

Flynn, Allison

From: Ron Cordell
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 10:18 AM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Cuesta Park Pickleball Court Proposal Comments

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Hello -

I understand there will be a meeting to discuss a proposal to build Pickleball courts at Cuesta Park in the coming week and while I won't be able to attend, as a Cuesta Park resident I felt it necessary to at least email my remarks and opinion on the proposal.

As I understand it the proposal is to use either the current dog off-leash area (the "bowl") or the green space adjacent to the tennis court parking lot to build pickleball courts at a cost of about \$46M. Here are my thoughts and concerns on the proposal:

1. Noise is an issue at Cuesta Park being adjacent to a busy hospital with an active emergency room and a lot of sirens, a private school that has a very busy sports calendar and which broadcasts games across the neighborhood on their loudspeakers, and the existing park users and tennis courts. I've experienced the noise that comes from pickleball courts and it is not at all pleasant - it's not the level of sound or loudness but the sharpness of the noise and the frequency which is easily transmitted. As a Cuesta Park resident noise is a real issue and I would appreciate noise reduction as opposed to something that adds yet another noise source.
2. Parking has been challenging at Cuesta Park despite the parking lots and long curbside parking available especially on weekends and when there are tennis events. Park-goers park in the neighborhood making it more challenging to see around parked cars and get in and out of driveways. Increasing the frequency and/or amount of visitors will result in more overflow parking to the detriment of livability in the Cuesta Park adjoining neighborhood.
3. Green space is a precious resource and we are blessed with Cuesta Park as a wonderful place to be with families and friends, fun events like family films and other events. Carving out green space to dedicate to impermeable surfaces for single-purpose uses seems a poor choice. Yes we have the tennis courts but why build more impermeable surfaces for a game that may not be around in 10 years? Green space helps reduce temperatures whereas impermeable surfaces tend to get hotter in summer.
4. The cost of building a set of courts dedicated to a single group activity is quite high at \$46M which will no doubt go higher once work actually starts. I would argue there are far better uses for this money in the parks than building a special-purpose amenity that caters to only a few. If such an amenity must be built then why force it on a neighborhood that didn't ask for it? This seems like poor stewardship of resources. Would it not be better and more cost effective to convert existing impermeable surfaces/tennis courts to multiple-game use, whether tennis, pickleball or something else?

I am glad the city of Mountain View is interested in supporting the benefits of group activities and sports like pickleball and tennis or other games. At the same time I have to question how the city council and parks departments are going about this - who exactly asked for this and how representative are they of our population? I'm sure folks that play the game are an active bunch but why pickleball and not something else - my point is there are many special interests that would love to have dedicated facilities but why does pickleball rate over these others? Tennis was already established but

if they weren't already in place I'd be asking the same questions. I don't think it's fair that pickleball is getting this level of attention just because they are making a lot of noise (no pun intended).

Ron Cordell

Drucilla (in Cuesta Park)

Mountain View, CA

From: Mary Dateo <
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 3:45 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Agenda Item 6.2 at 6/12 Parks and Rec Meeting: Cuesta/Pickleball Update

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Hello PRC and Staff,

The Memorandum and Survey info raised a lot of questions for me.
I hope these can be addressed at the PRC meeting, if not before.

Background

Per the Survey respondents, the "preferred way to organize your Pickleball play" is Open Play (51%).
Organized Club was second (22%), Lessons (14%), Competition (13%).

The Memorandum states:

"The most common number of courts requested was a minimum of 12 courts at one location to allow for tournament play."

Also the importance of a reservation system was mentioned.

To me, admittedly a tennis player and not a pickle-ball player, Open Play sounds like a drop-in, self-serve approach.

Tournaments and reservation systems require much more active management, and could potentially draw people from a larger region.

Questions

1. What is the City's vision for the facility, the people it will serve (Mountain View residents? the larger region?), and how that will be accomplished? I think this should clear before a design decision is made.
2. What model will be used to run the facility? Hiring a contractor, such as at Cuesta Tennis Center (which includes long-term reservations for organized lessons and organized tennis teams, and draws on a regional tennis population)?
Including a reservation system, which might encourage more regional use?
Or having more of a drop-in model such as at our other local tennis courts, with occasional weekends set aside for local club tournaments as at Rengstorff?
3. Under the expected model, what are the expected annual operating costs? How much staff support will be needed?
4. What are typical wait times at our existing pickleball courts? Is there enough Mountain View resident interest to justify 6 or 12 new courts, and how has that been determined?

5. What pickleball facilities are available in nearby cities, how big are they, and how busy are they?

With the exception of the 14-or-15 court facility at Mitchell Park, and 8 courts at Evergreen Valley College, most other nearby facilities seem to have 6 courts or less, per the best website I could find:

<https://sanjosepickleballclub.org/places-to-play/>

6. Regarding the top 3 preference locations mentioned in the survey, Cuesta, Rengstorff, Cooper: nearly half (46.6%) of the 412 Survey participants live in the 94040 zip code, which includes all 3 of those parks.

If the location preferences from the Survey are sorted by Zip Code, is it possible it would show that most people would prefer to have a few courts in their own neighborhood, convenient to reach by foot or by bike?

7. Should the cost of replacing the dog park be added to the total cost of the project for Option A, in order to properly reflect its cost?

8. Assuming roughly a doubling of court users, are the existing restrooms near the Cuesta Tennis Center adequate?

If not, how much will it cost to expand the existing restrooms?

Preferences

9. Regarding designing a dog park replacement, I have found the current "bowl" to be a nice shape that helps to keep most dogs in the space.

10. Please avoid removing mature trees. If trees are removed, please plant replacement trees, and favor species with large mature canopy, and native trees.

11. Can remediation for adding more pavement be included in the project? Please make other nearby unpaved areas more productive and biodiverse by converting nearby grass or unplanted soil to native plants, and by adding more shade trees.

12. IF the facility is to be built at Cuesta park, I prefer location A, even if only 6 courts will be built. It will isolate the noise and lights better from the nearby residential neighborhood. It will also leave a larger open field adjacent to the parking lot; occasionally people do organize games in that space. Possibly 6 courts and the dog park could fit into the Location A space together.

Regards,

- Mary

Flynn, Allison

From: David
Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2024 9:52 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Pickelball

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Sounds good!

Lots of rabid players. If only as many people engaged on all the other PRC initiatives! 70 at a community meeting! Let's not confuse that with actual usage.

Front of the park is bad for lighting/noise. Really like the dog bowl. (I live a couple of blocks from Cuesta Park, in Cuesta Park. This affects my quality of life!)

12 courts at cuesta is A LOT. That footprint is huge. Cities twice our size are not installing 12-court additions (Palo Alto! Sunnyvale! Santa Clara!). We don't have the parking to host tournaments. You could easily see 400 people descend on the park in one day on top of tennis players. The YMCA parking behind it is full, the Park parking is full on Saturdays already with Tennis+16 BBQ party sites.

Just because we have the money in the Park fund, doesn't mean we have to spend it. \$4mm is a lot to spend on a small constituency. (less than 1000 unique residents a year will use it).

Please consider revising down to 6 courts. Let's strategically put some trees on the west side to continue to grow our canopy (the tennis players don't complain about leaves).

Thank you for reading this very unstructured note.

David

Flynn, Allison

Subject: FW: Pickleball courts at Cuesta Park

From: Terri Goldberg

Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 11:41 AM

To: Saiidnia, Faryal <Faryal.Saiidnia@mountainview.gov>

Subject: Pickleball courts at Cuesta Park

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Dear Ms Saiidnia,

I received a postcard re meeting Wednesday 6/12 discussing establishment of pickleball courts at Cuesta Park. I am a long time resident of Mountain View (since 1962). I see that there was a "city wide survey" regarding this proposal. I would expect that the opinions of residents of Cuesta Park Neighborhood should have major impact in any decisions.

For the P&R Commission:

- 1- **greenspace:** do not replace grass, trees, areas where there are plants (even weeds) with concrete.
- 2- **noise** of balls hitting paddles & bouncing on court can travel in unexpected ways. This will negatively impact residents who live on southern end of Begen Avenue, Villa Sienna, and newly constructed homes on the park side of Cuesta Drive.
- 3- **Parking** lots have limited capacity. Covering more greenery with concrete is not environmentally responsible.
- 4- **Annex** We residents of CPN have fought long and hard to preserve this tiny bit of open space. Birds, rabbits, all kinds of wildlife, (e.g.:blue herons) have found a refuge and made their homes in the Annex. DO NOT destroy this precious area of Mountain View!

You have my permission to forward my comments to P&R Commission or whomever is responsible for making the decisions regarding pickleball courts at Cuesta Park.

Sincerely yours,
Terri Goldberg
Begen Ave
MV 94040

Flynn, Allison

From: Shani Kleinhaus <shani@scvas.org>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 12:05 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Cc: Sylvia, Brenda; Matthew Dodder
Subject: Item 6.2 on the PRC June 12 Agenda: Pickleball Court
Attachments: SCVAS comments on MVPRC - Item 6.2 Pickleball court.pdf

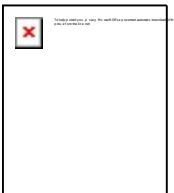
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Dear Chair Sommer and Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of birds and other wildlife by engaging people of all ages in birding, education, and conservation. We submit the attached letter on Item 6.2 on the PRC June 12 Agenda, Pickleball Court, to your consideration.

Respectfully,

Shani Kleinhaus, Ph.D.
Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
22221 McClellan Rd.
Cupertino, CA 95014
650-868-2114
advocate@scvas.org





June 10, 2021

To: Mountain View Parks and Recreation Commission

Re: Item 6.2 on June 12 Agenda: Pickleball Court

Dear Chair Somme and commissioners,

The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of birds and other wildlife by engaging people of all ages in birding, education, and conservation. Our members frequent Mountain View parks and their interest in birds and wildlife has been rewarded by the city council, commissioners, and staff as Mountain View continues to invest in nature and biodiversity. Our collaborative efforts brought the Cuesta Pollinator Garden from an idea to a thriving garden and the strong community of volunteers who care for it.

SCVAS has reviewed the proposed sites for Pickleball Courts, including the preferred location at Cuesta Park. We appreciate the great interest in this growing sport, and its value to the community. However, we are concerned with the loss of previous landscape and green space which served people (and dogs) and many species of birds. 114 species of birds have been observed at Cuesta Park¹ including 68 species in the first 5 months of 2024. In particular, we have recently witnessed the joy people feel as they see bluebirds, robins, and nuthatches forage, nest, and raise families at the park.

We hope the City can create a win-win situation where native and pollinator areas are expanded to beautify Cuesta Park and mitigate the effects of more hardscape. In addition, please consider seeding wildflowers at Cuesta Park Annex, similar to the meadow that adorns Sunnyvale City Hall.

Lastly, to minimize light pollution, we ask that you ensure that lighting is very targeted and is turned off by 10 or 11 PM.

We thank you for your attention,

Shani Kleinhaus, Ph.D.
Environmental Advocate,
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

¹ <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2379806/bird-list>

Flynn, Allison

From: bernard urborg
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 1:09 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Pickleball at Cuesta

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Hi again,

As I was walking thru Cuesta park earlier today, my stomach was in knots over the possibility of having pickleball courts in this setting. As I have said before, the peacefulness of the surroundings and the amount of greenspace is a treasure! Why on earth would this action even be considered?

Sincerely,
Bernard Urborg

Flynn, Allison

From: bernard urborg
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 4:01 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Cuesta Pickleball

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Hi there,

Perhaps one of the finest parks in the county...with the possibility of adding pickleball courts to Cuesta, yikes!

This is from a person who really enjoys all that pickleball has to offer and losing the peacefulness of walking the paths, the sheer beauty of the naturalness, to the noise generated from the whack, whack, whack of the paddle hitting the ball and the creation of a structure housing the courts, is not what I believe to be right action.

In the interest of living in a quality of life community, I am confident the city can come up with another solution or keep the existing place to play pickleball with the 9 courts at Rengstorff Park. It seems to work as I have been there at different times to play on different days. Thank you for your time...

Very respectfully,

Bernard Urborg

Flynn, Allison

From: Lin Urborg
Sent: Sunday, June 9, 2024 4:27 PM
To: Parks and Recreation Commission
Cc: Saiidnia, Faryal
Subject: Proposed Cuesta Park Pickleball Courts

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Hello,

As a long time Cuesta Park resident, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed Cuesta Park Pickleball Courts and concur with one of our Cuesta Park neighbor's, (Emily) views below.

Additionally, as an avid walker and nature lover, I as many of our neighbors value preserving the peaceful quiet space of Cuesta Park - the crown jewel of Mountain View parks - and adjacent Cuesta Park Annex. The Annex provides a rare untouched natural beauty, of utmost importance, in this increasingly congested Silicon Valley area. Hearing the sounds of pickleballs while walking and likely from our home a couple of blocks away would not be pleasant.

Thank you for seriously taking my views as well as those of other Cuesta Park Neighborhood to heart when considering the proposed pickle ball courts.

And another thought is the money proposed to be spent on the courts could be ear marked towards programs for the less fortunate in our community.

Lin (resident of Cuesta Park)

A few of Emily's points to consider:

* For the option closer to the parking lot, what kind of sound study would be done? And how much impact would sound dampening improvements have?

*Have parking impacts been considered? During good weather the park parking lot can't accommodate everyone coming to the park. When there's a tournament or big events the neighborhood gets congested with people parking. When that happens it's not uncommon to see cars blocking driveways and ADA curbs.

* I am not against pickleball courts. I'm very supportive of people being active, getting outside and enjoying our wonderful parks. I just want the impact to nearby residents' quiet enjoyment to be part of the discussion and design. Any amplified sound from the park sounds like it's right in your backyard if you live one block in.

Emily

Flynn, Allison

Subject: FW: Pickleball Courts at Cuesta Park

From: Emily Staats Hislop

Sent: Saturday, June 8, 2024 6:37 PM

To: Saiidnia, Faryal <Faryal.Saiidnia@mountainview.gov>

Subject: Pickleball Courts at Cuesta Park

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Hi Faryal -

We have lived across the street from the Montalto entrance to Cuesta Park for 13 years. We use the park and tennis courts often and are familiar with activities around the park and the impacts to residents in the vicinity.

1. Why is no portion of Cuesta Park Annex considered in any of the proposals? I realize that how the annex would be used was a major point of contention ~15 years ago and I think the priorities and desires of the CUesta Park neighborhood residents are likely different from the group that fought any kind of development. While we support open space, the benefits of the large parcel the Annex occupies does not outweigh some of the issues related to the large open mostly unmaintained area. Gophers have flourished there and after the drought about 10 years ago, they have destroyed much of the grassy area at Cuesta Park and cause issues for anyone nearby trying to plant any kind of garden. We would like to see at least a portion of the annex developed into some kind of community use area.
2. For the option closer to the parking lot, what kind of sound study would be done? For residents like us, just one block in, we hear music, laughter, kids playing coming from the park. That's normal and blends in with the day-to-day noise and traffic from Cuesta Dr. When there's larger parties or amplified music/voice, it's like it's in our backyard. From everything I've heard and read about pickleball, it's loud and repetitive in some places caused major distress to people living nearby.
3. We, as I'm sure other residents do, would prefer the dogbowl location as it borders the Y parking lot, tennis and Hospital and would be less intrusive to residents.
4. Have parking impacts been considered? DURING good weather the park parking lot can't accomodate everyone coming to the park. When there's a tournament or event the neighborhood gets congested with people parking. When that happens it's not uncommon to see cars blocking driveways and ADA curbs. We have a few residents in wheelchairs in the neighborhood and many strollers and small kids on bikes and scooters.

I'm very supportive of people being active, getting outside and enjoying our wonderful parks. I just don't want there to be a significant impact to nearby residents' quiet enjoyment.

I cannot attend the meeting 6/12, but will include this email as my public comment.

Thank you,
Emily Hislop
Drucilla Dr.