



MEMORANDUM

Community Services Department

DATE: April 12, 2017

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Shaun Chilkotowsky, Recreation Supervisor
John R. Marchant, Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: Pickleball Facilities at Rengstorff Park

RECOMMENDATION

1. Recommend the installation of blended lines to two tennis courts at Rengstorff Park, creating six pickleball courts to be used during off-peak hours.
2. Provide input regarding the addition of three stand-alone pickleball courts to Rengstorff Park currently listed in the City's five-year capital improvement project list.

BACKGROUND

Pickleball is a paddle sport similar to tennis. It is played on smaller courts, using wooded paddles and a dense, plastic Wiffle® ball. The game can be played by two or four players at a time on a court. Pickleball is growing in popularity, especially amongst seniors.

In fall 2015, a volunteer approached the City with an interest in teaching pickleball to members of the community. A program was launched through the Senior Center, using the asphalt pad located adjacent to the ball wall area of Rengstorff Park. This program utilized one temporary court and met once a week. The program grew to need to use multiple tennis courts with temporary tape lines. The volunteer instructors were responsible for bringing all necessary equipment to offer the program, including nets, paddles, balls, and tape to create temporary boundary lines.

When the pickleball group started using the tennis courts, it was winter. They played after lunch and no complaints were received. As the group continued to play, they entered the summer months and the midday heat became a factor. They moved their play time to midmorning, when it was cooler. At this time, staff began to receive

complaints from the tennis community regarding the time of play, size of the group, and noise from the equipment.

In addition, the tennis community brought concerns related to the tape used to create pickleball lines. City staff originally approved the use of taped lines with the understanding that it would be removed after each event. However, the tape was left down for extended periods of time. The pickleball group stated that it took too much time to lay the tape each week and that the cost of tape was a factor. When the tape was removed, it left a residue on the court surface which raised concerns for the tennis community. The use of tape was discontinued and the pickleball group was told that a permanent solution was needed before they could continue to play.

The pickleball group requested the installation of permanent pickleball “blended lines” on two of the eight tennis courts at Rengstorff Park. The two tennis courts with blended lines would maintain their tennis court lines but also provide six pickleball courts for pickleball-specific play during off-peak times. Blended lines refers to a muted paint on the court surface so that pickleball players can see these lines while the additional lines will not significantly distract tennis players. Since the time of the request, staff has received input from the Mountain View Tennis Club, Cuesta Tennis operator, and the Tennis Advisory Board. Through this process, staff learned that the Mountain View Tennis Club is not supportive of blended lines due to the additional noise and distraction of the additional lines on the court surface. The Tennis Advisory Board and Cuesta Tennis operator support the effort to include blended lines and welcome pickleball to be played during off-peak hours.

During this process, members of the pickleball community also suggested the addition of a stand-alone pickleball facility. The benefits of this option include year-round availability with no restrictions on time of use while the park is open. This would also reduce the impact on the tennis community. Staff has reviewed the area next to the tennis courts where the tennis “ball wall” is located and determined three stand-alone courts could be created in this location (Attachment 1). The proposed project of a stand-alone facility with three courts is proposed to be included in the 2017-18 capital improvement project five-year plan, which will be considered by the City Council during the budget review process this spring.

FISCAL IMPACT

Adding blended pickleball lines to the current tennis courts at Rengstorff Park is estimated to cost between \$2,500 and \$5,000. This would provide six pickleball courts overlaid on two tennis courts. The remaining six tennis courts at Rengstorff Park would not be modified.

Creating a stand-alone, dedicated pickleball facility where the current “ball wall” is adjacent to the tennis courts would cost an estimated \$75,000. This space would allow for three permanent pickleball courts to be constructed.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not recommend blended lines to be added to the tennis courts at Rengstorff Park.
2. Direct staff to look at alternative locations for blended lines.
3. Provide different direction for creating dedicated pickleball courts.
4. Provide other options or direction to staff.

PUBLIC NOTICING

Notices sent to Tennis Advisory Board, Mountain View Tennis Club, Cuesta Tennis operator, interested community pickleball players, and interested community tennis players.

SC-JRM/2/CSD
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Attachment: 1. Map Providing Location of Proposed Stand-Alone Pickleball Facility