



Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee

April 26, 2023 7PM

Virtual Meeting Following 6pm Joint AC Meeting

In Attendance

Committee Members: Nisha George (Chair), Nanda Siddaiah (Secretary), James Terwilliger, Hilary Blum, Jacqui Orenda-Weber, Carolina Martins

Staff: Keith Watson (Support Services Manager), Emily Kent (Sports & Inclusion Manager)

Board Liaison: Alfredo Moreno

Absent: Erica Soto, Jane Leo, Kate Nelson

1. Call Meeting to Order

Keith called meeting to order @ 7:11pm

2. Approval of Minutes from March 2023

Nisha made a motion to approve minutes as submitted; James Seconded. Minutes Approved

3. Public Comment

No public comment this month

Keith: From today's Joint committee meeting – asked for ideas for additional revenue generation from different committees. Keith will send out an email seeking input from the committee.

4. New Business

a. Pickleball Expansion Discussion (Emily Kent, Sports & Inclusion Manager)

Emily is working on putting together a working plan to address the high demand from the pickleball community. This topic is coming up across many of our facilities in the district.

Pickleball is considered an emerging sport, due to the huge recent growth in demand is taking up a lot of discussion space. THPRD looking to expand court options. This does not all have to be on the tennis courts. During cold weather, the indoor demand spikes for all racquet sports; while warm weather shifts the demand to outdoor facilities. Challenging to manage this demand but want to consider future revenue possibilities. Looking at balancing these aspects.

Data shows, tennis is growing well too – just as not as high as pickleball. Indoor facilities are stressed, and other sports (tennis, volleyball, basketball) are having to cede court time due to the finite indoor facilities in the district.

There's also noise concerns from neighborhoods – as outdoor courts are being used much more by pickleball. THPRD wants to be good neighbors in the parks too. Emily and THPRD are working on a plan to increase access while being considerate of the concerns. Team is mapping, to identify where the tennis courts are; which ones have pickleball lines, dedicated pickleball courts; and checking on key parameters such as distance from neighbors, access to courts etc. This is to determine which sites are potential spaces to expand pickleball. One example are the school facilities – which tend to have appreciable separation from homes, and space exists in many locations. We are aware of the recent news related to noise in Lake Oswego, and are keeping that in consideration.

Carolina: how does this fit in the budget concerns in the earlier meeting?

Emily: current focus is on existing facilities, co-locating with existing tennis courts – which are much more budget friendly; brand new facilities could raise budget concerns and need additional study/review for long-term feasibility.

James: Are we seeing PB growth across all ages? Is PB on the rise for seniors but declining for tennis?

Emily: anecdotal observations indicate this to be across all ages – as this is an easy sport to pick up. Tennis leagues at the tennis center are seeing an increase in senior league teams.

We're adding an instructor for PB classes at Elsie Stuhr. Will monitor how this goes

Hilary: are there facilities that can co-locate. Ex: select handball, basketball which get low usage

Emily: Yes, THPRD is looking at these possibilities. Not too long ago, basketball was the pickleball in terms of growing popularity, and somewhat similar concerns with noise.

General observation – spaces don't always get used with the same way that planning team envisioned. Will keep this in mind too.

Tennis center has PB instructors too. Court reservations are a hot commodity. And we're at capacity for what we can offer in those facilities. Starting May, we're looking at some outdoor reserved time. Will keep equity considerations in mind.

For Raleigh park PB exclusive court and Cedar Hills shared courts: locations will be staffed to make sure the reservations are honored; and also collect data on how those courts are getting utilized. Also looking at supporting PB leagues; and collaborating with organization Pickleball Is Great, which currently hosts PB competitive play.

We're looking at the reservation system too – as we fit 2x PB courts vs tennis court; we'll figure out how the court charges will work.

Keith: request Emily to keep this committee in the loop of any progress in thoughts and ideas, and we'll collaborate.

Can also direct any additional ideas to Emily's email: e.kent@thprd.org

5. Old Business

a. Challenge Grant Discussion

Nisha: Replace gas tabletop & stove with induction cooking ranges at Cedar Hills Recreation Center

Overview: Nisha has communicated with staff at Cedar Hills and they are supportive of

the committee researching and proposing replacement of aging units. Kitchen is used for cooking classes, for preschool age 4 and up; setup with gas cooktops

Instructors must do double duty – teach, while keeping kids safe from the open flame. Would be a great improvement to use Induction stoves for the same. In addition to being safe, is also faster and does not produce any waste gases; and removes risk of gas leaks!

Nisha walked us thru the proposal

James suggested – we could have a combination of the stovetop; and portable induction units for flexibility.

Jacqui: is this a new technology, and are the prices still in the ‘new technology’ zone

Nisha: technology is at least 10years in use; and prices have come down from earlier years and are in generally comparable with similar gas/electric stoves.

James: confirmed pricing is in line with other options on the current market.

Committee is supportive of continuing with this evaluation. Nisha to share the presentation to the committee. Will gather additional information with Keith and share out proposal for review prior to May meeting.

James: Suggestion to have more climbing surfaces in our parks.

Searched and found a couple of climbing wall possibility options – which fit in the challenge grant budget.

Nisha suggested checking out another company located in Tigard, who provide similar structures. James indicated this project may need additional vetting and might be better served to sit in the parking lot and be considered next year.

6. Wrap-up

- a. Next meeting: May 17, 2023 (6PM)

7. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned 8:10p
- b. Minutes respectfully submitted by Nanda Siddaiah, Secretary