



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION Old Business

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2022
PREPARED BY: Ben Jaszewski, Parks and Planning Superintendent
AGENDA ITEM: Lakeview Knolls Engagement Results and Preferred Concept

PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

At their February 2019 meeting, the Board approved the consultant services proposal from HKGi to complete a Feasibility Study for a pickleball complex.

At their November 2021 meeting, the Board approved the consultant services proposal from HKGi to complete a community engagement and concept design process for the preferred site.

At their February 2022 meeting, the Board approved the feasibility report and directed staff to move forward with concept design and community engagement.

At their May 2022 meeting, the Board approved three concept designs and directed staff to move forward with public comment and community engagement.

RECOMMENDED PARK BOARD ACTION:

Motion by _____ to approve concept 2 as the preferred concept plan for the Lakeview Knolls park authorizing the project to proceed with design and construction documents.

COMMENTS:

After the Park Board reviewed the three concept plans showing possible locations for the addition of twelve pickleball courts at Lakeview Knolls, park staff and consultant built and marketed a website on social pinpoint to allow residents and pickleball users to comment on each concept. In addition, staff and consultant held an in person open house meeting with residents on June 2 to discuss the concepts and gather feedback. The public meeting was promoted through social media, on the city website, and with signage throughout the park leading up to the date of the meeting.

Online Survey Results and Comments

After reviewing public comments and surveys from the social pinpoint website there was considerable support by both pickleball users and neighborhood residents. 148 respondents made comments or completed the survey online. From the completed surveys:

77% preferred Concept 2
9% preferred Concept 1
9% preferred Concept 3
5% did not like any of the concepts

A summary of the survey results is included in Attachment B, which also contains all of the comments made on the social pinpoint website. Respondents were clear with their responses that the most important aspects of the designs are the pickleball courts, restroom facilities, parking, and screening.

In-person Meeting

Approximately 15 to 20 residents attended the in person open house on June 2. Many supported the project and others shared concerns about added traffic in the neighborhood, sight lines, landscaping, loss of open space, and most notably added noise generated from active pickleball games. Several residents shared concerns that additional pickleball courts will have an impact on noise pollution, especially to those residences within a few hundred feet of the new pickleball courts. A few residents came to the meeting with alternative location suggestions and noise mitigation options for staff to consider. Through discussions with residents that attended the meeting, Concept 2 was the preferred location even for the few residents that opposed additional pickleball courts at Lakeview Knolls park.

Parking

Currently, parking for the pickleball courts is allowed in the Emmanuel Christian Center (church) parking lot through a parking agreement between the city and the church. Early on this process staff spoke with church staff to gather preliminary feedback related to parking needs. Church staff expressed a desire to keep the existing agreement intact. While church staff did share concerns about added traffic and parking on the weekends during church services, they were supportive of the overall project. Additionally, staff spoke with the city's traffic engineer to discuss the parking lot options. The traffic engineer shared concerns about adding a parking lot off of Juneau Ln N and agreed that utilizing the existing entrance off of County Road 30, is the best option. Residents of the neighborhood also had concerns that parking would be an issue in Concepts 1 and 3, likely bringing more traffic into the neighborhood. Concept 2 includes added parking stalls using the existing entrance to the church parking lot, which is located on park property off of County Road 30.

Noise

After reviewing the public comments, reflecting on conversations with residents, and through conversations with consultants, the common complaint for outdoor pickleball facilities is noise pollution. Many of the residents who attended the in person meeting expressed concerns regarding consistent noise created by active pickleball games. Of the 78 individual comments on the social pinpoint website, the words noise and noisy are used in negative feedback twelve times. Staff and consultant recommend the Board incorporate noise mitigation options to reduce the impact on neighborhood residents. Options to mitigate noise will be studied in detail during the design phase. Some preliminary options may include acoustic barrier fencing, additional landscape screening, and slight adjustments of court location.

After reviewing public comments online and at the in person meeting, Concept 2 is the clear choice for residents and pickleball users alike. The location of new courts and added parking is critical for residents to reduce noise and traffic into the neighborhood. Access from County Road 30 is supported by all residents, city staff, the church, and pickleball user groups. The noise created by active pickleball games

will have the least impact for neighborhood residents in this concept and may be eliminated completely by incorporating appropriate mitigation practices. Concept 2 integrates new pickleball courts with the existing courts by adding new restroom facilities, a picnic shelter, shade structures, and trails that connect all other areas of the park. During the design phase staff and consultant will be focused on traffic flow through the park, screening, and strategies to mitigate noise issues for neighborhood residents.

Staff is recommending the Park Board approve concept 2 and authorize the project. With favorable bids relocation of the ballfields would be completed this fall. Construction of courts, trails, shelter, restrooms, and landscaping would begin in the spring of 2023.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Location Map

Attachment B – Recommendation Letter HKGi

Attachment C – Comment Summary HKGi