



City of St. Helena
Parks & Recreation Commission
Special Meeting
Tuesday, February 21 @ 6:00pm
Carnegie Building - Second Floor
1360 Oak Avenue

PLEASE NOTE: Any person who wishes to speak regarding an item on the agenda may do so, but please observe the time limit of four minutes.

Simultaneous Spanish interpretation services during meetings can be scheduled upon request. To ensure interpreters are available, requests must be made at least 72 hours in advance by calling the Office of the City Clerk at (707) 968-2640 or emailing cityclerk@cityofstheleena.org. The schedule of upcoming meetings and published meeting agendas can be found on the City of St. Helena website at [/portal/](#).

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Page

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
Commission Chair: Michelle Deasy
Vice Chair: Matthew Demchuk
Members: Doug Boeschen, Tye Taylor, and Rebekah Weeman teleconferencing from 413 McCauley Ranch Rd., Angels Camp, CA 95222
City Council Member Liaison: Billy Summers
Staff Liaison: Dave Jahns, Parks and Recreation Director
3. REPORTS BY STAFF AND COMMISSION
Reports by staff and/or commission on items of general interest. Brief questions for clarification may be posed and answered, and Commission may request that items be placed on a future agenda. Except under certain circumstances, **the Brown Act prohibits any other discussion or action by the Parks and Recreation Commission.**
 - 3.1. City Staff
 - Park Maintenance Update
 - Recreation Services Update
 - 3.2. Commissioners Update
 - 3.3. City Council Liaison Update
4. CONSENT CALENDAR:
Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission or the public may ask that any items be considered individually for purposes of considering alternative

action, for extended discussion, or for public comment. Unless that is done, on motion may be used to adopt all recommendation actions.

- 4.1. Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2023 3 - 7

[Draft Minutes January 17 Special Meeting](#)

5. SCHEDULED MATTERS:

- 5.1. Receive an update and provide feedback on the proposed course of action to convert a tennis court into pickleball courts at Crane Park 8 - 19

- Action Item/Staff Report

Prepared By: Dave Jahns, Parks & Recreation Director

[Staff Report Item 5.1 February 2023 \(Amended February 18, 2023\)](#)

[Staff Report January 2023](#)

[Pickleball Court Options January 2023](#)

[Public Comment Smithers](#)

- 5.2. Receive an update and discuss potential partnership with St. Helena Public Library Friends & Foundation to co-host a community fundraiser

- Discussion Item/No Staff Report (Deasy)

- 5.3. Ad-hoc Subcommittee Updates 20

- Discussion Item/No Staff Report

[PRC 2022-23 Goals and Committee Assignments](#)

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm, Carnegie Building, 1360 Oak Avenue.

This agenda was posted at City Hall, 1572 Railroad Avenue and 1360 Oak Avenue on February 17, 2023

/s/ Dave Jahns

Dave Jahns, Parks & Recreation Director

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meeting, please contact City Hall at (707) 967-2792. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II). However, City staff will attempt to assist at any time with accessibility.

**City of St. Helena
Parks and Recreation Commission
Special Meeting
January 17, 2023**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order 5:34 pm

2. Roll Call

The following were present:

- Chair: Michelle Deasy
- Vice Chair: Matthew Demchuk
- Members: Doug Boesch, Tye Taylor
- Staff: Parks & Recreation Director Dave Jahns
- City Council Liaison Billy Summers
- Absent: Rebekah Weeman

Public Forum – None due to Special Meeting

3. Reports by Staff and Commission

3.1 – City Staff Update

- Introduction of Recreation Supervisor, Kevin MacLeod
- Introduction of Public Works Director, Joe Leach
- Parks Maintenance Update
 - Storm management and response to the winter storm has been the main focus for the last few weeks.
 - Director Leach provided a Capital Improvement Program project update. Includes updates on Crane Park lighting, Elm Tree Tunnel, and Lewis Station renovations.
 - Parks and Trees Superintendent position is in the recruitment stage.
 - Commissioner Deasy requested information on lighting options for Crane Park project.
 - Director Jahns shared the subcommittee is in process of reviewing and will bring back a recommended proposal at a future Commission meeting.
- Recreation Services Update
 - Supervisor Sylvester provided an update on recreation programs and events since last meeting. Included holiday events, winter break camps, youth basketball
 - Staff will be completing a “call for instructors” this winter to gauge interest in potential partnerships and expansion recreation program offerings.

3.2 – Commissioners Update

- Commissioner Deasy requested a future update on potential projects at Meily Park and Wappo Park

3.3 – City Council Liaison Update

- Councilmember Summers introduced himself as the new City Council liaison to the commission.
- Staff and the Commission thanked Vice Mayor Hall for his time as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

4. Consent Calendar

4.1– Special Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2022.

- Motion: Demchuk; Boeschen: 2nd
 - Approved: Unanimous

5. Scheduled Matters

5.1 – Receive an update and recommendation from the Pickleball ad-hoc subcommittee regarding the addition of pickleball courts in St. Helena

- Staff provided background on the Commission and staff's work to analyze the community's interest in pickleball. Staff provided four potential options for the Commission to consider
- Commissioner Boeschen shared his agreement with the report and stated his support for finding a path forward.
- Commissioner Demchuk asked the total number of registered USTA players in St. Helena. Commented that maximum number of courts in use at given time during USTA matches is five.
- Commissioner Demchuk noted that the range in cost estimates is large.
 - Staff responded with additional details of the proposed work. Noted the highest estimate was an outlier.
- Commissioner Deasy asked whether noise reducing material is included in the estimates.
 - Staff responded that material is not included in existing quotes.
 - Commissioner Boeschen noted that the cost for sound reducing materials would significantly increase the cost of the project.
- Commissioner Deasy inquired about adding picnic tables to support additional gathering space for tennis court users.
- Public Comment Opened at 6:17pm
 - Chris Smith – Thanked staff and commissioners. Commented that picnic tables already exist in vicinity. Pickleball is a sport that brings families together. Views addition of courts as another amenity to bring community together.
 - Denise Y – Lived in St. Helena for 18-20 years. Pickleball is fastest growing sport in America. Pickleball provides community. Appeals to wide range of ranges. Currently plays at Las Flores and shared that neighbors near the park find the park use a happy and joyous sound.
 - Bill Hart – Part of the Jimmy Barrett Memorial Tennis Club. Club has been around for 25+ years, with over 50 members involved. Here to support the addition of pickleball. Shared that span of ages playing tennis is as great as pickleball. Concern is loss of court space. A dedicated facility should be considered in the long-term. High school courts are underutilized; could those be used outside of school hours?

- Andi Brown – Water aerobics instructor. Pickleball is an all-inclusive sport. Would be willing to instruct pickleball to newcomers of all ages.
- Rich – Long-time resident. High school courts are underutilized and use to be open. Would like to see school facilities more accessible to the community. Could support overflow from Crane Park with the loss of a single tennis court.
- Larry – Part of Barrett Memorial Tennis Club. Hope this is temporary solution. Supportive of pickleball. Would like to see a dedicated facility away from the tennis courts. Noise is an issue and would like to see a sound barrier.
- Jim Andersen – Part of St. Helena Pickleball Club. Understand financing is a concern. Community would support fundraising concerns to make sure this project is successful and address sound barrier needs.
- Mark Smithers – Resident of Vallejo Street for 34 years. Current court lights are disruptive. Request is that pickleball location is on court closest to bocce ball courts/furthest from the neighborhood.
- Mara McGrath – Active Napa Sonoma Marin Women's League that utilizes at least three courts. Four courts in Calistoga are dual striped for pickleball. Appear to be underutilized in Calistoga.
- Carson Haywood – Pickleball court addition is a great opportunity for the youth in the community. Preference is for dedicated space, rather than shared courts.
- Shannon – Has City identified location for a dedicated pickleball facility.
 - Chair Deasy requested a staff response - staff responded that a permanent location has not been definitively identified.
- Katy Leonardini – Has funding been set aside or secured for completion of the pickleball project?
 - Chair Deasy responded that project (option B) would not be part of Capital Improvement Program
 - Staff further clarified that funding options would be brought forward at a future meeting.
 - Commissioner Demchuk shared that Park Impact Fees are a potential option.
- Jespersen-Wheat – Currently discussing short-term options. Long-term solution should be considered and will require coordination between various departments.
- Deborah Boeschen – Have seen middle school students playing pickleball with temporary nets. Pickleball has an opportunity to provide youth activity and bring community together in an equitable fashion. Let's provide a place for them to play.
- Public Comment closed at 6:47pm
- Demchuk made motion to accept ad-hoc subcommittees recommendation as moving forward with Option B (converting a single tennis court to four pickleball courts) and direct staff to come back with a specific proposal.
 - Commissioner Demchuk shared Court #6 is preference for conversion
 - Councilmember Summers shared his support for court #6

- Commissioner Boeschen would like to make sure this remains a priority and is completed as quickly as possible; spring, rather than summer.
- Chair Deasy asked about concern over loss of picnic space for tennis league
 - Commissioner Demchuk shared that picnic space will still be available to all and that staff can consider adding picnic tables near court #1
- Commissioner Boeschen shared that through conversations with tennis community, Court #6 was preferred to be converted due to location and crowding on court. Would like to do further investigation on whether crowding will impact pickleball play.
- Demchuk restated motion: Move to accept ad-hoc subcommittees recommendation for staff to move forward with Option B, converting Court #6 into pickleball courts, and that time is of the essence on this project.
 - Boeschen: 2nd
 - Approved: Unanimous

5.2 – Receive an update from the ad-hoc subcommittees on work completed since the last meeting

- Commissioner Deasy shared Master Plan committee has not met recently. Coordinating with timing of other City Strategic planning efforts
- Commissioner Boeschen provided update on Equitable Recreation Committee. Had community meeting in December. Led to creation of short-list of actionable items. One key item is pursuing a series of community events that engages with Latino community.
 - Chair Deasy commented that subcommittee will work on getting better participation at future community discussions.
 - Councilmember Summers recommended connecting with Oscar De Haro as a leader within the Latino community.
- Commissioner Taylor stated Baldwin Park Committee is awaiting further information from staff what works has been completed to date.
- Staff shared that Trails and Open space plan next step is to move forward to Planning Commission. New Public Works staff are meeting with trails committee members to get up-to-speed on maintenance and funding assumptions.
 - Councilmember Summers encouraged the use of volunteers to support this project.
- Director Jahns shared that Mario Traverso (Public Works Assistant Engineer) will be supporting the Crane Park lighting project.
 - Commissioner Taylor shared that we are at a point of only needing to analyze one or two options, rather than still reviewing all four initial scenarios.
 - Taylor shared that we are focused on saving energy, limiting impact to neighbors, and adding more control to switch.
 - Councilmember summers inquired how we find grant funding support.

- Commissioner Demchuk would like to set-up a discussion with Interact and other high school clubs.
- Staff shared that Crane Park Playground replacement project needs to be completed by June 2024. Will revisit at February meeting

5.3 – Discuss February Commission meeting date due to President's Day Holiday

- Regular meeting date is scheduled for February 20th, which is President's Day Holiday.
 - First preference is to reschedule to February 13th; Second option is February 21st

6. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned: 7:31 pm

APPROVED:

Michelle Deasy, Chair

ATTEST:

Dave Jahns, Parks & Recreation Director



**Report to the Parks and Recreation
Commission**
Commission Special Meeting of February 21, 2023

Agenda Section: Scheduled Matters – Item 5.1

Subject: Receive an update and provide feedback on the proposed course of action to convert a tennis court to pickleball courts at Crane Park

CEQA

Determination: Not a CEQA project

Prepared By: Dave Jahns, Parks & Recreation Director

Reviewed By: Dave Jahns, Parks & Recreation Director

Approved By: Dave Jahns, Parks & Recreation Director

BACKGROUND

During their January 17, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission received a report from staff and received public feedback from the community regarding the potential to add pickleball courts in St. Helena. Over that past several years, staff worked in partnership with an ad-hoc subcommittee to analyze community interest and potential options to bring pickleball courts to the community. From that process, four potential options were presented to the Commission at their January meeting for consideration:

- A. Build new dedicated pickleball facilities
- B. Convert an existing tennis court into pickleball courts at Crane Park
- C. Resurface an underutilized asphalt patch at Crane Park for pickleball use
- D. Dual stripe existing tennis court(s) at Crane Park with lines for both tennis and pickleball

The ad-hoc subcommittee recommended moving forward with Option B - Convert an existing tennis court into pickleball courts at Crane Park. After receiving public comment and deliberating, the Commission unanimously approved the subcommittee's recommendation for staff to move forward with the process of putting together a specific proposal to convert Court #6 at Crane Park into dedicated pickleball courts.

Upon this decision, staff began working with potential contractors to solicit proposals and cost estimates, identify funding options, and confirm project timeline deliverability.

The full staff report from January 17, 2023 meeting is attached for reference.

DISCUSSION

Project Delivery

The City of St. Helena's process for completing construction projects varies, based on the total cost to deliver the project. Construction projects that are under \$60,000 allow for City Manager signing authority, with staff obtaining three written proposals as part of the process. This project is expected to fall under the \$60,000 threshold, based on the proposed scope of the project, which is summarized below:

- Excavate existing surface to install net post sleeves and net posts for four sets of pickleball nets; install nets
- Replace/repair existing slipsheet overlay surface where damaged from net post installation
- Fill existing cracks and blemishes with crack filler and court repair material
- Clean and prepare existing tennis court surface for resurfacing
- Apply layer(s) of acrylic resurfacing material over existing court surface
- Measure and apply paint lines for four regulation-sized pickleball courts
- *Add-on service to be considered: removal of existing tennis net and installation of new dividing fence*

Since the last Commission meeting, staff reached out to five potential contractors, three of which were able to provide written proposals and estimates that met the scope of the project. The three estimates came in at the following values:

1. \$64,500 (*includes removal only of existing tennis net*)
2. \$32,120 (*Additional \$3,270 for net tennis net removal and installation of new dividing fence*)
3. \$27,300 (*Does not include installation of new fence. City would need to complete prior to resurfacing work if desired*)

In reviewing these proposals, staff and the ad-hoc committee concur that all three proposals meet the scope of the project and would deliver a quality product. Due to the high-cost differential, staff and the subcommittee determined option 1 is not a viable path forward. Staff is currently in the process of confirming scheduling for options 2 and 3, as the ability to complete the project in a timely manner will be a deciding factor.

At the time of this report, both potential contractors have this proposed project in their queue, and are currently determining their upcoming spring schedules, due to impacts from the January storms. Staff will update the subcommittee, Commission, and

community as soon as a firm project timeline is confirmed.

Additional Research and Considerations

Court Crowning - One of the pending questions from the January discussion was the impact of “crowning” on Court #6. Staff and the subcommittee coordinated with members of the pickleball community to schedule a practice game on Court #6 in the same court orientation as proposed in Option B. The general consensus from those who took part is that the existing court crowning should not have a detrimental impact on play.

Acoustic Barrier – It was noted in the previous meeting that the noise factor of pickleball can have a considerable impact to the surrounding environment. One method of addressing that concern is the addition of sound blocking materials, often referred to as “acoustic fencing”. Initial analysis shows the addition of an acoustic barrier would significantly increase the cost of the project, with the overall net benefit still undetermined. It is the subcommittee’s recommendation to move forward with the project without the addition of sound blocking materials at this time, and allow for a period of time to evaluate the impact of sound. Staff will continue to research cost and project delivery, should it be determined that sound blocking materials be deemed necessary. Staff recommends revisiting the noise impact after six months of pickleball use to determine whether the installation of sound blocking materials should be considered. Staff will consult with the Planning Department to confirm the introduction of an increased sound decibel level will be in compliance with the standards set forth in the City’s General plan.

Dividing Fence – Due to the layout of four pickleball courts, a center dividing fence is common on courts of this size, to provide a barrier between the courts and prevent balls from rolling from one side to the other. On the existing court, the tennis net is in the same location as a proposed fence and currently meets the need of keeping balls on one half of the court. Staff and the subcommittee recognize the importance functionality, and the aesthetic benefit of adding a more permanent barrier. Staff will be evaluating the cost and the impact to the court (potential for additional surface cracking) with the removal of existing net and addition of a new chain-link fence as part of final discussions with the selected contractor.

Slipsheet Overlay System – When the existing tennis courts were resurfaced a few years back, the contractor installed a sublayer called a slipsheet overlay system. This is a fairly unique, yet effective, system at preventing surface cracks. This is being noted, as the installation of new pickleball net posts, will penetrate and impact this sublayer. If the court were ever to be returned to a tennis court, repair of the slipsheet sublayer is a factor that will need to be considered.

Pilot Evaluation Period

With these various considerations in mind, in addition to the comments provided during the January 17 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, staff recommends

that potential impacts such as noise, available tennis court space, and overall cohesiveness to the park and surrounding environment be revisited six months following the proposed project delivery. This will provide the Commission, staff, and community an opportunity to evaluate whether modifications need to be made to support pickleball and tennis players, Crane Park users, and adjacent neighbors.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff is currently working with the Finance Department and City Attorney to determine whether this project is eligible to be funded through Park Impact Fees. If not an eligible funding source, staff has identified available funding within the Parks and Recreation Department's operational budget to complete this project, based on estimates #2 or #3 above. It is not anticipated that the determination of fund use will have an impact on the timeline to deliver the project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Commission provide feedback to staff and ad-hoc subcommittee on the proposed course of action, including the use of Park Impact Fees as a potential funding option.



**Report to the Parks and Recreation
Commission
Commission Special Meeting of January 17, 2023**

Agenda Section: Scheduled Matters – Item 5.1

**Subject: Receive an update and recommended action from the
Pickleball Ad-Hoc Subcommittee regarding the addition of
pickleball courts in St. Helena**

**CEQA
Determination: Not a CEQA project**

Prepared By: Dave Jahns, Parks & Recreation Director

Reviewed By: Dave Jahns, Parks & Recreation Director

Approved By: Dave Jahns, Parks & Recreation Director

BACKGROUND

According to the United States Pickleball Association, pickleball is a court sport played on a badminton-sized court (20' x 44') with the net set to a height of 34 inches at the center. It is played with a perforated plastic ball, similar to a wiffle ball, and composite or wooden paddles about twice the size of ping-pong paddles. It is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. In addition, the game has developed a passionate following due to its friendly, social nature, and its multi-generational appeal. It's typically played on a standard tennis court surface or court specially designed and constructed for pickleball. Interest and participation in pickleball continues to grow nationally, throughout California, and locally in Napa County. Several neighboring communities have either constructed new facilities or converted existing tennis courts into pickleball courts in recent years. Currently there are no public courts available to play regulation pickleball in St. Helena.

In October 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff discussed the growing interest and the potential addition of pickleball courts in St. Helena. The commission continued the discussion for several subsequent meetings and launched a pickleball interest survey in the summer of 2021. The results of that survey are attached for reference.

The Commission established a pickleball ad-hoc subcommittee during the 20-21 fiscal year and that committee has continued into 2022-23. During their October 2022 meeting, the Commission adopted a set of goals, one of which is “Recommend a path forward to develop a pickleball space in St. Helena.” Over the last several years the Commission and ad-hoc committee have looked into various options to bring forward a solution that adds pickleball courts to our public park system.

DISCUSSION

While this endeavor has been underway with the Commission since 2020, conversations have increased over the last several months. Staff and committee members met with representatives from the pickleball and tennis community, spoken with construction and surfacing contractors, and reviewed similar projects in neighboring agencies. From those discussions and the committee’s analysis, four primary options took shape:

- A. Build new dedicated pickleball facilities – *This would provide dedicated space for pickleball use without having an impact on existing tennis court space and programs. This option carries the highest cost and longest lead time to deliver. Would most likely require being part of a future Capital Improvement Program project and/or funding from an outside source.*
- B. Convert an existing tennis court into pickleball courts at Crane Park – *Provides dedicated pickleball space by reducing number of available public tennis courts from six to five. Carries a mid-range price tag and can be delivered in a relatively short amount of time. Courts could potentially be converted back to tennis courts if new pickleball facilities were built in future years.*
- C. Resurface an underutilized asphalt patch at Crane Park for pickleball use – *Provides a dedicated pickleball space without impacting tennis court use. Existing surface would require complete new surfacing or would remain a lower quality surface than exists on tennis courts. Existing footprint (56’ x 28’) would provide enough space for a single pickleball court.*
- D. Dual stripe existing tennis court(s) at Crane Park with lines for both tennis and pickleball – *Allows for tennis and pickleball to be played on the same court (not simultaneously), with lines for both sports overlapping. Inexpensive and quick to deliver. Would require the use of removable or adjustable nets. Shared court use and confusion with overlapping lines is a concern for players of both sports.*

Conversations with community members have been very helpful for the committee in framing a recommendation and providing insight into the benefits and impacts of adding pickleball courts. It should be noted that these conversations represent a sample of pickleball and tennis players, but are not completely comprehensive of all court users.

Pickleball Support

Staff and commissioners met with several pickleball advocates in our community and they highlighted the interest and need for courts in St. Helena. Common comments from those conversations are highlighted below:

- There are no existing public courts in St. Helena. Players must travel to Yountville, Napa, or Santa Rosa to play
- Saint Helena Pickleball Club has over 50 active members, with many others known in the community who play, but not (yet) affiliated with the club
- Community benefits – physical health, positive social interaction, age-friendly activity
- Easy sport to learn and minimal equipment and cost needed to play
- Players of different skill levels can all play and share the court space simultaneously
- A single tennis court footprint can accommodate up to four pickleball courts and 16 players at a time
- Top preference is for new, dedicated facilities, but understand not likely feasible at this time. Next best scenario is conversion of an existing tennis court at Crane Park.
 - Court surfaces are in good condition
 - Relatively low cost and delivery time
 - Lighting and fence footprint already exists
 - Space accommodates four pickleball courts
- Opportunity to add recreation programs specifically for pickleball or a tennis/pickleball combination
- Increased use of the park and courts

Tennis Community Impact

Staff and commissioners are aware of the long-standing tennis tradition in St. Helena and understand that the proposed action will have a direct impact on existing court space and use. Some of the comments and concerns brought forward by members of the tennis community are summarized below:

- General understanding and appreciation of the growing popularity of pickleball. Several players shared they play both sports.
- Overall preference is for a dedicated facility outside of existing Crane Park courts. If Crane courts are selected, prefer a dedicated court space, rather than sharing or dual striping.
- One less court available for public play. Some tennis players feel courts are already overly impacted; others feel there is adequate space.
- USTA league representatives want to ensure league matches will be able to continue. League play requires a maximum of five courts on match days.
- Noise factor due to ball & paddle impact, as well as increased activity on a single court space.
- Request for a public calendar sharing league match dates, camps, lessons, etc.
- Differing opinions on whether the single court closest to bocce ball courts or Crane Ave should be converted. Factors include available gathering space,

noise impacts to neighborhood, and slight crowning on court closest to bocce courts.

Recommendation

Based on analyzing the four options and discussions with community members, the pickleball ad-hoc subcommittee recommends moving forward with Option B – Convert an existing tennis court at Crane Park into pickleball courts.

Staff has had preliminary discussions with surfacing contractors who have completed similar projects as proposed in Option B, and the dimensions of a single court at Crane Park would provide enough space for the addition of four pickleball courts. Based on the existing condition of our courts, staff estimates that a court conversion could be completed in the matter of a few weeks, once the project is approved and weather conditions permit.

While the overall preferred option amongst community members is to build new and dedicated pickleball facilities, it carries the highest price tag and longest timeline to deliver. Based on similar projects in other jurisdictions, staff estimates that a project of this nature would range somewhere in the \$350,000 – \$500,000 range. While not fiscally feasible at this time, staff will continue to review this as an option in future years as a potential capital project.

Once provided with a recommendation, staff will put together a detailed proposal, firm cost estimate, and funding options for consideration at the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

Fiscal impact will vary depending on the recommended path forward. If the Commission recommends moving forward with Option B, staff has received three rough estimates that range from \$24,000 - \$60,000 to complete the work.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Commission review the subcommittee's recommendation and provide staff with direction.

Examples of Pickleball Court Options

Option A – Dedicated Pickleball Facility



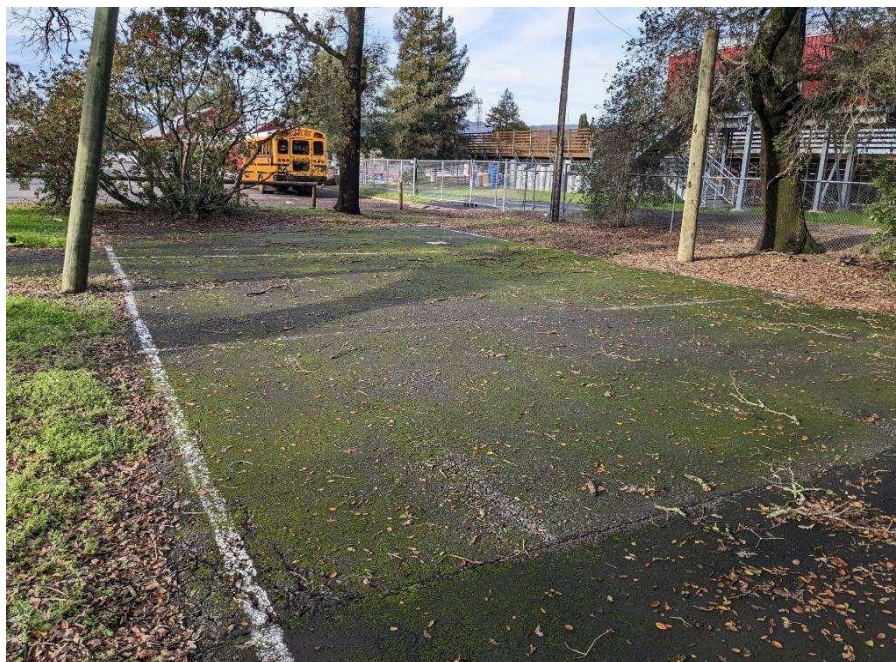
(Photo from Lawrence, Indiana)

Option B – Conversion of existing tennis court



(Photo from Las Flores Park, Napa)

Option C – Resurface an underutilized patch of asphalt at Crane Park



(Photo from Crane Park, St. Helena)

Option D – Dual stripe existing tennis courts



(Location unknown, Photo Credit: Flooring Inc.)

Dave Jahns

From: Mark Smithers <msmithers@tfewines.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2023 11:36 AM
To: Dave Jahns; Cindy Tzaopoulos
Cc: Billy Summers
Subject: [External] Park and Recreation February 21, 2023 meeting agenda item 5.1 - Pickelball update

To the Park and Recreation Commission and Director Dave Jahns,

Thank you for your work, analysis, and consideration of the concerns regarding the potential of pickleball courts being added to the recreational opportunities at Crane Park in St Helena. As you know, local players currently drive to Yountville to play on the courts there. It would of course be more convenient for these players to not have to drive to Yountville.

While we should always be looking for ways to expand recreational opportunities in St Helena, there are several concerns I trust will be addressed as a continuation of your review and prior to final approval.

1. As noted at the January meeting by pickleball enthusiasts, the tennis community, and neighbors adjacent to Crane Park, pickleball is an extremely noisy sport very much not like tennis. The ball on paddle sound is loud and high pitched, happening in quick succession due to the small court size, and prone to constant and enthusiastic player chatter. This is well known, just google pickleball noise. It is currently a very big topic across the country. A neighbor of ours who is a pickleball enthusiast even said to me, "get your earplugs ready".
2. In many communities lawsuits have and continue to be raised to stop or reverse pickleball courts due to the resulting disruption to the peaceful enjoyment of parks, adjacent facilities, and neighborhoods. Legal risk becomes an issue to consider. The decibel limits should be reviewed at these adjacent locations and compared with our general plan and noise ordinance for compliance.
3. To mitigate noise concerns, many communities have installed sound barriers and restricted the hours pickleball courts are available for use. We hope both will be required along with any final approval.
4. Placement of pickleball courts on a court at Crane Park will remove a tennis court. This creates an issue for recreational tennis players. Recreational play has increased at Crane Park since private courts were completed off Vintage Avenue which resulted in less club activity at Crane Park and more court availability to the general public. We have personally seen an uptick in general public use especially by young people after work and on weekends. Tennis clubs and USTA events currently have approval to use up to five courts. As such the tennis playing public will at times have no court for recreational tennis. These are "public" courts and at least one court should always remain available for recreational play; two courts for recreational use would be even more reasonable. Either the pickleball courts should be placed somewhere else, or the tennis clubs and events should be limited to no more than four courts; three would be better.
5. We really have no idea how impactful pickleball will be to the continued enjoyment of tennis, bocce, farmers market, picnickers, neighbors, and primary school children. Project approval should be expressly temporary, reviewed three to six months after court use begins, and engage all impacted groups at this review date. Reapproval through the public process should be required after the review is complete, perhaps with a sound consultant to check decibel impacts to existing adjacent uses.

Neighbors do appreciate the proposed placement of the four pickleball courts on existing tennis court #6, the furthest from the residential neighbors.

Even if the cost of construction does not rise to the level required for approval by City Council, Council approval should be sought to ensure full discussion within the entire community of the impacts associated with this project. We hope that for everyone's sake, any final approval will come with a sound barrier.

Thank you for giving my comments your full consideration. We are happy to have pickelball available to our community but the noise issue must be addressed.

Mark Smithers

St Helena

Mark Smithers | Senior Vice President, Finance

Trinchero Family Estates

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ST. HELENA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2022-23 Goals and Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Assignments

1. Revisit current Baldwin Park improvement project and work in partnership with Public Works to complete or revise existing CIP (*Taylor and Weeman*)
2. Recommend a path forward to develop pickleball space in St. Helena (*Boeschen and Taylor*)
3. Support the Trails and Open Space Committee in bringing the plan forward to City Council and begin implementation process (*Deasy and Weeman*)
4. Launch the Parks & Recreation Master Plan process, beginning with a community-wide needs assessment and review of existing programs (*Deasy and Demchuk*)
5. Complete Crane Park court lighting project (*Boeschen and Taylor*)
6. Equitable recreation - Increase participation, access, and inclusion for our Latino community (*Boeschen and Deasy*)
7. Enhance programming, events, and gathering opportunities for teens and young adults (*Demchuk*)

Updated December 2022