both PB and tennis classes to compare actually generated revenues from the past and to validate any proposals of future revenues. These have been documented in e-mail(s) previously sent to P&R.

Closing

1. We are all in agreement to look for additional PB facilities. PB has made request for \$400K from ARPA funds for a new PB complex. The tennis community has requested that an approval for such a project include restoring the two converted Ephesus courts back to tennis, creating six courts providing a quiet environment with opportunities for more lessons, youth camps and for USTA, school teams, and other drop-in and organizational play.
2. Next Meetings
 - a. Normally scheduled every other month in 2022. 4th Monday @ 1pm
 - b. June meeting: Due to large number of open issues and discussions, it was recommended to have a meeting next month. Fourth Monday is June 27. But may look at rescheduling based upon some member conflicts. Stay tuned.
 - c. July meeting: Planned for Monday, July 25, 2022 @ 1pm