

Summary of Zoom Pickleball Meeting With BREC March 19, 2021

Attendees: BREC staff-Reed Richard, Brandon Smith, Ronald Sensley, Darryl Hughes, Yvette Marshall, Robert Kelly. Public-Tex Morris, Cindy Morris, Kathrin Siebert, Kyle Savant, Linda Draper, Mike Glisson, Crystal Richard, Lisa Hosteller, Bonita Ziervogel, Lorna Folse, Scott Hayes, Jack Rourke, Lu Carradine, Galaxy s10, and iphone

Reed Richard displayed a conceptual overview of the proposed Airline Highway Community Park. He explained that this design is open to change and gave a tentative schedule of the timeline for the development of the park. Scheduled proposed is as follows:

May 2020—Start the schematic design

End of 2021-Early 2022-Completion of design

Mid 2022-Construction begins

Early 2023-Mid-2023-First Phase of construction begins

The pickleball community expressed the desire to have a designated pickleball facility at Airline Highway Park with hopes of having a minimum of 12 courts with the ability to expand as warranted. They asked if the courts would be in Phase 1. Mr. Richard stated that inclusion in Phase I would depend on the budget and any outside funding obtained to construct the courts.

Other input offered by the pickleball community included:

- Most pickleball players would rather play outside than inside
- Frustration that there are no designated pickleball courts at BREC
- Reduction of courts at the gymnasiums—Zachary now has only one court; Antioch not only has two courts
- Highland youth courts need to be resurfaced which are used by pickleball players

Discussion took place regarding the renovation of the Greenwood Community Park tennis courts. Six tennis courts would be renovated into 12 designated pickleball courts. Mr. Richard presented the design and layout of the courts. A request for bid has been issued and the deadline to submit a bid is March 19. Tentative timeline for completion of the renovation is sometime in May 2020. Discussion took place regarding the additional hours of operation which will be needed once the renovation is completed. Brandon Smith stated he would work to ensure the expansion of more operating hours. Yvette Marshall stated that currently the site only has one part time shop clerk who currently works 3-9pm from Monday thru Thursday and every 2nd Saturday of the month. Robert Kelly works every 3rd Saturday of the month.

A discussion took place regarding ways for the pickleball community to assist in requiring outside funding for the Airline Highway Park such as locating a sponsor/sponsors, tournament proceeds, and grants that may be available.