



TENNIS COURT STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

Date: November 14, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees

Parks and Recreation Department:

Phil Fleischmann, Parks and Recreation Director, Kevin Robinson, Senior Manager for Planning and Park Operations, Marcia Purvis, Principal Planner, Mike Troutman, Recreation Specialist, Jonathan Ray, Senior Recreation Supervisor Athletics

PG&R Commission Board:

Renuka Soll

Friends of Chapel Hill Public Tennis:

Sue Balog, Arlon Day, Jerry Edwards, 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. Jerry reminded group that this will be the last scheduled meeting for 2022, and time will be reserved for final year end reflections.

Quick Updates of Maintenance Items

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

1. Ephesus updates:
 - a. Kevin reported Ephesus resurfacing of the four tennis courts using Bamilex product is scheduled to be completed by the upcoming weekend. Wonderful news!

- b. Jerry and Diane visited the courts this weekend after a rain, and overall the surface looked great with no large puddles of standing water. They reported a rough spot on courts 2, and Kevin indicated that area had been taken care of this week.
 - c. The existing nets will be put back up for now but new nets will be ordered. Jerry asked to at least have the broken strap from court 3 replaced.
 - d. Jerry mentioned that tree limbs had fallen on the woods side outside court 4 and asked for them to be trimmed/removed so it is clear to walk around the court outside the fence to retrieve “over the fence balls”. Kevin indicated he had noticed this also.
 - e. Diane mentioned PB had moved 2 tennis benches which had been stored during renovation outside the fence to the sidewalk area. The request was made to make sure all 8 tennis benches are put back into the tennis courts.
 - f. Diane mentioned that a pile of left items were left on tables/benches near sidewalk. Janet indicated PB had consolidated items giving players a chance to claim their items but would then remove and donate them.
 - g. There was an expressed concern for some players tethering dogs to trees and leaving them while they are playing on courts. There is a town policy flyer on fence against this, but maybe some additional visible regulations need to be posted?
 - h. Phil indicated that an effort would be made to replace signage at Ephesus (as well as other courts) to update information and make the courts more “welcoming”. They also will look into having a kiosk arrangement allowing items to be posted. Today flyers are randomly attached to fence by individuals and groups.
 - i. Diane had approached a scout leader about creating an Eagle Scout project but the leader said although it was a good idea, they currently had enough projects.
2. Jonathan reported that burned out light bulbs will be replaced soon at all sites but not in time for the weekend. P&R is gathering information on all lights and will contract a “sweep” of fixes as soon as possible, but Ephesus will be put as highest priority. Recently it was observed that 6 bulbs were out at Ephesus (4 tennis, 2 PB).
 3. Jonathan reported that work had been done at Hargraves to trim vines growing through the fence, replacing torn nets, and general clean up. Thank you! Janet mentioned that at a recent evening lesson at Hargraves, gun shots were fired from the adjacent parking lot

which police responded to, blocking off the area, and preventing players from leaving until the area was cleared.

4. Ideas were solicited for relieving congestion along sidewalk leading to Ephesus tennis courts. Some good ideas were expressed from painting stripes or lines on walks to delineate traffic area, to repositioning benches. Although no solution was proposed, it was a good discussion and understanding by all of the situation.

Reflections and Thank You

The following comments expressing “thanks” were presented:

1. Thanks to P&R for putting up sign at Ephesus stating backboard should not be used by other sports when tennis players are using the tennis courts. This is important to alleviate conflicts of disagreement.
2. Thanks to Jonathan for participating in tour of all the CH public tennis sites on Oct 11, with some of the tennis friends. It provided a good opportunity to personally see the conditions of the sites, share experiences, as well as, understand the users of each site.
3. Very special thanks to MaryLee Tyndall who has worked behind the scenes this year to set up the tennis zoom meetings. She deserves all the credit for creating and sharing the links which you click on to join the meetings. By her pro-actively setting up the zoom meetings early, we have been able to get all the scheduled meeting times we have requested this year.

Projects and Other Discussions

Cedar Falls (CF) and Hargraves Tennis Renovations Project

1. Marcia continues to diligently lead and work to attain additional funding for these projects. She has been applying for USTA grants, money from “payment in lieu”, ARPA funds and other sources.
2. Applications were completed for USTA funds of \$10K for Hargraves and \$60K for Cedar Falls.
3. Enough funds have been raised for Hargraves from the “payment in lieu” so town is prepared to go out for bids. Construction would be expected to occur in 2023.
4. There is still a shortfall for Cedar Falls, but efforts are on-going for getting ARPA or other funds. Apparently there is still a pool of \$1.3 million dollars for Parks and Rec money from ARPA that could be allocated. It is unclear when bids will go out or construction will begin.
5. Kim asked about possibility of getting funds from occupancy or hotel taxes and mentioned that the Arts have received significant funding from this source. All avenues are being explored.

Request for Tennis Lessons at Ephesus Advertised Through Town Website

1. Arlon and Jonathan mentioned that EMPACT and P&R have been working together and classes will be added to town website soon for tennis lessons at Ephesus. In the past, tennis lessons at Ephesus have been very popular and well attended.
2. The tennis community should provide input into what classes are desired. It can be tricky to balance number of classes with need, but not have too many classes to overuse the four courts and impede drop-in players from having available courts.

Other Discussions

1. Other topics discussed are already documented in the sections above.

Closing

1. Year End Reflections and New Year Projections
 - a. Thank you for everyone's participation over the year. Communication is key between the town and tennis community to continue making progress
 - b. Phil announced an upcoming staffing change (more details later after it becomes officially announced)
 - c. Jerry stated that although there were many moments of doubt this year, all of us came together in the end to "do the right thing" and we can all be appreciative and thankful for that.
 - d. Wishes to all for happy thanksgiving, celebrated holidays and New Year.
2. Next Meetings
 - a. Scheduled every other month in 2023. 4th Monday @ 1pm
 - b. Next meeting planned for: Monday, January 23, 2023 @ 1pm.