



## City of Boulder Parks & Recreation

### Court System Plan Stakeholder Meeting

August 29, 2023

#### Attendees:

- Staff: Ali Rhodes, Scott Schuttenberg, Bryan Beary, Tina Briggs, Charlotte O'Donnell
- PRAB Liaison: Andrew "Bernie" Bernstein
- BOCO Pickleball Representatives: Mo Siegel, Rob Constable
- Boulder Tennis Association: Michael Xu, Patrick Edwards, Don Bergal

#### Notes:

- Originally shared in March, staff and stakeholders reviewed updated expectations for these meetings and agreed to abide by the following guidelines:
  - **Collaboration** – Be willing to collaborate and focus on the overall goal of moving the Court System Plan forward. Identify and remove obstacles that could delay the project. Example of obstacle is requesting past information that will not inform the plan.
  - **Creativity** – This process offers each of us the opportunity to think big and color outside the lines. This group and project welcome all ideas.
  - **Honesty and Transparency** – This group commits to delivering honest and open communication throughout the process. Communicate information fully and accurately.
  - **Respect** – Mutual respect among all members is key to successful dialog and project progress. Ask questions of inquiry rather than accusation.
  - **Resolve Conflict** – Issues of concern between members or concepts will be addressed. Working group members will work towards resolution whenever possible. If no resolution is possible, develop a mutual understanding of concerns.
  - **Participation** – Each working group member plays a vital role in the success of the project – we will each participate consistently throughout the project. Provide space for each voice in the room.
  - **Confidentiality and Trustworthiness** – Discussions should remain confidential until all parties agree to share out.
- Staff presented several communications improvements for the project:
  - Staff will have a point of contact for physical improvements and one for programming.
  - Stakeholders committed to defining their points of contact via email after this meeting.
  - To streamline responses and allow for in-person discussion, the staff point-of-contact will generally compile questions received by email each month and address them at the monthly stakeholder meeting rather than via email. Exceptions may apply for time-sensitive items.
  - Staff encourages members of BoCo Pickleball and Boulder Tennis Association to talk with their representatives to bring questions to the meeting rather than individually emailing staff.



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- Once addressed at the meeting, responses to questions will be posted online as part of these meeting notes.
- The project webpage (<https://bouldercolorado.gov/projects/court-system-plan>) has been updated with additional information and will include these meeting notes from now on.
- Stakeholders can help direct interested community members to the webpage as the most-cohesive source of information.
- Court System Plan Updates
  - Timeline
    - Staff is currently in contracting with the selected firm. An announcement will be made once the firm is officially under contract.
    - The timeline for completion still allows for recommendations to be ready by the end of the year and beginning of 2024 to influence the Capital Investment Strategy for 2025 and beyond.
    - Final document preparation will then occur in early 2024.
    - While staff began preparing the RFP in May, capacity delayed the final distribution until later in the summer.
    - Staff capacity is currently stretched due to need to address a backlog of projects. During staff turnover in the previous several years, projects continued to be added to the Capital Investment Plan annually despite lack of resources. Staff is currently working to adjust this workload and prioritize projects.
  - Funds: When identifying additional funds for future court projects, this may be a mix of private and public sources.
    - Scott Carpenter pool is a great example which was a result of the 2015 Aquatics Feasibility Study and was funded by public funds and philanthropy.
  - Stakeholder Involvement
    - The scope and tasks in the RFP have been influenced by stakeholders.
    - Stakeholders will continue to be involved in the Court System Plan process with monthly meetings, now aligning with the tasks outlined in the RFP:
      - October – Data collection, research and needs assessment
      - November – Best Practice Industry Standards and Market Analysis
      - December - Concept Alternatives
      - January – Final Draft Review
    - Consultants will interview stakeholders directly this fall.
    - Stakeholders are encouraged to join and communicate to their communities about the public meetings that will be held as part of this project. Dates to be announced.
      - Public Meeting 1 – project kick off and needs assessment
      - Public Meeting 2 – concept alternatives
- Operating Updates
  - BPR's fall hours for pickleball will be posted on the website later this week.
  - Staff is open to considering additional hours for indoor pickleball offers due to the reduced outdoor availability.



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- BoCo Pickleball expressed interest in pursuing solutions with BTA for outdoor court space, instead of indoor hours.
- Once finalized by BoCo Pickleball and BTA, staff will review a proposal for temporary changes.
- Physical Updates
  - Construction of 4 dedicated pickleball courts at East Boulder Community Park
    - Planning begins in 2024 (feasibility, concept plan, engagement, design development, construction documents, permitting, bidding) with construction in 2025.
    - Question: Why did this not happen in 2021?
      - As stated above: During staff turnover in the previous several years, projects continued to be added to the Capital Investment Plan annually despite lack of resources. Staff is currently working to adjust this workload and prioritize projects.
    - Question: Could South Boulder become a pickleball hub and East be dedicated to tennis?
      - The Court System Plan may investigate redistribution.
      - Scheduling of class programs at East currently conflicts with court usage by other groups.
  - Tom Watson resurfacing: Following inspection of work by BPR staff, the contractor did not meet the standards and have had to correct their work. This will now be completed week of September 11
  - North Palo resurfacing: to be completed week of August 28
  - Chautauqua repair: to be completed week of September 5.
    - Question from BoCo Pickleball: will this work address the “dead zones” in the pickleball court?
    - **Answer from Park Operations after the meeting: Chautauqua work is warranty work that addresses some cracking and re-painting. The dead spots that exist are subsurface infrastructure issues that will be addressed when the court is fully replaced with a post tension surface.**
  - North Boulder Rec repair: to be completed week of September 5.
  - South Boulder Recreation Center (North-most courts) repainting pickleball lines in corrected color: to be completed by week of September 25.
- Additional questions:
  - How can stakeholder groups be involved in elections?
    - Staff cannot use city resources to campaign for any candidates or issues.
    - Stakeholders can ask candidates about their decision making, priorities and budget outlooks to best inform their communities which candidates’ priorities align with their own.
  - We understand that past delays and changes have created frustration and mistrust. Once complete, the Court System Plan will provide a clear roadmap for future collaboration that allows us to pro-actively plan instead of making re-active choices such as removal of courts due to noise complaints.