

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
4:00 p.m. | February 7, 2024
City Hall

MINUTES

Committee members in attendance: Chairperson Lauren Wolf, Vice Chair Tyler Agniel, Matt Geary, Randy Knight, Diane Mares, Caety Meyer, Matt Moeder, Jay Moorman, Kevin Murphy,

Staff: Meghan Buum, Melissa Prenger, Wes Jordan

Introduction

Chairperson Lauren Wolf opened the meeting with a summary of possible options:

- Keep all six pickleball courts, no changes
- Keep all six pickleball courts, add sound barrier
- Reduce courts to two pickleball, one tennis court
- Take down nets to see how the usage changes
- Return to two tennis courts
- Explore limiting parking on one side of the street

Public Participation

The following residents spoke in favor of removing the pickleball courts:

- Tom Heintz, 7152 Cherokee
- Connie Carlyle, 7200 Canterbury
- Dick Fuller, 7208 Canterbury
- Rachel Boden, 7136 Cherokee
- Ross Boden, 7136 Cherokee

The following residents spoke in favor of a compromise:

- Kathy Hartman, 3601 W. 73rd Street
- Nick Garcia, 7427 Village Drive
- Clint Thezan, 7201 Linden

New Business – Pickleball at Windsor Park

Ms. Wolf opened the meeting for discussion by the committee.

Ms. Wolf reminded the commenters that for a citation to be issued, the police need to be called and that is the appropriate course of action. She encouraged the residents in attendance to use that option to mitigate issues immediately when they're occurring.

Jay Moorman provided background on pickleball and asked about the history of the installation of the courts. Ms. Wolf responded that it was part of a previous parks master plan update. Mr. Moorman agreed that parking and street congestion is a very real problem in the area. He doesn't see the practicality of returning entirely to tennis but hopes to find a compromise.

Kevin Murphy believed that neighborhoods are primarily places to live, not to recreate and supports a return to tennis.

Matt Moeder asked if the sound study explored the impact of reducing the number of courts. Melissa Prenger replied that the study recommended mitigation of sound on the north and east sides, but didn't explore the reduction of courts. Mr. Moeder believes that a reduction in courts wouldn't mitigate the sound to the extent that is desired. He believes that pickleball is an extremely popular sport and should be maintained in the park with the addition of sound mitigation as originally discussed in the fall.

Randy Knight talked about the process for the Parks Master Plan and Capital Improvement Programs. Homes located near parks benefit economically. He stated that sound mitigation is an expensive undertaking for an amenity that doesn't generate revenue, but parks have associated costs. Mr. Knight wondered if the amenity was too large for the park. Signage is needed. Locking may be needed. More courteous behavior is needed.

Matt Geary stated that he feels the committee is weighing the clear desire for pickleball in the community while keeping the sound level down in the community. The committee tried to strike that balance with the recommended shortened hours and sound mitigation barriers. Mr. Geary was in favor of retaining the pickleball courts with sound mitigation.

Ms. Wolf reminded the committee that they could recommend parking restrictions on one side of the street. Mr. Geary was supportive of that restriction. Ms. Prenger stated that the process is typically resident driven. Wes Jordan expanded on the recommendation for parking mitigation and stated that the committee could recommend it outside the typical procedure outlined in Council Policy 301. He warned that parking may then begin to impact the neighborhood if restricted on just one street, so the study would be comprehensive to the whole area.

Tyler Agniel asked for additional history on the court expansion. Ms. Prenger stated that resurfacing the tennis courts was added to the CIP as part of the parks project planning for 2018 to 2022. As the City got closer to constructing the project, the idea of changing one of the tennis courts to four pickleball courts was discussed with the Parks and Rec Committee. This plan was subsequently approved by the Governing Body. Upon installation, the contractor, who is a member of one of the pickleball rule organizations, felt the four courts were configured too tightly the way they were designed. Given this he proposed the installation of six courts by removing the other tennis court.

Ms. Wolf is supportive of retaining pickleball in some fashion at the courts and is interested in the resident suggestion of removing several nets as a no-cost exploration of how a

reduced number of courts may impact the use and noise levels. Mr. Moorman suggested that players may bring portable nets and still use the courts.

Ms. Moeder asked for the price on a return to the tennis courts. Ms. Prenger stated that the return would be around \$23,500 which is around the same cost as the least expensive acoustical fence. Mr. Moeder stated that he heard from the residents that the noise doesn't improve when there are fewer players, so a reduction in courts doesn't seem like a viable solution.

Mr. Moeder moved to retain six courts with the addition of acoustical fencing and a comprehensive review of parking. Mr. Geary seconded the motion. Matt Moder, Matt Geary, and Diane Mares voted in favor. Tyler Agniel, Randy Knight, Caety Meyer, Jay Moorman, and Kevin Murphy voted in opposition. Motion failed 5-3.

Mr. Agniel moved to remove three nets from the courts to observe and study the impact of a court reduction prior to making a final decision. Caety Meyer seconded the motion. Tyler Agniel, Randy Knight, Diane Mares, Caety Meyer, Jay Moorman, and Kevin Murphy voted in favor. Matt Moder and Matt Geary voted in opposition. Motion passed 6-2.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20.