



Item No. 8 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER

THROUGH: ROBERT OVADIA, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

FROM: SALLY BENTZ-DALTON, TOWN ARBORIST/PARKS MANAGER

DATE: MARCH 15, 2023

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF SURVEY TO ASSESS INTEREST IN PICKLE BALL
AT HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council authorize the release of a survey to Atherton residents and Holbrook-Palmer Park tennis court key holders to gauge interest in pickleball at Holbrook-Palmer Park.

BACKGROUND

At the February 2, 2022, Park and Recreation Committee meeting, the Committee received public comment from Noah Eisner and Billy Chow on adding a pickleball court to Holbrook-Palmer Park. The Park and Recreation Committee added the consideration of pickleball at Holbrook-Palmer Park as an agenda item for discussion at the March 2022 meeting. Since March of 2022, the Committee established a Pickleball Ad-Hoc Subcommittee to explore the possibility of adding pickleball to Holbrook-Palmer Park. At the February 1, 2023, Park and Recreation meeting the Pickleball Ad-Hoc Subcommittee presented a survey to be emailed to tennis key holders and other Atherton residents that the Town has email address for, and to be hand delivered to all neighbor's adjacent to the park. The Committee reviewed the survey at the March 2023 meeting and provided feedback. Staff sent out the final copy to the Park and Recreation Committee for any further comments.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of the survey is to gauge interest in pickleball and support for a trial on one of the existing tennis courts at Holbrook-Palmer Park. Town Staff would send out the survey to tennis court key holders and other Atherton residents that the Town has email addresses for. The Ad-Hoc Subcommittee would like the results to be anonymous as well as have a way that the survey be able to not receive multiple response form the same person. This may be mutually exclusive.

The Park and Recreation Committee recommends that respondents be given three (3) weeks to respond to the survey. Staff would compile the results received and forward to the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee for review, tabulation, summary and to develop a recommendation to the Park and Recreation Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Once results are received the Park and Recreation Committee will review for next steps and a potential recommendation to the City Council if there is enough interest in a pickleball trial.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact would be associated with staff time to compile email addresses, send the survey email and compiling the results. The anticipated cost to print out the survey for neighbor's adjacent to the park will be minimal.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

This Report and its contents are in alignment with the following Council Policy Goals:

- Goal Area B – Preserve Small Town Character and Quality of Life
- Goal Area E – Strengthen Community Engagement and Transparency
- Goal Area F – Be Forward-Thinking, Well-Managed, and Well-Planned

POLICY FOCUS

Pickleball would be an added activity potentially available at Holbrook-Palmer Park that is not part of the current Master Plan. Policy focus should be on how to gauge interest in adding such activity at the park.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders –to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL

Park and Recreation Committee (meets each month)

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Pickleball Survey