



City of Boulder Parks & Recreation

Court System Plan Stakeholder Meeting #9

October 11, 2023

Attendees:

Staff: Tina Briggs, Charlotte O'Donnell

PRAB Liaison: Andrew "Bernie" Bernstein (virtual)

BOCO Pickleball Representatives: Mo Siegel, Rob Constable

Boulder Tennis Association: Michael Xu, Patrick Edwards, Don Bergal

Full Notes to Share:

Public Meeting held on October 4, 2023 Debrief

Stakeholders shared the following feedback and questions:

- Stakeholders thought that the public meeting was a positive step in the project and appreciated the thoughtful presentation and feedback activity.
- Stakeholders noted that this was a milestone which shows the project is moving forward and that the city acknowledged the need to plan for the future of tennis and pickleball courts.
- With over 170 attendees, stakeholders requested staff look for a larger room and a room with potential hybrid capabilities for the next round of public meetings.
- Stakeholders recommend that staff emphasize the outcomes of the Court System Plan will take years to construct after the plan is complete. This clarifies the timeline the public can expect.
- Stakeholder question: Will the dots collected at the public meeting be counted as part of the questionnaire responses?
 - Staff response: Staff will count the number of stickers that community members posted on the activity posters at the public meeting. This data will be used alongside the questionnaire responses.
- Stakeholder question: Why was there not the opportunity for open question and answer for the full audience?
 - Staff response: To ensure that the greatest number of community members possible can participate, staff was present around the room for individual and small group conversations during the dot activity. Past experiences with open-microphone style meetings have resulted in a few individuals monopolizing the short time available, while others do not get to ask questions and share feedback. Staff prepares before meetings to make sure we are providing consistent information and debriefs after the public meeting to make we answer any outstanding questions. Updates are posted to the project webpage and answers to commonly asked questions are added to [the online FAQ](#) as well.



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Online Questionnaire Clarifications

Staff answered the following questions from stakeholders about the online questionnaire:

- Stakeholder question: What is the purpose of question which asks people to rank enhanced daily maintenance of current courts, larger enhancements to current courts and building of additional courts?
 - Staff response: The City of Boulder has limited dollars on what it can spend across the parks and recreation system. Based upon community input, the city prioritizes the funds we have to Take Care of What We Have and look for opportunities to provide additional services. This question is intended to understand how community members would like city funds to be prioritized for courts.
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- Stakeholder question: Why are there demographic questions?
 - Staff response: The optional demographic questions help the City better understand our engagement reach. Response to these standard city questions is optional and all answers are anonymous.
- Stakeholder question: How will responses from non-racket sport players be used?
 - Staff response: The questionnaire is available to the public and all members of the community are welcome to respond. By asking questions about court usage, we can look at opinions of different types of users. We are working closely with our consultant to ensure robust data analysis.

Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholders will continue to meet regularly with staff to debrief engagements, answer questions and discuss project milestones.
- In October, stakeholders and staff discussed potential BPR sites where future court developments could be possible in the future. The outcomes will be shared with the public as part of the November Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meeting.

Other Questions and Updates

Stakeholders had the following questions that staff responded to this month. Those in BOLD have been added to the racket sports FAQ.

- BTA provided an update on RMTTC winter-usage and use of CU South courts.
- Stakeholder question: Would city staff be willing to share a brief narrative update each month for BOCO pickleball and BTA to include in their newsletters as they would like?
 - Staff Response: In addition to full notes from the stakeholder meetings that are posted on the project webpage, staff will prepare a short summary version. Stakeholders are encouraged to share notes and the summary with their members.
- Stakeholder question: Will Boulder Parks and Recreation (BPR) celebrate recent resurfacing and painting work?
 - Staff Response: This work was shared on BPR social media. Staff are glad to hear the recent improvements are being enjoyed.



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- Stakeholder question: Would staff consider the following short-term actions for the existing courts as requested by BTA and BOCO pickleball?
 - Stakeholder proposal: Leaving Tom Watson’s current courts as dedicated Tennis Courts
 - Staff response: Tom Watson Park courts will remain tennis-only at least until the Court System Plan is complete.
 - Stakeholder proposal: Making Chautauqua dedicated pickleball – removing tennis and basketball
 - Staff response: Staff is aware that usage of multiple sports occurs at Chautauqua and will not be changing the use at this time. Additionally, the Court System Plan will provide guidance for pickleball noise near residential areas which may impact the recommended usage of Chautauqua in the future.
 - Stakeholder proposal: Changing configuration of East Boulder courts and lining another tennis court
 - Staff response: Staff will explore this option further as part of recommendations to the current system that will be a part of the Court System Plan
 - Stakeholder proposal: Adding simplified signs that state “No Pickleball” to courts that are currently dedicated tennis courts
 - Staff response: Existing signs state that courts should not be modified for pickleball. Staff will investigate providing simplified signs that provide clearer messaging.
 - Stakeholder proposal: Adding court separators at Foothills and additional roll-away nets
 - Staff response: Staff has received complaints that current nets are being left on the courts and inhibiting inline roller activities. With this multi-use need in mind, staff will investigate potential for additional nets and court separators that can be moved and stored easily.
 - Stakeholder proposal: Complete construction of 4 dedicated pickleball courts at East Boulder Community Park by May 2024.
 - Staff response: The planning and design of East Boulder Community Park will begin in 2024, with anticipated construction in 2025. We also are frustrated that we have not been able to do this work and are excited we now have capacity and funding to complete the project. While the delay is disappointing, it does mean that BPR can be more effective with tax dollars and “dig once” on the various park improvements.