



Memorandum

To: Edward Lavalley, City Manager

From: John Veneziano, Director of Public Works and Asset Management

Date: August 3, 2017

Subject: Pickle-Ball Courts

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JV", located to the right of the "From:" field.

Background

On February 8, 2016, concerned pickle-ball players appeared before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to request that space be found on the island for pickle-ball courts. After much discussion, the Parks Board asked the staff to research the issue and explore existing parks for space for pickle-ball.

The city and county staff met and agreed that when Hecksher Park was resurfaced, pickle-ball striping would be added to the basketball courts. This provided two pickle-ball courts on the island (there is already dual striping at the Wellfield Park tennis courts).

On March 21, 2016, tennis players from Hecksher Park appeared before the Parks Board concurring that there was a need for more tennis and pickle-ball courts, but that tennis courts at Hecksher Park not be striped for dual use.

Subsequent to these discussions, in June of 2016, the county added indoor pickle-ball on Mondays at the Venice Community Center.

On March 20, 2017, a representative of the pickle-ball players brought to the Parks Board's attention that the temporary striping on the basketball courts was problematic because of its east-west alignment. Most of the time one side or the other had to play with the sun in their eyes making play more difficult and less fair. The Parks Board recommended that consideration be given to dual striping of one of the Hecksher Park tennis courts.

At the next Parks Board meeting on April 17, 2017, there was a lengthy discussion on the subject of pickle-ball. The Parks Board recommended delaying any dual use striping of tennis courts until the council took action on the FY 18 budget to see whether funding would be approved for construction of any new pickle-ball courts in the city.

Subsequent to this meeting, the county added Tuesdays and Thursdays to its community center indoor pickle-ball schedule the months from May thru September. The schedule will revert to Mondays only in October.

At the following Parks Board meeting on May 15, 2017, the Hecksher Park tennis player representatives expressed their opposition to dual use striping of the tennis courts.

On May 23, 2017, the City Council made a motion for the Parks and Recreation Board to research the playground area of Hecksher Park as a suitable location for pickle-ball courts.

The Parks Board met on June 19, 2017; however, as they did not have a quorum that day, no action was taken. There was considerable discussion by the board members in attendance and tennis and pickle-ball representatives. That discussion entailed suggestions to look at other locations on the Hecksher Park site.

Finally, on July 17, 2017, the Board had a quorum and was able to consider the council's request. The Board did not support using the playground area because it would add impervious area and reduce landscaping at the site. The Parks Board's action was to recommend that the eight shuffleboard courts that are not used by the Venice Shuffleboard Club and get very little use be repurposed for pickle-ball. Using that location would not add as much new impervious area and reduce landscaping.

Copies of the minutes for the referenced meetings are attached to this report.

Requested Action

City Council is requested to provide direction to staff regarding:

- 1) whether or not to construct additional pickle-ball courts at Hecksher Park and if so where,
- 2) should courts be considered for other locations,
- 3) when construction of courts should be funded, and
- 4) what sources of funding should be considered.