



MEMORANDUM

Community Services Department

DATE: January 10, 2018

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

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

SUBJECT: Pickleball Facility Update and Next Steps

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that staff monitor new pickleball court use for a period of one year after completion to determine future community needs and report findings back to the Tennis Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation Commission.

BACKGROUND

On April 12, 2017, staff forwarded recommendations regarding pickleball to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC). Over fifty (50) community members attended the meeting representing both pickleball and tennis communities. A total of 24 members spoke during the meeting and of that, 8 Mountain View residents spoke about tennis and 5 Mountain View residents spoke regarding pickleball. Eleven (11) speakers were from neighboring cities.

Following input from the community, the PRC made two recommendations:

1. To approve staff recommendation of adding three stand-alone pickleball courts to Rengstorff Park currently listed in the City's capital improvement project list.
2. To request staff to explore the appropriate locations and policies in regard to pickleball courts related to using tennis courts as multi-use and bring back to the PRC.

To date, the project specifications for the stand-alone courts have been drafted and are being reviewed by the City's Public Works Department. Once finalized, the project will go out to bid. The anticipated timeline for completion is mid-spring 2018.

Staff took two steps to further explore appropriate locations for pickleball as directed by the PRC. The first step included review of existing nontennis facilities that could accommodate the addition of pickleball courts. Areas of Shoreline Park, school sites, and existing park locations were reviewed. These areas did not provide enough space or they had specific constraints such as limited access to school sites. Other locations were not recommended due to the areas not being level enough for the sport to be played.

The second step included a survey. In order to gain additional data regarding tennis facilities and the possible addition of blended pickleball lines to existing courts, staff launched a community survey. The survey was launched and over 300 responses were received, with more than 70 percent of them coming from tennis players. The purpose of the survey was to identify a location or locations that blended lines would be preferred amongst tennis players. The results showed Rengstorff Park and Cuesta Park were the two locations that tennis players felt blended lines would have the largest negative impact. The survey results also showed that there was not one specific location that was identified by tennis players as a preferred location for blended lines. In addition to the survey feedback, staff took into consideration existing site constraints at existing facilities, including the presence of blended lines for junior tennis programs and a significant lack of available parking. Due to the survey responses received and constraints noted, staff does not recommend moving forward with blended lines at this time on any tennis facility.

On November 20, 2017, staff provided a presentation to the Tennis Advisory Board (TAB) regarding the process taken to review nontennis facilities to add pickleball courts as well as the tennis survey outcomes to add blended lines. At that time, staff forwarded the following recommendations to the TAB:

1. Recommend that staff complete the construction of three dedicated pickleball courts adjacent to the tennis warm-up area at Rengstorff Park.
2. Recommend that staff monitor new pickleball court use for a period of one year after completion to determine future community needs and report findings back to the TAB.

The TAB unanimously approved both recommendations.

NEXT STEPS

Staff recommends taking the initial step of installing three stand-alone pickleball courts at Rengstorff Park. This will allow the sport to return to Rengstorff Park with

permanent dedicated facilities. It will also allow pickleball players the ability to play any time the park is open, compared to specific times on tennis facilities. There would be no need for volunteers to bring portable nets and other equipment as the courts will have permanent lines and permanent nets available at all times the park is open.

No changes to existing tennis courts is being recommended at this time.

Following the installation of the courts, staff will track the use of the courts and collect survey results from pickleball players regarding future court needs. The results of this process will be presented to both the TAB and PRC for consideration.

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