



Item No. 14 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA

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

FROM: ROBERT OVADIA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

SUBJECT: PICKLEBALL PILOT AT HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council review and provide direction regarding the proposed implementation of a pickleball pilot at Holbrook-Palmer Park

BACKGROUND

Beginning February 2022, the Park & Recreation Committee undertook a review of pickleball options for Holbrook-Palmer Park which ultimately made its way to the City Council in March 2023. In March 2023, the Council directed that staff work with a Subcommittee of the City Council to create a community interest survey for pickleball at the Park.

The Survey sought community feedback on the possibility of adding pickleball to Holbrook-Palmer Park. The Survey suggested that if the Town were to add pickleball, it could be done by:

- Converting one of the six tennis courts (such as the underutilized clay court) permanently to pickleball configurations;
- Converting a tennis court to a multi-sport court, which would allow for tennis, pickleball and basketball;
- Converting any underutilized space in the Park, such as the handball court or other open areas, to a permanent pickleball court; or
- Allowing pickleball, using any of the preceding options, but only on set times and days.

The purpose of the Survey was to understand and gather comments, both positive and negative, that would serve as a guide to the Council's decision-making about pickleball in the Park. The Survey was released in early April 2023 and closed at the end of May 2023. The survey results were presented to the City Council at their regular meeting on July 19, 2023.

Following discussion, the Council directed staff to review the costs of implementing a Pickleball trial at Holbrook-Palmer Park by converting Court 1 for dual use with two pickleball courts striped over the existing tennis court and bring back to the City Council for review and direction.

ANALYSIS

Following the Council meeting, staff contacted Saviano Co. for rough costs for adding pickleball striping to an existing tennis court and researched costs for pickleball nets and researched sound baffling options. Staff also the contacted Menlo Circus Club regarding their pickleball facilities, soundproofing and experiences.

The Circus Club received significant complaints associated with the initial location of their pickleball courts due to proximity to some neighbors. They relocated the pickleball courts to a more central location, further away from residents to reduce sound impacts. They also installed sound baffling to test effectiveness in reducing the noise levels. Baffling fabric was initially installed along two sides of the court area. When staff visited the site, the baffling material along the long end of the courts (back side) had been removed for comparison purposes. The GM advised that the change in noise level after removal was not significant and that they did not intend to reinstall the baffling in the short term.

The following materials/purchases would be needed for the trial as outlined:

Striping

Though temporary tape is available for temporary markings of pickleball courts, temporary tape is intended for limited use, needs to be assessed/replaced regularly, leaves residue and can impact tennis play, and thus is not recommended. Paint markings is estimated at \$1,200 – \$1,300 per pickleball court. The cost to stripe two pickleball courts over one tennis court is approximately \$2,600.

Following the trial, the court would need to be resurfaced and restriped to eliminate the pickle ball markings; unless the Council opts to allow it to remain. The estimate for resurfacing and restriping the court to return to tennis only would be approximately \$8,000 – \$10,000.

Pickleball Nets

To facilitate the pickleball trial, a movable net will be needed for each pickleball court. The cost of each pickleball net is approximately \$500 – \$600. These would be stored on the court.

Sound Baffling

The purchase and installation of sound baffling materials would be the most significant cost associated with a pilot trial. The court measures approximately 130' x 65'. To implement on two sides, baffling along approximately 200 feet would be required. Though staff did not seek direct quotes, costs will likely range from \$12,000 to \$30,000 for materials, with additional costs for installation. The GM of the Menlo Circus Club provided one of the quotes that they received for

baffling materials (attached). Also attached to the staff report are two additional cost approximations for alternate baffling materials. One includes shipping and the other would incur additional freight charges and a formal quote would be needed. Staff asked the Menlo Circus Club if they would consider lending the baffling material that they are not currently using to the Town for the pilot at Holbrook-Palmer Park. The GM indicated that he would bring the item to the Board for consideration and feedback. However, the Town has not received additional feedback at this time.

It is recommended that the Council review the preceding and provide staff with feedback and direction regarding the implementation of a temporary pickleball court. Assuming that the Council is supportive of moving forward, staff will select the best alternative incorporating the Council's feedback and implement the solution for a trial to begin in January 2024. Following Council direction from July 2023, the 6-month trial would be on Court #1, from 9 am to 12 pm, 7 days a week and from 4 pm to 7 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Users would be required to reserve the Court through the Player Capital Reservation System and at least one of the court users would be required to have a court key.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact of implementing a pickleball trial will depend heavily on the type and cost of sound balling selected. Costs for baffling would be \$12,000 – \$30,000 for materials plus installation. Costs for initial striping of two pickleball courts and the purchase of two movable nets to accommodate the trial are estimated at less than \$4,000. Future resurfacing and restriping of the court after the trial would be approximately \$10,000. There would be additional costs for installation of some of the materials.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

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

- Goal Area A – Maintain Fiscal Responsibility
- Goal Area B – Preserve Small Town Character and Quality of Life
- Goal Area F – Be Forward-Thinking, Well-Managed, and Well-Planned

POLICY FOCUS

The policy focus for this item is regarding Council direction regarding implementation of the trial program.

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

This item has not been before a Town Committee or Commission

ATTACHMENTS

1. Pickleball net quote
2. MCC quote for sound baffling
3. Fence Screen – Sound Baffling estimate
4. Acoustifence – Sound Baffling information and rough cost