



## **Memorandum**

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Ryan Gubler, Director of Parks and Recreation  
**Date:** February 2, 2023  
**Re:** **Pickleball and Tennis Courts**

As council knows, the pickleball and tennis courts here in town have proven to be a very valuable recreational asset for the community. Other than the regulars who frequent the facilities on a regular basis, we regularly see visitors using the facilities and regularly take calls from visitors asking about their availability and when the regulars tend to meet up.

Over the course of the past two years or so, the pickleball community had expressed the desire for additional courts. Several years ago one of the two tennis courts was converted into two pickleball courts, but with the growing popularity of the sport there was a feeling that two courts were no longer adequate to support our local contingency of players and the frequent visitors.

During the 2022 budget work meeting, I requested \$40,000.00 for pickleball improvements in order to potentially expand the number of pickleball courts from two to three or four. This number was based off of a phone call to Stihlson Brothers, the contractor who had resurfaced our courts in 2017. The thought was we might be able to add one or two more pickleball courts and keep the tennis courts.

As we struggled to find contractors who would do the work for us during the summer and fall of 2022, we started looking at alternate surfacing options. We had a demo from Sport Court of Southern Utah installed for several weeks which turned out to be very unpopular with our local players. That option was scrapped for the more traditional concrete/acrylic surface that we currently utilize.

As internal discussions continued to progress, the idea of replacing the tennis court with pickleball was explored. The footprint of the existing facility is 110 feet by 120 feet, so while adding two pickleball courts and keeping the tennis court was possible, it would not meet regulation as it pertains to space between courts and would be quite crowded.

In order to make the most informed decision, we placed a trail camera at the courts to collect data on how often the courts were being used and by which user groups. The camera was in place for 61 calendar days, and during that time it was determined that the courts were used for pickleball at least once for 32 of the 61 days. The courts were used for tennis at least once for 7 of the 61 days.

Recently, Jack Burns and I met with Stuart Stihlson from Stihlson Brothers to discuss different options moving forward and the costs associated with each. As of today, I am still waiting on those cost estimates.

As was mentioned, there is currently \$40,000.00 budgeted for court improvements. Staff is ready to move on this project pending council discussion on the issue.

Below is an aerial view of the courts as they currently exist.

Attached is a letter that was submitted to the Town Council during January's capital priorities meeting.



January 26, 2023

Dear Town Council,

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America! We have been playing Pickle ball for over eight years in Springdale. The pickle ball courts have enabled us to form friendships that are strengthened by our community play. We meet four times a week for two to four hours all year long. Time adjustments are sent out through text messaging to allow for optimum play during cold winter and hot summer days. We've even been known to play in a light rain, that's how committed we are to this wonderful sport. Our current group is 20+ strong. This doesn't include the number of people who are out of town visitors and local fire department players, which leads us to why we are writing to you.

We have submitted along with this letter an ideal pickle ball court rendering for consideration while you are discussing the approval of the 2023 budget. The layout also meets the criteria for adaptive participants (ADA) which requires more space. Four courts with shade structures and benches would help our pickle ball community immensely. Shade structures would help during the hot months and benches would be welcome while we wait for play. Proper fencing prevents balls from entering other courts and new pickle ball ball nets would provide us with an elevated pickle ball experience that other communities have and enjoy.

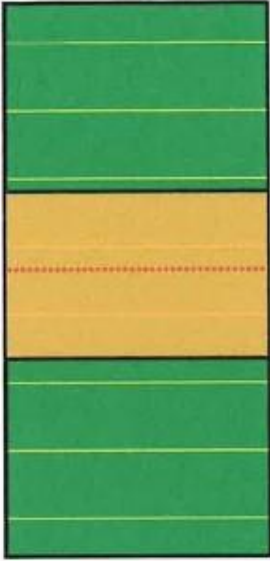
We realize that our rendering eliminates the tennis court. Because we play four days a week, we can attest that the tennis court largely sits empty. We have taken the time to measure the entire court space and apply the measurements required for four courts. The space can comfortably accommodate four courts with fencing, shade structures and benches. Incidentally, we have considered keeping the tennis court where it is and changing the current pickle ball play area to accommodate three courts. The only problem with that scenario is that it changes the orientation of the courts from north/south to east/west, effectively blinding players as they would face the sun more directly. It also leaves no space for shade structures and benches.

There are many times that we cannot get on the courts because we have so many players show up that the two courts we have cannot accommodate all who want to play. We generally play shorter scored games up to seven instead of eleven, so that rotations can happen more quickly for those waiting players in the queue.

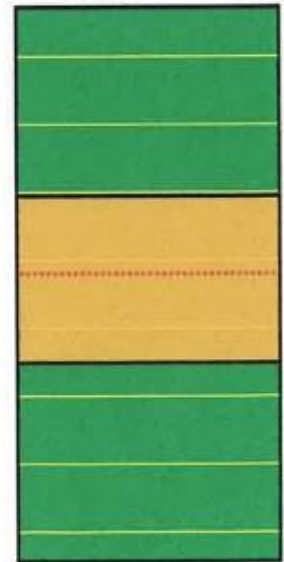
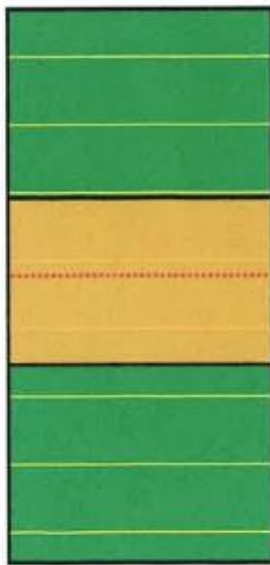
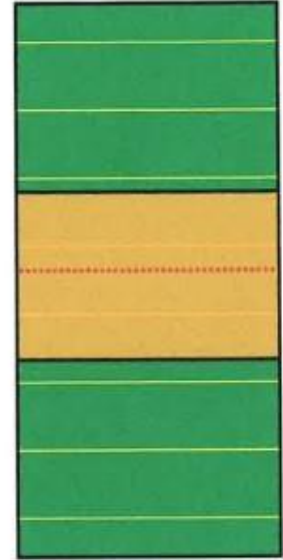
The good news is that the Town courts are a success story! No other outdoor town recreational facility is being used more than the pickle ball courts. We have been in communication with Ryan and understand that the pickle ball courts was a line item in last years budget. We are here to ask that you add updating the pickle ball courts to this years budget and make it a priority.

Thanks for your consideration - *The Springdale Pickle Ball Group*

Existing Gate



Shade Structures and Benches



Add Gate

Remove Existing Gate