

TENNIS COURT STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

Date: September 26, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM-1:45 PM

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, Principal Planner, Mike Troutman, Interim Athletic Supervisor, Nikiya Cherry, Recreation Manager, Jonathan Ray

PG&R Commission Board

Renuka Soll

Friends of Chapel Hill Public Tennis:

Sue Balog, Jerry Edwards, Janet Ranheim, Diane Willis, Arlon Day

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. Jerry reiterated the stated meeting purpose and asked everyone to focus on “moving forward” with preserving and improving our public tennis activities and facilities. We should measure our progress “not by our words but by our actions”.
3. Jonathan Ray was introduced as newest member of Parks & Rec staff. It was his first day on the job having come over from Durham Parks & Rec with experience in working with tennis groups, programs, and facilities there. Welcome!

Quick Updates of Maintenance Items

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

1. Kevin reported Ephesus resurfacing of the four tennis courts using Bamilex product will start week of October 13. It is estimated to take 4-6 weeks subject to weather conditions. It was asked that the town put up a notice to alert tennis players of when the courts will be closed for play. Americourt will be contractor performing the work.
2. Two nets on end courts at Cedar Falls have been removed due to safety concerns, reducing number of playable courts to four. The surface was damaged earlier from a tree falling on the court and would be too expensive to repair before the planned renovation starts. The courts were power washed recently.
3. Jerry was curious about two new court number signs put up on the Ephesus PickleBall courts, and Mike explained they replaced signs that went missing.

Reflections and Thank You

The tennis community thanked all participants and speakers at the Commission Board meeting held on Sept 20, 2022. The board members seemed well prepared in knowing the background and issues and asked pertinent questions.

Respondents from the survey revealed 90% of tennis players were from CH/Orange County (total of 131), compared to 52% of PB players (total of 120). Tennis players (youth, families, adults, and town citizens) overwhelming come from the local communities to play at the nearby courts and supported now by the data from the survey. Recognition and thanks to the large number of tennis players completing the survey. Your voices were heard.

For more information about the survey and board meeting, see the “thank you” viewpoint on the tennis website at [<Here>](#).

Projects and Other Discussions

Cedar Falls (CF) and Hargraves Tennis Renovations Project

1. Marcia is leading and working hard to attain additional funding for these projects. It is expected that Cedar Falls will not start construction until late next year (and likely later). Reasons for funding shortfall include the additional foundational work identified by the technical survey, making courts handicap accessible, and as well as, general inflation.
2. Hargraves project also has a shortfall of about \$350K but hoping to acquire some funds through “in lieu”
3. It was asked if “sponsors” could help with funding and that is being considered perhaps with sponsors being recognized as part of a “plaza”.

Request for Tennis Lessons at Ephesus Advertised Through Town Website

1. The tennis community and EMPACT have asked the town to offer tennis lessons and clinics which would be advertised through the town website. Currently, only tennis lessons at Hargraves are being advertised.
2. The town said they would schedule lessons at Ephesus but would wait until the Ephesus tennis courts are resurfaced. Since schedules often are seasonal (like winter session), it would be good for tennis community and EMPACT to recommend which classes and times are wanted.

Other Discussions

1. Signage at Ephesus tennis courts. It was asked to update the court sign at entrance gate which is outdated and refers to players waiting to put racquets on hooks (which no longer exist). It would be desirable for the sign to reference the tennis website www.chapelhilltennis.org to match the design of the PickleBall entrance sign.
2. Kiosk at Ephesus Courts. An idea was floated to have a Scout project to build a Kiosk allowing notices and flyers to be posted neatly at the courts. Diane was going to propose the idea to a Scout leader she knows.
3. Ephesus sidewalk. It was mentioned that PickleBall players are still congregating and standing in the sidewalk leading from parking lot to tennis courts. P&R stated they would bring this up in their regular meetings with PB group.
4. Ephesus tennis nets. It was requested that the tennis nets are not adjusted lower to accommodate PB players using the tennis courts with concern it could damage the nets (which are already not in the best condition). This will also be brought up at the regular PB meetings.



5. Together, let's watch the usage of tennis courts grow as we work together to preserve and improve the CH public tennis facilities and opportunities. Thank you to all for making this happen.

Closing

1. Next Meetings
 - a. Normally scheduled every other month in 2022. 4th Monday @ 1pm
 - b. Due to next scheduled time being close to Thanksgiving holidays, it was suggested to move next meeting to the second Monday of November.
 - c. Next meeting: Planned for Monday, November 14, 2022 @ 1pm.
 - d. This will be last meeting of 2022.