

**Burr Ridge Park District
Regular Meeting
October 20, 2021**

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Burr Ridge Park District was called to order at the Burr Ridge Community Center at 6:30 pm by Vice President Caplis.

Present:	Caplis, Lawrence, Malloy, Paulius
Absent	Quigley
Also present:	Jim Pacanowski, Director Lavonne Campbell, Superintendent of Recreation Members of the Public

Approve October 20, 2021 Agenda

Item VIA, Unfinished Business, Discuss Harvester Park Tennis Court Resurfacing Project, is being moved to after Item IV, Correspondence, in order to accommodate members of the public in attendance.

Approve , October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Malloy moved, seconded by Lawrence and approved by roll call vote to Approve the October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Caplis, Lawrence*, Malloy, Paulius Nays: None Abstain: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discuss Harvester Park Tennis Court Resurfacing Project

Pacanowski presented a sketch with a recommendation for a combination tennis/pickle ball court with one tennis court and two pickle ball courts.

Pacanowski stated that there are no official written standards for what park district's should or should not do in regard to pickle ball set back requirements, however, there are numerous industry standard recommendations which are most consistently identifying 6-8 feet on the side line and 8-10 feet on the back line. There are places that have less or more distances than the recommendation, however the Burr Ridge Park District would need to stay within the standards and pass the litmus test from a risk management standpoint. The real price point will be what can be done without taking the fence down as that would be cost prohibitive.

Pacanowski presented sketches showing measurements with attempts to place more than two pickle ball courts in the area allowed. Pacanowski's recommendation is that

there is only room for 2 pickle ball courts based on set back requirements and expansion options available within budget.

Caplis stated that it was previously communicated that the Burr Ridge Park District would look into installing pickle ball courts when resurfacing tennis courts. After some consideration the only logical place to install pickle ball courts was determined to be Harvester Park based on parking requirements, size constraints, neighbor considerations, etc.

President Quigley provided written documentation stating a preference for a 2 pickle ball court installation vs. a 4 court due to safety and budget concerns.

Board Member Malloy agreed that there is difficulty in a 4 court scenario due to safety concerns.

Lawrence asked if turning the courts direction is an option.

Pacanowski stated that courts are typically placed in a North/South direction as players don't want to face to face directly into the sun.

Bill Voigt, 166 Foxborough Place, Burr Ridge, asked what the safety concerns are for Board Member Malloy.

Malloy responded that 6 feet works, but it would be safer if you have 8 feet in between.

Caplis added that the Board must make decisions based on safety and not consciously disregard what is safe as this would result in willful and wanton disregard. If there is a meeting and it is stated that 8 feet is safe and 6 feet is not and then a court is build using 6 feet and someone gets hurt, it can be argued in court that the park district was willful and wanton in regard to safety.

Mr. Voigt asked if 7 feet would be considered safe as you can easily pick up another foot.

Pacanowski responded that from a cost standpoint there would need to be 3 sections of fence taken down, which still would not achieve the maximum numbers deemed safe for setback, which would take the cost of the project to another level.

Mr. Voigt asked if the cost of the project is reflected in the material distributed.

Pacanowski responded that all numbers are estimates, and in addition to gain additional footage the east, west and south fence would have to be completely taken down and jack hammers used for footing removal. In addition, Pacanowski stated he is not confident of the estimate for the fence removal.

Mr. Voigt stated that it is not a question for safety then, but for cost. You could accommodate safety issues by addressing the additional foot. If you ignore the setback numbers, it is still a cost consideration.

Caplis stated that if the project goes beyond the footprint currently in place, the cost is at least another 50% above what we is already considering budgeting for. With prevailing wage rates, which is union scale rates, this project will then take the majority of the 3 year budget to build a pickle ball court and will leave nothing left in the budget for anything else. So then the question is, do you spend that amount of money in order to increase the space to install 4 pickle ball courts.

Mr. Voigt responded yes.

Caplis responded that it is too expensive.

Mr. Voigt asked if 2 courts makes sense for the budget.

Caplis responded that 2 lighted courts makes sense for the budget and best use of the facilities.

Pacanowski added that this may prove to be a template to improve other tennis courts

Mr. Voigt stated that pickle ball is not played like tennis.

Pacanowski added that there are not 2 lit pickle ball courts available in the area.

Mr. Voigt stated that there won't be as much usage with only 2 courts.

Caplis asked if Pleasantdale is building pickle ball courts.

Pacanowski responded that there are no present plans

Lisa Erickson, 137 Kraml Drive, Burr Ridge asked why is the 2nd one with 16 feet between.

Pacanowski responded that because the buffer area around each asset needs to be dedicated to each of the assets. Tennis has a 10 foot buffer and it is not advised to overlap the tennis buffer with the pickle ball buffer.

Malloy asked if it is possible to paint the two tennis courts as pickle ball courts.

Pacanowski responded that it is possible, however, tennis has lost 50% of their facility to serve pickle ball. It has been communicated from the public that is not desirable to play on a double lined court. Tennis players would then be losing 50% of their facility, and then their remaining court would be double lined.

Mr. Voigt stated that you could mark the tennis court for pickle ball use by using the permanent tennis net as a divider between the 2 courts and then use temporary pickle ball nets for 2 additional pickle ball courts.

Pacanowski stated the key decision would be the markup of the tennis court. The cost would be minimal, the impact regarding double lining the court would be the issue.

Lawrence stated that if you have 2 people that show up for tennis and there are 8 or more people playing and waiting for pickle ball they may be intimidated into not playing tennis.

Lisa Erickson, 137 Kraml Dr., Burr Ridge, stated that perhaps regarding the North/South vs East/West positioning of the courts that tennis be played during the day only as a compromise then there wouldn't be an issue regarding the sun.

Al Jones, 7 Hunter Ct., Burr Ridge, thanked the Board and stated that pickle ball brings out a lot of participation. When there are only 2 courts put in, they typically don't get used as players need 4 courts to accommodate the large number of people that go to play pickle ball as it is a social sport. Mr. Jones stated that the concern is an investment will be made and then the courts will not be used.

Caplis stated that the park district is not a pickle ball club and the courts would be there for their enjoyment. The Board must be good stewards of tax payer money. There are two questions, can we fit 4 courts in a safe manner, and if that is possible, how much money will it cost.

Mr. Voigt stated that you can double stripe the tennis court

Ms. Erickson asked if you can have pickle ball and tennis double striped and put a sign up stating that tennis has priority.

Caplis asked Pacanowski if it is expensive to stripe and put up a sign?

Pacanowski stated that it is not expensive to stripe and put up signage. Pacanowski stated that a decision from the Board would be desirable no later than November.

Caplis asked when it is due budget wise.

Pacanowski responded late March, however, sourcing would need to start next month..

Pacanowski responded that to fit 4 courts in the fence needs to be taken down and stretched to the light posts. On the south it is extended as far as possible, short of digging up utility lines and re-setting light posts. The North side can't be expanded because of sidewalks and basketball courts. There could be 6 pickle ball courts without any tennis. If the fence was not taken down on the West side, there would be a 6 foot buffer between Courts 1 and 2 and 3 and 4. Pacanowski advised that as problematic. In order to get to 11 feet, the fence on the east side would have to be removed and moved to the light pole.

Caplis asked how far to the west side.

Pacanowski responded about 6 feet.

Mr. Voigt had a question on numbers given in the sketch. What is the distance from 1 tennis court to the other.

Pacanowski responded that the entire surface is 110 feet east to west and 118 north to south.

Mr. Voigt guess is that the distance between courts is 10 or 12.

Pacanowski responded that tennis to the west fence is 12 feet but the tennis court to the post of the net next to it is 10 feet which is why there is 10 feet as a buffer.

Mr. Voigt stated that this is listed at 16 feet.

Pacanowski stated that it is a shared safety space.

Mr. Voigt stated that it is the same shared space in tennis.

Caplis stated that there will be a lot of foot traffic and these areas and need to be conscious of that fact.

Joe Petrich, 8700 Wedgewood Dr., Burr Ridge asked how far the other tennis courts are.

Pacanowski responded that Woods Pool is 2-1/2 miles away, Stevens Park is 2-1/2 to 3 miles away.

Mr. Petrich asked if you dedicated one to tennis and one to pickle ball you would have a better facility for pickle ball and a better facility for tennis.

Pacanowski, responded that there is no parking available, inadequate infrastructure at the other park sites to accommodate pickle ball, no street parking available, and the other parks are neighborhood parks. Harvester Park is currently the only facility that can accommodate pickle ball.

Caplis added that the other are neighborhood parks and are in walking distance for area residents. If other activities or elements are installed that would attract 30 or more individuals on a regular basis there would be complaints from surrounding residents, as these are passive, neighborhood parks meant for the neighborhood.

Ms. Erickson asked if everyone drives to Harvester Park?

Pacanowski stated not most people drive to Harvester Park, however, there are of course some residents who live close enough to walk there.

Ms. Erickson stated that in theory they could drive to the pool.

Pacanowski responded that Harvester Park is the premier park that everyone comes to or wants to.

Caplis added that residents and visitors come to Harvester for instance for a baseball game, and then some members of the family will play tennis, others will play at the park. It is our intention to try to give something to serve everyone. The Board is now trying to serve the pickle ball community. The community is served well on a shoe string budget with the lowest tax rate in the state.

Joe Petrich, 8700 Wedgwood Dr., stated that this is an opportunity for Burr Ridge to become a pickle ball facility and encouraged the Board to seize the opportunity to make a change. There are tennis courts everywhere else.

Caplis responded that during the pandemic the number 1 growth sport in the US was tennis. The tennis courts at the Burr Ridge Park District are used all the time.

Mr. Petrich asked the Board to visit Brook Park to see the number of people playing pickle ball, not tennis.

Mr. Voigt asked if striping the tennis court using tennis net as pickle ball net to make 3 courts would fit as a budgetary standpoint.

Paulius asked if 3 courts would be utilized.

Mr. Voigt stated that 3 courts are better than 2 and 4 courts are better than 3.

A Burr Ridge resident stated that pickle ball is a safe sport and the most you will typically see is a ham string pull. As far as court safety, he never saw anyone run into the fence. In addition, he asked the staff to visit the pickle ball courts in Western Springs as there are some of the most advanced players using one of the tightest facilities there.

Pacanowski responded that the facility would be built to accommodate all skill levels. All skill levels need to be accommodated.

Pacanowski responded that President Quigley did visit that facility and asked them how they liked those courts and the response was lukewarm.

Mr. Voigt stated that the architect distributed the space available inappropriately and could have put 6 feet on the sides and 8 feet in the middle to make those courts more desirable.

Caplis asked Pacanowski to look into costs for striping the 3rd court and repositioning for a 4th court. A decision will be made at the November meeting as enough public input has been received.

Malloy asked if 20 feet is the normal distance from the back of the tennis court to the fence.

Pacanowski responded that in this particular layout because of tennis court side space that is what is available and it exceeds minimum comfortability.

OPEN FORUM

No Open Forum

CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing further added to the written report.

REPORTS

Director of Parks & Recreation

In addition to the written report, Pacanowski notified the Board that a few more things were accomplished in the Route 66 Project and are moving along nicely.

Superintendent of Finance

Nothing further added to the written report.

Recreation Division

Nothing further added to the written report.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Malloy asked for verification of the alarm detection system - how many months does it cover.

Janusz responded that it is a quarterly invoice.

Caplis asked why the floor waxing has two bills.

Campbell responded that the floor is waxed one half of the building at a time

Malloy asked for verification of the water and sewer bill as the community center was \$800 more than the pool.

Janusz responded that the splash pad adds to the water bill in the summer at the community center.

Caplis for verification of the Fox Valley Fire and Safety bill.

Janusz responded that this is the annual inspection for the stove in the kitchen which is required by law.

Caplis asked for verification of Franks tree service bill.

Pacanowski responded that there were multiple trees removed or trimmed at Stevens, Whittaker, Woods, and Lake Ridge.

Caplis asked for verification of the water bill at Woods Pool for \$2,000.

Janusz responded that this was a bill and was previously an estimated read.

Caplis asked what are all of the sewer and water bills, such as at Harvester the water for the building is \$2,800, the Community Center is \$264 the Harvester Concession is \$598.

Janusz responded that the Flag Creek bill is for sewer

Caplis asked that the bills for the Village of Burr Ridge be re-coded. Burr Ridge should not be coded sewer and water.

Janusz stated that the estimated reading comes from the village, and the flag creek sends the actual bill. Janusz will have the word sewer removed from the Village bill coding.

Caplis asked for verification of the Green Glen trees bill and asked if it is reimbursed by the Foundation.

Pacanowski responded that about 90% will be reimbursed by the Foundation.

Lawrence moved, seconded by Malloy and approved by roll call vote to Approve October bills.

Ayes: Caplis, Malloy, Lawrence, Paulius Nays: None Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT

Malloy moved, seconded by Lawrence, and unanimously approved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stednitz
Recording Secretary