

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION

AGENDA 3-11-2021

Item 6-B

Recommendation to Authorize Staff to Convert One
Tennis Court to Four Pickleball Courts at
Washington Park

Additional Public Comments

From: [Barbara Greenstein](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Conversion of tennis court in Washington Park to 4 pickleball courts
Date: Sunday, March 7, 2021 1:50:14 PM

Four and a half years ago, I attended and spoke at a Park and Rec Commission meeting advocating that the abandoned tennis court at Lincoln Park be converted to a designated pickleball court. Back then, I never expected that these four pickleball courts would become so heavily used and get so overcrowded that there would be times when it was almost impossible to play on them. These courts are also used for group classes, individual pickleball lessons and can also be reserved by pickleball players. These are all wonderful developments but come at a cost - there are not enough courts for all the players who want to play. Clearly we need more courts.

With this being said, I oppose converting a tennis court in Washington Park to 4 pickleball courts. I made 3 trips to the Washington Park tennis courts in this past week and made some observations. What I noticed on these trips have caused me to oppose converting a tennis court into 4 pickleball courts.

On each visit I noticed that all of the 6 tennis courts were being used by tennis players and the separate "wall" court was also being used. In fact, on two occasions there were tennis playing waiting for their turn to play. Tennis is just as important to tennis players as pickleball is to pickleball players.

On all 3 visits to Washington Park I noticed that the parking lot by the courts was filled almost to capacity. On Thursday at 1 pm, there were 2 empty parking spaces. On Friday at 11 am there were 5 empty parking spaces and on Saturday at 10 am there was one empty parking spot when I got there. And the street adjacent to the courts was lined with parked cars. By the time I left on Saturday, cars were waiting in the parking lot for people to leave so they could park their cars in the newly exited spot. If 16 pickleball players were to try park their vehicles in this parking lot, there would be no room. In addition, this parking lot is used by people who take their dogs to the two dog parks near the tennis courts. While I was there, I noticed some dog owners with mobility issues and using canes bringing their dogs to the dog parks. It would be so hard for some of these people if they had to park so far away that it would be difficult for them to walk a distance with their dogs to get them into the dog park. I suspect that other people come to Washington Park for a variety of reasons: to take a walk, sit on the benches, go to the beach, use the basketball courts. These people probably also park in this lot. Adding a large contingent of pickleball players will greatly tax the capacity of this parking lot.

I believe it is important to remember that we all are a part of a larger community. I don't think that taking away resources that are loved by others in this more inclusive community is the right thing to do just because we want more pickleball courts.

I realize that building pickleball courts from scratch is a very expensive proposition. And I have an idea about how all of us - tennis players, pickleball players, and members of the community at large could combine efforts by pooling our resources to help raise some money to help pay for new courts. I was thinking about the yearly silent auction fund raiser that Meals on Wheels used to have. We could do something like that by creating a Craig's List web page where people could donate something from all of our diverse skill sets and have the proceeds from that donation go to a fund specific to building more pickleball courts (Friends of the Parks). Some of us are artists, teachers, craftspeople, fitness experts, educators, writers, technology specialists, repair experts, etc.. We could offer a service in our field of expertise and "sell" it on this site and donate an hour of our expertise to this fund. We all get to give something and then the community gets to get something back.

There is a lot of vacant, flat land with lots of parking at Alameda Point. Maybe we can help fund new pickleball courts there.

Thank you for reading this rather long comment.

Barbara Greenstein

From: Deidre Abrons
To: ARPD; Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Future of Tennis Courts
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 7:56:55 AM

Dear Alameda Park and Rec Commissioners and Director:

My name is Deidre Lutes Abrons.

I am an Alameda resident and play tennis at Washington Park and Krusi Tennis Courts.
Please do not take away any tennis courts at WAPA, Franklin, Krusi or Leydecker Parks.
Consider turning the Naval courts into pickle ball courts as an alternative.

Thank you,
Deidre Lutes Abrons

--

This message is intended only for the use of the individual(s) or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by email. Thank you for your assistance.

From: Esther Li-Bland
To: ARPD; Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pickle ball courts
Date: Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:13:25 PM

Dear Alameda Park and Rec. Commissioners and Director,

I am writing to ask that you would not convert any of the tennis courts at Washington Park (or any other park in Alameda) into pickle ball courts. I would encourage you to create pickle ball courts, but not at the expense of tennis. I play frequently at the tennis courts throughout Alameda, and I can attest that they are very well used. I often need to visit several courts before I can find a court to play tennis with my children (within a reasonable wait-time).

As an alternative location for the pickleball courts, please consider using the Naval courts.

Sincerely - Esther Li-Bland
2438 E 16th St, Oakland, CA 94601

From: David Li-Bland
To: ARPD; Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pickle ball courts
Date: Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:12:17 PM

Dear Alameda Park and Rec. Commissioners and Director,

I am writing to ask that you would not convert any of the tennis courts at Washington Park (or any other park in Alameda) into pickle ball courts. I would encourage you to create pickle ball courts, but not at the expense of tennis. I play frequently at the tennis courts throughout Alameda, and I can attest that they are very well used. I often need to visit several courts before I can find a court to play tennis with my children (within a reasonable wait-time).

As an alternative location for the pickleball courts, please consider using the Naval courts.

All the best - David Li-Bland
2438 E 16th St, Oakland, CA 94601

From: [Laura Shen](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Keep Alameda's Tennis Courts
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 10:45:13 AM

Dear ARPD Director,

I am writing to voice concerns about converting existing tennis courts into pickle ball courts. I know that pickle ball has become very popular lately, but taking away a tennis court from an equally popular sport doesn't make sense. The tennis courts at WAPA, Franklin, Krusi, and Leydecker parks are constantly in use, and it is obvious that even more are needed, not less. Waiting up to an hour for a court is currently the norm.

Has anyone studied the potential of refurbishing the existing courts at the old Naval base next to the O Club?

Please do not take away any tennis courts from any of the existing ARPD parks.

Thank you,
Laura Shen

From: Patrick
To: ARPD; Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save Washington Park court 4 Agenda item 6-B
Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 5:55:26 PM

Dear Dir. Amy Wooldridge and Commission Chair Adrienne Alexander, Vice Chair Eric Robbins, Commission Member Ron Limoges, and Commission Member Tara Navarro

Please do not change court 4 into a pickle ball court. I have been playing tennis at Washington Park for the last 20 years. Both my wife and I play tennis and we would spend time with our friends and family there so Washington Park holds a special place for us. Throughout those years there has been a steady increase in interest in tennis and the use of the courts. Before Covid I would have to wait at least 1-2 hours for a court, and now due to Covid the wait times are only increasing. The loss of one court would be detrimental and is not a feasible, it would only make the situation worse. If anything we need more tennis courts to supply this ever growing sport to serve our strong tennis loving community. To illustrate, the growing demand for tennis according to the United States Tennis Association, tennis participation increased by 22% in 2020. With 21.64 million people hitting the courts. In contrast, pickle ball only has 3.3 million players nationwide. Tennis is one of the few outlets still available to go reduce my stress and is a sanctuary in this crazy world we currently live in. Save our tennis courts!

Thank you,

Patrick Woo

From: Jason Yang
To: ARPD; Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Parks Tennis Courts - Attn to the Park & Rec Director and Commissioners - Agenda 6-B
Date: Saturday, March 6, 2021 7:14:40 AM

Dear Dir. Amy Wooldridge and Commission Chair Adrienne Alexander, Vice Chair Eric Robbins, Commission Member Ron Limoges, and Commission Member Tara Navarro

I am an Alameda resident and avid user of the Washington park tennis courts. I am writing to share my input that I oppose the conversion of the tennis court into a pickle ball court.

The tennis utilization of the courts has dramatically increased in the last few years, but also this year, during the pandemic. I use the park every weekend and there are frequently 5+ groups queing in line to wait for a court. Additionally, 1-2 of the courts get taken by ARPD to give lessons, leaving ~4 for general use.

There really aren't enough tennis courts to spare. I oppose repurposing any of them to become pickleball courts.

Thank you.

Jason Yang
510-318-2900
425 Yorkshire Road, 94501

From: Katherine Sirota on behalf of [ARPD](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Pickleball Court @ Washington Park
Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 1:47:39 PM

From: carlemura@aol.com [mailto:carlemura@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 12:35 PM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pickleball Court @ Washington Park

To Whom it may Concern,

As both a tennis and pickleball player, I support converting one of the tennis courts at Washington Park to 4 pickleball courts. One tennis court to 4 pickleball courts will accommodate 16 players where the one court could accommodate 4. I like as an alternative as I age. I'm 66 and pickleball has been easier on my body.

Best regards,

Carl Emura
A budding Pickleball player

From: ARPD
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] pickleball
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 8:36:30 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Nicky Silver [<mailto:nickysilver3@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 9:04 PM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] pickleball

to whom it may concern

I understand you are considering changing a tennis court to a pickleball court

(actually it's 4 pickleball courts for every tennis court)

this game has saved my life, particularly during Covid that I could play such
a fun game with such sweet people, be outside and get exercise. I LOVE this game
and love how popular it is becoming.

It is great to have extra courts.

thanks for considering this.

sincerely

Nicky Silver

From: [ARPD](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Save
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 2:26:58 PM

Alameda Recreation and Park Department
2226 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 747-7529 / (510) 523-4071 (fax)
Website & Online Registration: www.alamedaca.gov/recreation
Like us on facebook: playarpd

-----Original Message-----

From: maina haik [<mailto:mainahaik@att.net>]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 2:22 PM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save

Dear ARPD,
Please save Washington Park tennis courts.
Thanks,

Maina

Sent from my iPhone

From: ARPD
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Support for Converting One Tennis Court at Washington Park into Four Pickleball Courts
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 9:57:42 AM

Alameda Recreation and Park Department

2226 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501

(510) 747-7529 / (510) 523-4071 (fax)

Website & Online Registration: www.alamedaca.gov/recreation

Like us on facebook: *playarpd*

From: Connie Wong [mailto:double.cheers@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 9:55 AM

To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Converting One Tennis Court at Washington Park into Four Pickleball Courts

I encourage the City of Alameda Parks and Recreation committee to move forward with converting one of the Washington Park tennis courts into 4 dedicated pickleball courts.

Most of my pickleball experiences since the summer of 2018 have been at Lincoln Park. The more I played pickleball at Lincoln, the more I wanted to play pickleball at Lincoln surrounded by so many happy fun loving pickleball players. My introduction to pickleball at Lincoln was so positive and welcoming. My interest in promoting more dedicated public pickleball courts is not limited to Alameda. I have also publicly supported additional pickleball courts in Albany, Berkeley and El Cerrito, my home town.

As a former tennis player, I can imagine and understand how the Washington Park tennis community would miss one tennis court that is converted into four dedicated pickleball courts. Other pickleball supporters have already included in their letters so many key points on why pickleball is such an engaging inclusive sport for all ages and all abilities. This is a pivotal moment for the Parks and Recreation committee, the general public and the tennis community to support sharing Washington Park with the pickleball community.

Connie Wong

From: ARPD
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Tennis Courts @ Washington Park
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 8:00:51 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Stacy Blom [mailto:smbblom@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 6, 2021 8:33 AM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tennis Courts @ Washington Park

Good Morning,

My name is Stacy Blom and I am writing to you today in regards to the proposed pickle ball court at Washington Park. I have been playing tennis at Washington Park for many years now. It began with your tennis program through ARPD with Andrew and Paul every Tuesday and Thursday. All was great at that time because they had court priority and we played on a regular basis.

Once the pandemic hit and we were again allowed to play tennis, it became a struggle to get courts throughout all of Alameda. We were no longer a priority and had to wait for courts. It seems since the pandemic hit, more and more individuals are playing tennis and the wait time has become longer and longer. We consistently meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings around 5:30 p.m. and there is a wait time and then when we finally get on, we are only allowed one hour. In all honesty, that's not a very long time but we follow the rules.

Rather than trying to take away our tennis courts, ARPD should be looking at other locations to ADD courts for those of us avid tennis players. Some nights, we check out Leydecker (full), Krusi (full) and then Washington (full). It is becoming a "real" struggle and discouragement for those of us that play on a regular basis. We have started to frequent other cities just so we can continue to play.

We want to remain in Alameda but if you reduce our court usage, we will be forced to take our tennis elsewhere! This probably does not mean much to you but for those of us who have supported the City of Alameda through ARPD, both softball and tennis, you will force us to find other alternatives and discourage us from supporting the local programs.

This should not even be an issue. Alameda has plenty of unused space that can accommodate everyone's needs. Please do not take away from one sport to support another!

Thank you for your consideration.

Stacy Blom

Sent from my iPad

From: Katherine Sirota on behalf of ARPD
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park Court #4 conversion
Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 5:42:55 PM

Alameda Recreation and Park Department
2226 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 747-7529 - arpd@alamedaca.gov
www.arpd@alamedaca.gov

From: Joseph Marin <unomarin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 4:49 PM
To: ARPD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park Court #4 conversion

Dear Honorable Members of the Recreation and Parks Commission,

I would like to voice my strong support of the recommendation to authorize the conversion of one tennis court to four pickle ball courts at Washington Park.

I started playing pickleball at the Lincoln Park Pickleball courts in early 2018. Since then I have seen the popularity of the sport grow exponentially. When we first began playing at Lincoln Park we were a small group who brought our own nets and played on an uneven and cracked surface. After the courts were improved, the number of "picklers" grew and grew. Now, there is a large community of players of all ages and backgrounds, who enjoy the sport immensely. If you have had the pleasure of stopping by the Lincoln Park courts on almost any day, you have probably heard the laughter and seen the camaraderie of myriad players enjoying one of the fastest growing sports in the country. However, with the increase in popularity there has been a concomitant increase in waiting times for the opportunity to play at Lincoln Park.

The conversion of one tennis court to four pickleball courts makes absolute sense. Pickleball is almost always played in a doubles format whereas tennis players seem to primarily enjoy playing singles. Obviously, utilizing the same court area to accommodate 16 players versus two players is a better use of the facility. Additionally, pickle ball courts at Washington Park (or anywhere else in Alameda) will relieve some of the strain on the Lincoln Park courts.

I truly believe Pickleball is here to stay and is not a "fad" sport. The game is easy to learn but hard to master. Seniors and youngsters alike can enjoy the game equally and competitively in many cases. The equipment is inexpensive and the sport is inclusive. When people tell me the sport has "changed their lives," I have no reason to doubt them.

Please authorize the conversion of one tennis court to four pickleball courts at Washington Park.

Respectfully,

Joseph Marin

From: [ARPD](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 8:33:18 AM

From: C Bryant [mailto:rawdogog@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 2:34 PM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park

Park & Rec Director Wooldridge:

It has been brought to my/our attention that there is a proposal to turn Court 4 in Washington Park to a Pick Ball court ?

I am a tennis player that uses the courts and would like to register my opposition to the proposed idea.

At the park there is enough available space to build a court (Pick Ball) and to satisfy all parties concerned....

During peak times with the six courts players still have to wait, one less means more wait time...

Thanks

CBryant
Tennis Player

From: ARPD
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park - Court 4 Consideration
Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:44:16 AM

Alameda Recreation and Park Department
2226 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 747-7529 / (510) 523-4071 (fax)
Website & Online Registration: www.alamedaca.gov/recreation
Like us on facebook: playarpd

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Strahan [<mailto:rahan13@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2021 9:42 AM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park - Court 4 Consideration

Hello ARPD,

I am a resident of Alameda and a tennis player. I often play at WaPa and have run USTA Womens Teams out of WaPa. I know there is a consideration to convert Court 4 from a tennis court to a pickleball court. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS.

Alameda's tennis community is big and strong. I actually believe there are not enough tennis courts, especially with the current events resulting from COVID-19. Tennis is quickly being discovered and picked up by new locals. Also once it is safe, tennis teams from all the leagues like USTA and WTA will be back out at the tennis courts. WaPa specifically is the central hub for Alameda's tennis community. Please do not take away from this established community.

Furthermore, it needs to be realized that tennis and pickleball are two very different sports. Tennis can actually be likened to golf, especially with respect to noise. Some tennis rules even monitor and control how much noise is allowed during a game. Conversely pickleball is noisy!

On that note, I do hope that a noise assessment has been done. Specifically for the residents that live closest to WaPa's court 4. Again pickleball is noisy and noise cares and echoes in that area.

I know that Alameda is small but we have a lot of unused land. I know a lot of citizens want to keep Alameda small but to develop land is not to necessarily loose that small town feel.

Yes pickleball is a growing sport, but we should not take away from the established tennis community. Instead this should be an opportunity to help the pickleball community integrate into Alameda's sports community. Alameda should assist by helping to establish a central pickleball place for that community.

Thank you for considering my options and views.

Respectfully,
Nancy Strahan
339 Broadway
Alameda, CA 94501

Sent from my iPhone

From: rahan13@aol.com [<mailto:rahan13@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 5:18 AM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>; Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov>
Cc: rosalynmoya@gmail.com; kfpassion@gmail.com; ken@kenfagel.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Submission for the ARPD Commission Meeting 03/11/2021


Hello Amy and ARPD,

Please find attached a PDF titled 'WaPa Court 4_Myth Vs Reality_20210311'. We respectfully submit this document for this evening's ARPD Commission Meeting. The document presents some Myths and Realities about tennis and pickleball, particularly in Alameda. We appreciate your acceptance and consideration of our document.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Nancy Strahan
Alameda Resident
339 Broadway, Alameda, CA 94501

MYTHS VS REALITY

Myth / Falsehood / Misleading statement	Reality
<p>"Pickleball is a growing sport." ("Comments Section of the Packet - while discussing taking away tennis courts)</p>	<p>According to the United States Tennis Association, tennis participation increased by 22% in 2020, with 2 million people hitting the courts. In contrast, pickleball has 3.3 million players nationwide. https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/tennis/2021/02/11/tennis-participation-usta-covid-19-pandemic/6722739002/</p> <p>That means there are 6.5x more tennis players than pickleball players. That means for every 4 pickleball players, there are 26 tennis players.</p> <p>The number of ALL Pickleball players TOTAL playing... is not even greater, than just the 22% increase of new tennis players in 2020. That's just the increase, which is 3.9million MORE new tennis players vs. the all Pickleball players in TOTAL at 3.3 million, we're not even counting the 17.74 million other tennis players that were already playing before 2020.</p>
<p>On slide 5 of the Presentation Packet, "Increased use of Washington Park due to Harbor Bay club being closed"</p> <p>(This also implies that the increase in tennis players is localized, insignificant and temporary)</p>	<p>Harbor Bay has been open since 2020 last summer for singles tennis and then Aug 2020 for doubles. It's operating outside only, but members are using their tennis courts.</p> <p>The membership drop-off from Harbor Bay Club and the increased use by previous members of the club to public tennis courts, could be due to the financial hardships caused by COVID-19, and may be a lasting increase of use of free public tennis courts.</p> <p>And again, the increase in tennis players is nationwide, with more new tennis players than there are pickleball players in total.</p>
<p>"You're depriving older people of a place to play."</p>	<p>Plenty of older people of all abilities can be found on the tennis courts at Washington Park playing and enjoying their tennis every day. In fact, many of the most frequent users of the courts are aged 60 and older. Taking away a tennis court at WAPA would do real harm to older tennis players who use and benefit from the courts now.</p>
<p>"We can either have tennis OR pickleball courts."</p>	<p>False. There is enough room for public tennis AND pickleball courts on Alameda, adequate to serve the needs and abilities of all local players. It's a trap to pit pickleball players against tennis players. Tennis shouldn't have to be sacrificed at all for pickleball.</p>
<p>"There are already enough tennis courts on Alameda."</p>	<p>There is not enough to keep up with demand for tennis courts, see the above recent growth statistics. Additionally, the six courts at WAPA are shared by players taking part in recreational tennis, team tennis, school tennis teams, and private lessons. Hundreds of different players of all ages and abilities enjoy those few courts every week of the year.</p>
<p>"Tennis courts should be converted to pickleball courts."</p>	<p>There has not been data or studies presented that show a greater need for pickleball facilities than for tennis facilities. Alternatively, there is no research or data collected on the cost of losing tennis courts, only anecdotal comments by non-tennis players and any proposals for recreational facilities should be based on actual and forecast demand, backed by hard data.</p> <p>Tennis courts should not particularly be singled out, other facilities should also be explored to convert to pickleball courts, even if temporarily. It could include the handball court at Lincoln Park, the temporarily unused/closed basketball courts, etc. (It's been roped off throughout the pandemic anyway.) At least four more pickleball courts could be installed there.</p>
<p>"Increasing popularity of pickleball...one of the fastest growing sports in the US. More info about pickleball at..."</p> <p>The notice posted at Washington Park was biased signage.</p>	<p>The notice posted at Washington Park about the proposed conversion read like an ad for pickleball. It made zero mention on the impact that the loss of a tennis court would have to the tennis community.</p> <p>It is not the role of the ARPD to promote pickleball, while destroying tennis. ARPD's role should be to build and maintain facilities as the public demand dictates. Instead ARPD seems to favor/promote one activity at the expense of another.</p> 
<p>"There are tennis courts in Alameda that are unused/unwanted."</p>	<p>There are no unwanted tennis courts in Alameda. This implies that dilapidated tennis courts are unused because they are unwanted. Tennis courts are in high demand. Unfortunately, dilapidated tennis courts are less used because tennis players can seriously injure themselves with slippery, pebbly, cracked courts. We want use-able courts that allow us to play safely.</p>

From: Katherine Sirota on behalf of [ARPD](#)
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Pickleball at Washington Park - March 11
Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 3:59:47 PM

From: Ann O'Rourke [mailto:ann@appraisalstoday.com]
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 3:35 PM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pickleball at Washington Park - March 11

I am 77 years old and have been playing pickleball for about 4 years. I started by taking a pickleball class through parks and rec. Found out about it at Mastick. There were few, if any, organized sports available for girls when I was young. I watched my brothers play and always wanted to play. Finally am playing a sport!!

Court #4 at Washington Park is the least used tennis court. I practice pickleball once or twice a week at the tennis practice wall at Washington. To get to it you must walk behind the practice wall and along a path to the back. The other courts are closer to parking.

Why pickleball at Washington park?

- 4 pickleball courts from 1 tennis court
- tennis is usually singles. Pickleball is almost always doubles.
- 2 people playing vs. 16 people on one tennis court.
- There are no lights at Lincoln park. Many people like to play after work, but the time is limited, especially when days get dark early. Courts with lights would let more people play.

Why pickleball is so popular and the current 4 courts in Alameda are so crowded

- Since the pandemic started, there are few places to play sports, except pickleball and tennis.
- Pickleball is a "life sport" you can play into your 80s or 90s. Small court, so not much moving around
- Pickleball is a family sport. Can play with anyone of any age or skill level - friends, children, grandchildren
- The only cost is a paddle and a ball.

Alameda has one of the first dedicated pickleball courts in the East Bay.
When I started playing we set up our own nets. A few years later
permanent nets were installed.
Thank you so much for setting up the pickleball courts in Alameda!!

-

I will be at the zoom meeting March 11.

Cell/text 510-484-7102

--

Ann O'Rourke, MAI, SRA, MBA
Appraiser and Appraisal Today Publisher
1826 Clement Ave. #203
Alameda, CA 94501
Office Phone: 510-865-8041
Email: ann@appraisaltoday.com
www.appraisaltoday.com

From: Willie Hagans
To: ARPD; Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park Tennis Court #4
Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 7:27:41 AM

From Willie Hagans:



to arpd, awooldridge



Dear Dir. Amy Wooldridge and Commission Chair Adrienne Alexander, Vice Chair Eric Robbins, Commission Member Ron Limoges, and Commission Member Tara Navarro;

I am unable to attend the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on March 11th regarding the proposed conversion of court #4 at Washington Park to pickleball, so I am sending this email in lieu of my attendance.

My name is Willie Hagans. I have been playing tennis at Washington Park since 1998 and have been a captain since 2001 and the captain of 33 Washington Park USTA LEAGUE tennis teams and have many nicknames over the years and one of my latest nickname is "Mayor of Washington Park".

After reading "Re: Review and Recommend Converting One Tennis Court to Four Pickleball Courts at Washington Park" I wanted to respond from a "USTA Captain" and "Mayor of Washington Park -WAPA) point of view by writing a long letter with many reasons why this Commission should vote no to converting Washington Park court #4 to four pickleball courts. Since players gave me the name of "Mayor of WAPA" I felt the need to write a longer letter than most players. I want to apologize for the length of this letter but I feel the need since there's a recommendation to convert one of our WAPA courts to four pickleball courts. I originally wanted to narrow my discussion down to my top four reasons, but please give me a little leeway.

Let me say that I understand that both Pickleball and Tennis has increased participation within the last year during the pandemic and I would bet both sports will also increase or stay the same after the pandemic.

First reason: "Long wait time during peak hours" This Committee already admitted "The tennis court complex, located in Lower Washington Park is heavily utilize"

It's obvious that pickle ball players need additional courts (30-40 minutes waiting time during peak hours) and the Washington Park tennis players need additional courts at

Washington Park (up to one to two hours wait during peak hours - all day Saturday and Sunday and weekdays from 4 PM until 7 PM). Our USTA men team doesn't practice on Saturdays anymore due to this long wait. Wait one hour to play for an hour and then wait an hour to play for another hour (max one hour per court when players are waiting). So we decided to just practice on Sundays and let the non USTA tennis players know so they hit mostly on Saturdays and we on Sundays. If the courts weren't busy we would hit both days for sure. The wait is not as long on weekdays during non peak hours but most of the time you can have 1-5 players waiting. So yes the courts are super busy (utilized) at Washington Park and yes we need more courts instead of less courts. Please vote no to converting Washington Park court #4 to pickleball courts.

Reason #2: USTA requires three courts reserved for matches: "2.00B(5) Split Start Times. When using split start times, a minimum of three courts must be reserved for NTRP divisions utilizing five individual matches".

USTA matches require three courts reserved for league matches. Washington Park is the best Park in Alameda for league play due to the six courts. If one court was taken away for pickle ball courts that would leave the Washington Park tennis community (some of the USTA captains call them locals) with only two courts during USTA League matches. From six courts to two courts on the weekend when we're already super busy. Before when we left three courts for the locals during league matches, it was tough enough (complaints, players refusing to obey the posted ARPD USTA match court reservations causing the matches to start late). The Washington Park team captains had to come up with certain team rules so we would get less complaints from the locals during league matches. Converting court #4 to pickle ball courts would leave only two courts left open for the locals during USTA league play. Now, can you imagine a USTA league match and an ARPD tennis instructor taking up a court at the same time and leaving just one court open for the locals. League play allow tennis players to test their game against other teams in the East Bay Area with the hope to represent Alameda at the National level. Like I said before I have captain over 33 teams and 70-80% of all 4.0 and 4.5 players at Washington Park play on our league teams. The 33 teams I captain, doesn't count the other men captains and other women captains. At our peak we had 5 teams for the adult season from April until July bringing in revenue and needing court reservations. Please keep court #4 as a tennis court to allow USTA league play and leaving three courts for the locals and bring in that extra revenue.

Reason #3: "Washington Park Tennis courts - One of the top public tennis courts in the Bay Area"

The Washington Park tennis courts are one of the best public courts in the area. Our courts have the extra small fence area between courts which prevents more tennis balls from rolling over to the adjoining courts. So more local players prefer to play at Washington Park so they don't feel as bad when their ball rolls over to the adjoining

courts interrupting the other players over and over again. This happens a lot on the courts that doesn't have the small fence area (Krusi/Franklin Park). At other parks, I have seen players getting upset because of tennis balls continually interrupting their match. This doesn't happen at Washington Park as much as the other local parks that doesn't have that small fence. This is one reason why Washington Park is busier than other parks in the area and why more families like taking their kids to teach and hit with them. Why would we get rid of any court at this amazing busy Washington Park? Please keep Washington Park court #4 as a tennis court.

Reason #4: "need more parking spaces"

I read that one reason for Washington Park over other parks is the parking area. More pickle ball players at Washington Park mean the need for more parking spaces (at least 12). Washington Park is already busy most of the time (especially Saturdays and Sundays) with all parking spots full and players parking illegally and some tennis players double parking and playing while waiting for a parking space. Due to both dog parks, picnic families and beach goers using the tennis parking area, most tennis players need to park on 8th street from Portola Ave to Westline Dr. and then walk back and when they park on the opposite side of the street they either Jaywalk (very dangerous, have you seen that traffic lately) or walk a few minutes to either crosswalk to get back on the tennis court side. If you convert a tennis court to four pickle ball courts, where will 12 more cars park during peak hours? Farther down on Westline Drive! No, due to more cars and no additional parking spots, Washington Park is not the answer.

Those are my top reasons to not convert Washington Park court #4 to four pickle ball courts. I'm not going into details about the noise distraction of the pickle ball on tennis players on the closest tennis courts.

My conclusion is that even though the pickleball players need more courts, Washington Park is not the place. Washington Park is a busy Prime time tennis park and with the waiting time increasing its causing contention between the players because some of them don't want to leave after one hour. So we need more courts not less. The tennis players are hoping this Committee find another tennis court somewhere else to convert or better yet find another location (non tennis courts) or find funding to build the pickleball players their own courts somewhere else. The tennis players would help contribute to raise funds for this.

Please keep court #4 a tennis court and find another location for the pickleball players. They need it but please not at Washington Park.

Thanks,
Willie "Mayor of Washington Park" Hagans

From: [Nancy Gordon](#)
To: [ARPD](#); [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 3/9 Nancy Gordon totally opposed to Pickle Ball courts taking over any Tennis Courts in Alameda
Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:15:32 PM

3/9/21 **RE: NOT REMOVING ANY TENNIS COURTS** for Pickle Ball. Find other places to build such courts!!

To whom it may concern,
(Included Clerk so as to have this email forwarded to all City Council Members)

I have been a longtime tennis player – starting the Monday classes with John Curliano many years ago, and continuing to play for the local Parks and Rec League at that time and for several years.

Have continued to support the Monday classes, having had Edwin Liao, then Alex P and then Andrew Hom up until the pandemic caused the classes to stop.

Also during the pandemic, since the Alameda Hospital closed for our Tai Chi classes, I'm part of the longtime group which then went to Washington Park, then Lincoln Park...before being too annoyed with the Pickle Ball players there – NOISY, with the paddles and their conversations. So we've been meeting for tai chi at my home, instead.

Am sure there are plenty of other places where pickle ball players can play, without bothering residential neighborhoods (heard those neighbors around Lincoln Park do NOT appreciate all that noise, either!) or taking over existing courts which we NEED to stay as they are, given the number of tennis players here and those who come to Alameda to play.

There is also an important history for the Washington Park courts: that of the large stone and plaque honoring Joan Fairfield, whom I knew for many years and worked with as a Realtor, and her husband, David, who was not only a teacher, but tennis coach. Now I have been playing tennis with their daughter, Kristin!

PLEASE find other places to building Pickle Ball courts. And don't think even for a minute that those of us who are over 65 don't still play – and as well as we did when younger. There is a huge following of longtime tennis players, even into their 80's. We DO have room for Pickle Ball courts elsewhere around

the island, such as Alameda Point!!

Thank you for NOT continuing with this idea of removing tennis courts!!

Sincerely,

Nancy Joy Gordon, resident since 1973 and very active in the community!
1021 Union St.
Alameda, CA 94501

Alameda Recreation and Park Department
2226 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
Phone: (510) 747-7529
Fax: (510) 523-4071
Email: ARPD@alameda.ca.gov

Re: Recreation and Park Commission Meeting Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:00 PM
Agenda item 6-B 2021-718 Recommendation to Authorize Staff to Convert One Tennis Court to Four Pickleball Courts at Washington Park

To the Alameda Recreation and Park Department,

I am an Alameda resident and concerned community member that would like to express my opposition to the pickleball court proposal at Washington Park. I have taken the time to read and review the details of this proposal and along with a large sample of the public comments written in support thereof, and I am disappointed that neither the advisory staff nor any letter of support is able to offer a compelling reason for *why* the new pickleball courts can *only* be constructed at Washington Park. I am not opposed to pickleball, nor would I consider myself a tennis player in any form or fashion, but as a concerned member of the community, I am interested in voicing my opinion on *how* Alameda Recreation and Park determines to distribute the funding within its control. I present the following points of frustration:

WASHINGTON PARK ALREADY HAS A PROBLEM WITH TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND CREATING A NEW ONSITE ATTRACTION WOULD BE AN URBAN PLANNING FAILURE:

Letters in support of this proposal are overwhelmingly based on the premise that the pickleball courts at Lincoln are too crowded and burdened with long wait times. Choosing to offload this concern at Washington Park is a poor choice. On a few routine occasions each week, I drive along 8th Street, beginning at Central Avenue, along the length of Washington Park to Shore Line Drive. Each time I take this trip, whether it be weekend or weekday, mid-morning or mid-afternoon, I am always frustrated by the unexplainable traffic and the long wait times at each light. Pursuant to the comments offered by Beth McMahon, (bmw3309@gmail.com), Judith Stacey (judith.stacey@nyu.net), Marianne McNair (m.mcnaresr7030@gmail.com), Christine Miura (christinemiura@gmail.com), Melinda Downing (melindadowning@comcast.net) and others, the proposed pickleball courts will increase a single tennis court's capacity from 4 people to 16 people during park hours. Surely, this is *not* a positive! For me, this means an additional 12 cars on the road, and probably more if we consider the long wait time for pickleball courts that others have already attested to over at Lincoln Park. The area does not have the infrastructural support to accommodate this routine increase in patrons, nor are there convenient alternative routes for citizens to circumvent this traffic in order to reach their destination. Before you approve this proposal, you should consider the nuisance it will create in terms of vehicular congestion.

POOR USE OF FUNDING:

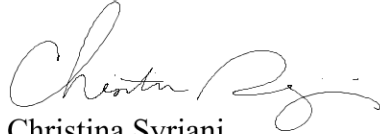
Last Thursday at the Recreation and Park meeting, agenda item 6-A included a report on the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park that is being developed in the central west area of Alameda. While this park is still undergoing the final two phases of planning, there is still ample time to add pickleball courts into the park's proposed design. With 25 acres, there is more than enough space to accommodate the needs of the pickleball community, and the location is in fair proximity to the location of Washington Park and can be designed without adversely impacting traffic in the area. Furthermore, the grant requested for the development of Jean Sweeney includes

\$292,000 with an additional \$158,000 in local City funding. This is more than enough to finance the development of the courts and offset the costs proposed in agenda item 6-B. Why would we invest yet more money into transforming a perfectly functional tennis court at Washington Park?

However, if Jean Sweeney Open Space Park is not an option, there is still an abundance of open space, and albeit sites of dilapidation, that are in dire need of development in West Alameda. There are courts near Ensinal Highschool with plenty of parking, wonderful bay views, newly built restrooms and other recreational activities nearby (such as walking trails, naval base attractions, fishing and water sports). This location is underutilized and would greatly benefit from further development. It is also a location sufficiently distanced from nearby housing so that residents in the area will not be disturbed with pickleball noise or increased traffic.

Alameda Recreation and Park needs to do their due diligence to rightly convince the public that Washington Park is the best suited location for the pickleball courts, and that all alternative options have been properly ruled out. At this juncture, I am very disappointed to see that staff has not demonstrated any such effort. Such a responsibility should be the minimal duty offered by our public officials. Anything less can constitute a poor allocation of resources, and we should not set any such precedence with this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina Syriani", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christina Syriani

From: [Gamphon Burton](#)
To: [ARPD](#); [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pickleball courts
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 11:32:50 AM

Dear Dir. Amy Wooldridge and Commission Chair Adrienne Alexander, Vice Chair Eric Robbins, Commission Member Ron Limoges, and Commission Member Tara Navarro:

My name is Aut Burton and I have been playing tennis at the Washington Park courts for around 30 years and have captained various USTA league teams for the past 10.

I have noticed that the Washington Park courts are 3 times busier since Covid hit. Until last year the courts had a certain pattern of how busy they would be. On a standard basis the courts would be busy from 7-11am, between 11am-4pm the courts would be pretty empty, 4pm onward busy again. Now the courts are busy all week all day.

Taking away a court for pickleball would further make the courts more crowded. Beside being crowded there is also the noise factor that comes from pickleball. Before any conversion is done there should be a discussion with the surrounding community that might also be impacted by the conversion. A prime example of this is when tennis courts in Berkeley were converted to pickleball courts without input from the community.

<https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/11/13/north-berkeley-neighbors-complain-noisy-pickleball-games&sa=D&source=hangouts&ust=1615491019146000&usg=AFQjCNEPJ09G3hw4uIAj9biEM1LWMr73hA>

There are many alternatives that could be arrived at other than the convenience of transforming existing space.

Regards,

Aut Burton

From: [Kelly Roehrig](#)
To: [ARPD](#); [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tennis or pickle ball courts
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 1:45:20 PM

Dear Alameda Park and Rec Commissioners and Director,

My name is Kelly Wandke Roehrig,

I grew up as a Tennis Player in Alameda. I played at Lincoln, Krusi, Franklin (a couple of times) Leydecker, and Washington-Fairfield Tennis Complex. At the awkward age of 12, I received private Tennis lessons from a 76 year old Tennis teacher, Pat Hogan at Lincoln Park; three Mornings a week before School. \$10 an hour to learn from a Wonderful old man from Ireland who not only taught me how to Play Tennis, he taught me About life-through his eyes-a priceless lesson! A few years later I did my certification with ARPD to teach Tennis to Children at Krusi Park one summer. I competed in the City Tournaments, Dave Fairfield was my high School Coach in a Season when we were the winningest Team in 25 years at AHS. I trained to be a Tennis Player, I was learning about Ambition. Wanting to travel the world at the age of 20, I applied to work for a hotel chain-Club Med-as a Tennis instructor-and was hired. My "real Job" Passion was the stage and in Club Med I was quickly promoted to Entertainment Director and spent 8 years working all over the world. Tennis opened that door for me. I met a German man in Club Med who I married and moved with to Germany. I couldn't speak the language, but managed to get a Job teaching Tennis to Young People in the town of Siegen- I taught them Tennis, they taught me German....I could go on....in my "home town" of Gorkheimertal", I was the youth tennis director and play on a Women's Team. I had to stop as Youth Tennis Director because my "real Job"-on stage in German-is taking up a lot of my time. I couldn't be on stage in Germany if I couldn't speak German and on the Tennis court is where I started learning German. Tennis is a life lesson, again and again. It's playability in Singles, doubles and mixed doubles makes it a lesson. in being on your own, or in working as a pair. It's a Sport of Tradition, and it's a way for People to connect. The public Courts in Alameda have impacted many people's lives in such Special ways.

Please do not take away any tennis courts at WAPA, Franklin, Krusi or Leydecker Parks. Consider turning the Naval courts into pickle ball courts as an alternative. Thank you. Kelly Wandke Roehrig

From: [Mike Tsang](#)
To: [ARPD](#); [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Parks Tennis Courts - Attn to the Park & Rec Director and Commissioners - Agenda 6-B
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:09:59 AM

Dear Dir. Amy Wooldridge and Commission Chair Adrienne Alexander, Vice Chair Eric Robbins, Commission Member Ron Limoges, and Commission Member Tara Navarro,

I've been playing at Washington Park for many years and the courts have never been as crowded as they are now. Hour long waits are not uncommon, nor is driving from court to court and finding all of them full. There are only 6 courts at Washington Park. ARPD lessons take one or two courts. When USTA league is back, that takes up 3 courts. There are not enough courts for Tennis players. If Pickleball is truly in such high demand, one court will not help much. They should have their own place with several courts.

Sincerely,
Mike Tsang

From: Katherine Sirota on behalf of ARPD
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: FW: Against Pickleball on Court 4 at Washington Park
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:12:44 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Rich Krinks [mailto:rich.krinks@bhhsdrysdale.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 7:41 PM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against Pickleball on Court 4 at Washington Park

I am totally against the Park Department placing pickleball courts on Court 4 at Washington Park or taking any of the current tennis courts there. I play tennis or hit on the wall at Washington Park on a weekly basis. The courts are full and wait times can be long. It would be a shame to reduce the tennis courts there.

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse any typos.

Rich Krinks
Broker Associate
Berkshire Hathaway
Drysdale Properties
885 Island Drive
Alameda, CA 94502
rich.krinks@bhhsdrysdale.com
rkrealestate.com
510-381-3434
DRE # 0109544

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Never trust wiring instructions sent via email. Cyber criminals are hacking email accounts and sending emails with fake wiring instructions. These emails are convincing and sophisticated. Always independently confirm wiring instructions in person or via a telephone call to a trusted and verified phone number. Never wire money without double-checking that the wiring instructions are correct.

From: John Clay Morris
To: ARPD
Cc: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal for Washington Park - Pickleball Court
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 11:09:07 AM

Alameda Recreation and Park Department,

I am writing to express my objection to the Pickleball proposal.

Pickleball has grown in popularity, however that does not justify permanently removing 20% of the tennis court capacity at Washington Park (WAPA), where demand for courts has increased significantly. The Pickleball proposal mistakenly blames the demand for tennis courts on a temporary spike in usage due to closure of the Harbor Bay Club. The Harbor Bay tennis courts have been open since Mid-May 2020.

Tennis is more popular than it has been in decades. There is often a queue of people waiting for tennis courts at WAPA, Leydecker, Franklin, and Krusi Park at peak hours. During normal times without Covid restrictions, tennis players in Alameda share the public courts with various tennis instruction programs and USTA sanctioned competitive teams, which occupy up to three courts at Washington Park simultaneously, therefore leaving only two courts for everyone else. The tennis community cannot afford to lose any tennis court space now or in the future, especially the courts at Washington Park.

Tennis and pickleball should not be lumped together just because they are both racket sports. The Pickleball proposal ignores the sound nuisance that pickleball will create for people on adjacent tennis courts and the nearby dog park. If the court conversion occurs on Court 4, the friction between the tennis community and the pickleballers is going to escalate and will create problems for the ARPD. There are examples from other towns where converting a court for pickleballers has failed due to complaints from the nearby tennis community.

Finally, I would like to know how ARPD has funds available for the development of new Pickleball courts and yet all of the public tennis courts on the Island are poorly maintained due to a lack of funding. Given the new popularity for tennis, I propose funds be allocated for improved maintenance and upgrades to the existing courts.

John-Clay Morris

20+ Year Alameda Resident

From: Anton Sudradjat
To: ARPD; Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park Tennis Courts - Attn to the Park & Rec Director and Commissioners
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 8:28:43 PM

Dear Dir. Amy Wooldridge and Commission Chair Adrienne Alexander, Vice Chair Eric Robbins, Commission Member Ron Limoges, and Commission Member Tara Navarro,

I am a USTA tennis player and have been playing tennis at Washington Park for the last 4 years. Many of us in the tennis community are concerned about the Alameda Recreation and Park Department's consideration of converting court #4 of the Fairfield Tennis Complex into pickleball courts. We will attend the meeting Thursday, but also wanted to express our thoughts to the City Council. While we support the growth of pickle ball as a healthy activity, we believe there are better options and locations to expand the sport than existing, already-busy tennis courts.

I hope you consider our thoughts and ideas when making your decisions on changes to the Washington Park facilities.

Sincerely,

Anton Patton

From: Jon Greer
To: ARPD; Amy Wooldridge
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the proposed conversion of a tennis court to a pickleball court
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 5:25:39 PM

To the ARPD Commission and Director Wooldridge:

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed conversion of Court 4 at the Fairfield Tennis Complex at Washington Park into pickleball courts.

The tennis complex is an integral part of the Alameda community and is the home of a USTA-sanctioned annual tournament, two USTA teams and city-sponsored tennis lessons. It is heavily used - as a nearby resident I pass it or play tennis there almost daily and it is always in use, usually with all courts taken well into the evening.

In addition, the small parking lot there cannot accommodate more cars. It is often filled if not overfilled because the tennis complex shares the parking lot with the dog park. Adding four pickleball courts and up to 16 players will obviously exacerbate the parking problem - which includes people parking illegally along the curbs because all the lined spaces are full and spilling out to fill the available parking on Westline and 8th Street.

Tennis has been played in Alameda for more than a century - its popularity has stood the test of time. Can we say the same about pickleball? It is certainly popular now with our recreation and entertainment options so limited, but do we know if there will be the same demand once life gets back to normal? Yet ARPD proposes to spend \$35,000 to build more courts now - in fact, the proposal calls for the project to start in June, when it is expected that there will be many more recreation and entertainment options available. Do we know if the current demand for pickleball will continue past June?

As a local taxpayer, I am also concerned about the proposal to convert a court that was rehabilitated in the early 2010s with grant money under Measure WW.

My understanding is that those monies were allocated for the specific purpose of resurfacing the tennis courts. Have ARPD and the city researched whether it is allowed under the terms of the grant to change the use of the court from one sport to another? To be clear, these are two completely different sports. In my opinion, if the grant money was intended to be used on tennis courts, that does not give the city the right to unilaterally renovate one of the courts to be used to play a completely different sport.

ARPD needs to look at unused facilities to meet the demand for pickleball courts. There are 15 public tennis courts in Alameda for a population of 80,000. All of the tennis courts are actively used by tennis players - none of them are available for other sports, and all of them were resurfaced under the same Measure WW grant. Reading the emails sent in support of this proposal, proponents are stating their support for the building of more pickleball courts in general, not the use of the tennis complex in particular.

For instance, has ARPD considered building pickleball courts on the unused basketball court in Lincoln Park adjacent to the current pickleball courts, or the adjacent bocce ball facility that is rarely in use? A recent check of available parking at Lincoln last Saturday showed that there were plenty of parking spots on High Street and surrounding streets.

In summary, I believe this is an ill-considered proposal that will not serve the people of the City of Alameda. I urge ARPD to look elsewhere to build pickleball courts. The Fairfield Tennis Complex at Washington Park is a poor choice.

Sincerely,

Jon Greer
2031 Shore Line Drive #115
Alameda 94501

From: ARPD
To: Amy Wooldridge
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] pickleball court at Washington Park
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:32:35 PM

Alameda Recreation and Park Department
2226 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 747-7529 / (510) 523-4071 (fax)
Website & Online Registration: www.alamedaca.gov/recreation
Like us on facebook: *playarpd*

From: David Dunetz [mailto:david@sweetware.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 2:57 PM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] pickleball court at Washington Park

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to convert Washington park tennis court #4 to pickleball.

As a regular player at Washington Park for the past several decades, I think this is a very bad idea.

The courts are very heavily used

The six courts at Washington Park are heavily used. I play there regularly on weekday evenings and weekend days. We almost always have to wait for a court. Then, while we're playing, there are other players waiting for our hour to be up so they can play.

In addition, ARPD frequently has 1 or 2 courts reserved for lessons. This makes the courts even busier.

Since the start of the pandemic we have seen a large increase in the number of beginners and new players. People are looking for ways to get out and get some exercise. This has increased court usage even more than it was pre-pandemic.

Making one of the courts unavailable would make this situation worse.

Pickleball is noisy

Tennis is a sport that requires concentration. If you've ever attended a professional tennis event or watched one on TV, you have noticed that they require the crowd to be seated and silent during points.

Pickleball uses hard balls and hard paddles that make a lot of noise. This is extremely distracting to tennis players. Having pickleball in close proximity to tennis courts is a bad idea.

Alternate suggestion

There is a single tennis court at Longfellow Park. This could be converted to 2 pickleball courts without distracting tennis players.

David Dunetz
510-436-8600

From: [ARPD](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park / Tennis Courts/Pickleball
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 11:47:51 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeffrey Jue [<mailto:jefferyjue@icloud.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 11:39 AM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alameda.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park / Tennis Courts/Pickleball

Hello ARPD Commission.

It's time to maintain all tennis courts within the City and not take away any. Pickleball needs their own facility.

Do not solve a Pickleball issue on the back of the tennis community.

1. Tennis has grown during the pandemic.
2. Alameda has a strong history in Northern California Tennis.
3. Tennis supports ages 8 thru 80.
4. Pickleball has it's noise issue and will make it annoying for the tennis players.

The issue can be solved, but not in this manner.

Regards, Jeff Jue, Alameda Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Katherine Sirota](#) on behalf of [ARPD](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Washington Park / Tennis Courts/Pickleball
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 12:46:13 PM

From: Philip Chang [mailto:fishphil94501@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 12:20 PM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Washington Park / Tennis Courts/Pickleball

I agree that no more tennis courts be removed but should be repaired. The two tennis courts at Lincoln Park have already been converted to pickleball courts.

The triangle space across from the Washington Park Cts is a possible site.

Thank you,
Philip Chang, Alameda Resident

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jeffrey Jue** <jefferyjue@icloud.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 11, 2021 at 11:45 AM
Subject: Fwd: Washington Park / Tennis Courts/Pickleball
To: Chris Aria <chrisaria6060@gmail.com>, zzika <zzika@aol.com>, Alex Sapronov <sapronov86@gmail.com>, Alex Wolfe <thewolfe@gmail.com>, Alexandra Gunnell <alixdeo@hotmail.com>, Attila Pelit <attilapelit@gmail.com>, Baird Conner <Bconner746@gmail.com>, Brian Strong <ubstrong2@yahoo.com>, Brian Strong <ubstrong@gmail.com>, Carpenter Chris <carp15@hotmail.com>, Coach wong <coachwong23@yahoo.com>, Dave Lonsdale <djlonsdale52@gmail.com>, Don Coughlin <imaginating@mindspring.com>, Ed Ramos <ed@ramos5.com>, Fung Yee Lam <moonbeamz@rocketmail.com>, Hein Tu <hein@harborbayclub.com>, Jeb Horton <jeb.horton@gmail.com>, Jeff Peterson <jeff@allmaneconomics.com>, Jim Coyne <sleepyhollowtennis@gmail.com>, John-Clay Morris <jcmorris@tcpire.com>, Ken Freeman <frees49@hotmail.com>, Ken Maclin <kmmhome@outlook.com>, Kyle Connor <Kyle@alamedatheatres.com>, Manish Singh <mksingh_tx@yahoo.com>, Michael Lee <glfn10s@gmail.com>, Mike Kaney <mikaney@comcast.net>, Mike Tong <miketong56@att.net>, Murphey Parker <murpheyparker@gmail.com>, Phil Chang <fishphil94501@gmail.com>, Rajiv Mathur <mathurx@yahoo.com>, Rajiv Mathur <straughie@comcast.net>, Randall Lowe <mrrlobo@hotmail.com>, Rich Krinks <rich.krinks@bhhsdrysdales.com>, Rich Sutherland <richsutherland@thesutherlandco.com>, Rich Tamor <rtamor@tamorlaw.com>, Ron Bang <ronbang@comcast.net>, Ron Valentine <ronvalentine_94501@yahoo.com>, Thai Tu <thethaitu@gmail.com>, Todd Whyte <toddwhyte@yahoo.com>, Tom Buscovich <tommybusco@gmail.com>, Abe Mallado <amillado@comcast.net>, brianjacobsen1 <brianjacobsen1@aol.com>, chris vanbuhler <chris.vanbuhler@comcast.net>, david craney <drcraney@yahoo.com>, sanjay backliwal <sanjaybackliwal@gmail.com>, Torrey Zaches <torreyzaches@gmail.com>, Alex Pryshchepa <alex_pr123@yahoo.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeffrey Jue <jefferyjue@icloud.com>
Date: March 11, 2021 at 11:39:26 AM PST
To: arpd@alamedaca.gov
Subject: Washington Park / Tennis Courts/Pickleball

Hello ARPD Commission.

It's time to maintain all tennis courts within the City and not take away any.
Pickleball needs their own facility.

Do not solve a Pickleball issue on the back of the tennis community.

1. Tennis has grown during the pandemic.
2. Alameda has a strong history in Northern California Tennis.
3. Tennis supports ages 8 thru 80.
4. Pickleball has it's noise issue and will make it annoying for the tennis players.

The issue can be solved, but not in this manner.

Regards, Jeff Jue, Alameda Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [ARPD](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Pickle ball at Washington Park
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 1:06:05 PM

Alameda Recreation and Park Department
2226 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 747-7529 / (510) 523-4071 (fax)
Website & Online Registration: www.alamedaca.gov/recreation
Like us on facebook: [playarpd](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: T [<mailto:torreyzaches@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:51 AM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pickle ball at Washington Park

Hello ARPD,

I'm writing to express my opposition to installing 4 pickle ball courts on court 4 at Washington Park. While pickle ball popularity has increased recently, so has tennis. There must be another location on the West End where pickle ball could be installed without removing scarce tennis courts.

Thank you for your consideration,
Torrey Zaches

From: Jon Greer [<mailto:jgreer113@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 2:33 PM

To: Amy Wooldridge <AWooldridge@alamedaca.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the proposed conversion of a tennis court to a pickleball court

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

Thanks.

If I may, I'd also like to submit the attached 2-page PDF document, which is a photographic spot study of court usage and parking at Lower Washington and Lincoln. Thank you.

- Jon Greer

Spot Usage Study, Thursday March 11, 2021, 12pm – 1pm
Fairfield Tennis Complex and the Pickleball Courts at Lincoln Park

Study conducted
by Jonathan Greer.

12:20pm: Tennis complex: All 6 tennis courts and 2 practice courts in use (not pictured)



12:35pm: Pickleball: 3 of 4 courts in use



Parking Study: Saturday March 6, 2021, 12:30pm – 2pm

Lower Washington Parking: Overflowing lot with illegally parked cars along curb, 8th St. filled with parked cars and traffic



Lincoln Park: Ample street parking on High Street and bordering streets



Note: All courts in use at both the tennis complex and the pickleball courts during this time.

From: Louie, Edward (LAW) [<mailto:EWL3@pge.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 2:17 PM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] More Pickleball Courts ARE NEEDED in Alameda

Greetings, Alameda Park N Rec,

Pre-pandemic I played pickleball at Lincoln Park and stopped playing there due to long waits on the courts. As our economy reopens it's clearly evident there's a demand and need for more pickleball courts in Alameda. Please give a green light to converting a Washington Park tennis court to four pickleball courts. The addition of pickleball courts at Washington Park will help alleviate the long waits at Lincoln Park.

Thank you very much!

Ed Louie

From: [ARPD](#)
To: [Amy Wooldridge](#)
Subject: FW: Washington Park Pickle Ball Courts
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 2:23:54 PM

Alameda Recreation and Park Department
2226 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 747-7529 / (510) 523-4071 (fax)
Website & Online Registration: www.alamedaca.gov/recreation
Like us on facebook: playarpd

-----Original Message-----

From: Ken Freeman [<mailto:frees49@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 2:20 PM
To: ARPD <ARPD@alamedaca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Park Pickle Ball Courts

I live in Alameda and have been here since 1982.
Alameda has a rich tennis history and tennis is very popular again and I anticipate that will continue in the future.
Please do not eliminate any public tennis courts in Alameda !

If you need pickle ball courts build new ones in a new space.
There are old tennis courts at the old navy base that are non-functional- turn those into pickle ball courts. The terrible noise will be less of an issue perhaps in this area as well.
Ken Freeman

Sent from my iPhone