

TENNIS COURT STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

Date: July 25, 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, Mike Troutman, Interim Athletic Supervisor

Town Officials:

Anita Badrock, Senior Ombuds

PG&R Commission Board

Tyler Steelman, Chair

Renuka Soll

Friends of Chapel Hill Public Tennis:

Sue Balog, Jerry Edwards, Elizabeth Heetderks, Janet Ranheim, Kim Roberts, Diane Willis, Arlon Day, Warrick Taylor

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. Anita Badrock introduced herself as Senior Ombuds for town of Chapel Hill and talked about “convergence of interest”.

Quick Updates of Maintenance Items

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

1. Mike reported light timer at Cedar Falls has been fixed.
2. Kevin reported Ephesus resurfacing using Bamilex will occur around October 13 (after Culbreth girl's tennis team season ends).
3. Net on end court at Cedar Falls has been removed due to safety concerns, reducing number of courts to five. The surface was damaged earlier from a tree falling on the court.

Projects and Bigger Discussions

Cedar Falls (CF) and Hargraves Tennis Renovations Project

1. Elizabeth had written an e-mail to the town expressing both her frustration but also asking questions about how the project and funding originated. Specifically, how did it come about that there is a short fall of funds for the project?
2. Elizabeth also stated there are safety issues with the CF courts and that the courts are not suitable for the East JV tennis teams to use. Kevin has arranged to meet at the courts to review on Thursday, July 28.
3. Marcia gave some background of the project originating as early as 2015 and updated again in 2019. Funds from 2/3 bond were allocated but have turned out to be significantly insufficient. The planning documents are at 90% complete, but requests for proposals cannot go out until funding is acquired. It is unlikely for any construction to begin this year as earlier estimated.
4. Phil indicated they will be looking for additional funding from the town with possible ARPA, another 2/3 bond, or from reallocating town budgets as examples.
5. Cedar Falls was not included in previous ARPA recommendation, and Renuka explained the board thought there was enough approved money for the project. She indicated that the board members will need to work with the town officials to help get the additional funding.
6. It was also recommended the tennis community get involved with contacting or petitioning the town council. The tennis community will set up a meeting with Anita on the best process for doing this.

Ephesus Tennis Preservation and Improvements

1. The tennis survey for co-use of the tennis courts with Pickleball was ending today. Next steps will be to evaluate the survey.
2. The tennis community strives to preserve and improve the current courts so has stated their opposition to the proposal. Sue held up a diagram of how the shared courts will be potential lined to cover both sports. The excessive lines will be a major distraction for tennis play and make it "shameful" to ask for Culbreth tennis players to use these courts for matches.

3. Jerry had questions about the usage survey numbers but will set up a meeting with Phil to discuss and better understand the numbers.
4. Janet remarked from Pickleball mail blasts implying co-use was imminent and also noting the tennis response had “lots of errors”. Phil said the decision is still under study. He referred to the tennis response mentioning “club” and schedule at end having some times that were for Hargraves. Jerry will discuss these with Phil in their usage meeting and justify all the statements in the response. A lot of work went into the response to make it accurate and reflect that the implementation of the proposal would mean the end of public tennis at Ephesus (at a time when there are already too few public tennis courts).

Closing

1. Next Meetings
 - a. Normally scheduled every other month in 2022. 4th Monday @ 1pm
 - b. Next meeting: Planned for Monday, September 26, 2022 @ 1pm