



PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

BUCKHAM WEST

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2022

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Minutes - April 27, 2022
3. Presentation - None
4. Director's Report
5. Requests to be Heard
6. Old Business
 - A. Discussion on Pickleball Proposal
 - B. Update on Mill Towns Trail/Northern Links Trail
 - C. Lyndale Trail Update
 - D. Fleckenstein Bluffs Park Ribbon Cutting
7. New Business
 - A. New Community Center Discussion
 - B. Waupacuta Playground Option
8. Other
9. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, August 24
10. Adjournment

FARIBAULT PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES FOR APRIL 27, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lola Brand, Sally Kramer, Mike Ross, Henry Schonebaum and Troy Temple. MEMBERS ABSENT: Sara Caron, Chad Kreager and Mark Fuchs. STAFF PRESENT: Paul Peanasky, Parks and Recreation Director, and Denise Hansen, Administrative Assistant. GUESTS: Linda Mitchell, Mary Richie and Barry Shaffer.

- 1) Meeting was called to order by Troy at 6:07 p.m.
- 2) Presentation - Pickleball: Barry Shaffer presented information on behalf of a pickleball committee that formed for the purpose of getting more pickleball courts in Faribault. Some discussions at their meetings included that pickleball is an amazingly fast-growing sport and there is a need for court clustering to allow many players to play at the same time and at different levels of play. In their meetings, they also reviewed the quality and quantities of Faribault's outdoor and indoor courts. Barry discussed their preference to expand indoor courts due to year-round weather but they also have both outdoor and indoor expansion ideas. More courts would also provide for more time for people to learn to play pickleball. Four recommendations were reviewed for expanding the number of pickleball courts in Faribault. Cost to play pickleball at local venues varies. For example, it is \$5.00 in Apple Valley and at the facility by Cabelas in Owatonna it is \$10 to join their association and \$30 per month or simply \$8 per time if not a member of the association. The Owatonna pickleball association then rents the facility for play time. They also hold two tournaments to supplement the cost of the renting the facility. Paul stated the City of Faribault is in the early stages of possibly building a new community center and those plans include six (6) indoor pickleball courts. The plans also include outdoor basketball and pickleball courts near the new community center. Board discussed options and will look at short-term suggestions for more pickleball courts.
- 3) Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Mike, seconded by Lola to approve minutes of March 30, 2022, as corrected. Motion passed.
- 4) Director's Report:
 - a) Custodial Engineer: Al Twaites was offered and accepted the position of maintenance engineer for the City. This position was vacant due to Doug Knutson's retirement.
 - b) Softball Tournament: Corky's Earlybird Softball Tournament will be held in Owatonna and Faribault next weekend.
 - c) North Alexander Park Road Project: Reconstruction of the road through North Alexander Park will begin on Monday, May 2, and continue through the month of May.
 - d) Community Garden: The new community garden location will be on the north side of the Faribault Family Aquatic Center in North Alexander Park.
 - e) Prairie Park: Paul reported some local residents have requested a layout change of the amenities at Prairie Park. This will be reviewed at a later date.
- 5) Requests to be Heard:
- 6) Old Business:

- a) Mill Towns Trail/Northern Links Trail Update: Paul stated both Representative Daniels and Senator Jasinski have submitted bonding requests for the Northern Links trail.
 - b) Lyndale Trail Update: Paul reported they are still waiting for a signed agreement from the DNR regarding the Lyndale Trail. All information was submitted to them but the signed agreement is needed prior to going out to bid for the project.
 - c) Arbor Day Event: This year's Arbor Day event will be on Saturday, April 30, at 9:30 a.m. at Meadows Park. Plantings will be dedicated to Ardis Sundwall, a founding member of the GROWS group.
 - d) Fleckenstein Bluffs Park Ribbon Cutting: Rice County Historical Society is hosting a Fleckenstein weekend celebration in August called Fleckstravaganza. They requested the ribbon cutting for the new park be held on Saturday, August 20, to coincide with that weekend celebration.
 - e) Community Center Construction Updates: Construction projects at the Community Center are going well. The HVAC units should be done the end of next week so the pool can reopen. The basketball hoops in the gym were finished today. The lockerroom floors are done and the tiles in the showers and bathrooms have been repaired. Lola asked about increased lighting in the gym due to covering up the skylights. Staff will review to determine if additional lighting is needed.
- 7) New Business: Nothing new to report.
- 8) Other:
- a) Pickleball Courts at the Armory: While the FCC gym floors are refinished, the armory will be rented for open pickleball play Monday through Friday mornings. It does cost more as we must pay rent and also have staff on site. We will continue discussions regarding the availability of the armory for future open pickleball times.
 - b) Garfield Park: Garfield Park is being used quite heavily on Sunday and Wednesday nights with cars parked on the grass and/or basketball court and litter not picked up. Board discussed posting signs, charging a fine or getting crews in to pick up the litter. Paul stated personnel could monitor the parking as well as work with the people regarding picking up their litter.
 - c) Outdoor Skating Park and Youth Activities: Board discussed hearing residents talk about a possible outdoor skating park in Faribault. Board discussed if it would be utilized. Owatonna has one in Morehouse Park and Northfield may have just closed theirs. Board also discussed youth activities in Faribault in the future such as a public game room. Paul mentioned a game room for youth is proposed in the new community center plan.
- 9) Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25, at Buckham West.
- 10) Motion was made by Lola, seconded by Sally to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Hansen, Administrative Assistant

PICKLEBALL EXPANSION IN FARIBAULT

Faribault Pickleball Players Recommendations to the Faribault Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

April 27, 2022

GOAL/PURPOSE: *What is the goal of the player expansion discussion group?*

In response to the growing popularity of Pickleball in the Faribault area, the goal is to increase the availability of Pickleball in Faribault through the addition of more high-quality courts, both indoor and outdoor.

PICKLEBALL EXPANSION DISCUSSION GROUP DESCRIPTION AND PROCESS: *Who put this report/presentation together and how?*

A presentation of local player survey results to the Faribault Parks Board in Fall 2021 led to a recommendation by the Board to organize a Task Force of Faribault Pickleball players to provide a set of formal recommendations to the Board for Pickleball expansion in Faribault. Pickleball player and local resident, Barry Shaffer, spearheaded that assignment and several online meetings of interested Faribault Pickleball players were held to gather input for a formal presentation.

Pickleball Expansion Group Online Meeting and/or Email Input Participants:

Barry Shaffer, Pat Wilker, Sandy Erickson, Mary Richie, Linda Mitchell, Doug Wertish, Tony Langerrud, Mike Frankenfeld, Jan Bettner, Deb Carpentier, Craig Tidemann, Bill Sydlo, Mike Ferrise, Mike – Donna Reuvers, Bill – Susan Speck, Tom – Faith Schmitz, Helen Ellinger, Carol Beranek.

Special thanks to Parks & Rec employee, Kevin O'Brien, participating in our online meetings.

PICKLEBALL GROWTH INFORMATION: *Is Pickleball a growing sport? Who plays?*

- **Nationally** – Pickleball grew in 2021 to **4.8 million players** in the US, an incredible two-year **growth rate of 39.3%** as reported by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) 2022 Topline Participation Report, released in Feb. 2022. The SFIA report also proclaimed pickleball once again as the fastest growing sport in the nation. See the SFIA [Pickleball Fact Sheet](#) for detailed information.
- **Faribault Player Information** – Currently (winter/spring 2022), the Faribault player profile for indoor play is estimated at 60% female, 40% male, with older players enjoying morning play while a mix of age ranges during evening or weekend play. According to a Fall 2021 Faribault player survey of 59 players:

- All players play year-round
- Two-thirds play 10 or more times per month
- Just over half play in other towns
- 71% like to play with both friends and with others who show up
- One third have played tournaments, one third said they may in the future
- There is a variety of skill levels
- 70% view Pickleball as growing rapidly as a sport
- 84% see a need for a larger outdoor venue (6 or more courts)
- 75% see a need for a larger indoor venue (6 or more courts)
- 11% outdoor proponents, 23% indoor proponents, 66% say both are needed
- A six or eight court venue is preferred by 77%

Outdoor Pickleball during the summer of 2021 revealed heavy morning use (open play) of the 4 available City courts (2 venues) resulting in significant court waiting times for players. Indoor Pickleball play at the Community Center during winter and spring 2022 had/has the same pattern during scheduled open play with significant wait times for players. Due to these wait times, some Faribault players have chosen to play in other towns/locations (e.g., Owatonna, Shattuck) to avoid wait times and to seek same-level players.

NEED FOR COURT CLUSTERING: *Why is there a need for 6+ courts in one location?*

The goal for expanding the number of Pickleball courts in Faribault does not mean one or two courts scattered about the city in multiple locations, as is the case for example, with basketball or toddler playground areas. The need identified through this task force effort is predicated on the concept that Faribault needs Pickleball venues with **adjacent multiple courts, preferably 6 or more**, clustered in one location, either indoor, or outdoor, or both. This clustering allows for not only more players to participate, but it accommodates open play and skill level play happening simultaneously, without long wait times. It also fosters the remarkable social and friendly nature of Pickleball play. Clustering also accommodates potential local tournament play.

EXISTING FARIBAULT PUBLIC PICKLEBALL VENUES: *Where are courts available now?*

- Outdoor – Windsor Park (2 courts), Meadows Park (2 courts), Faribault Middle School (3 tennis courts lined for Pickleball)
- Indoor – Faribault Community Center (3 courts)

OUTDOOR COURT/VENUE NEEDS: *What makes a quality outdoor Pickleball court venue?*

- Multiple adjacent courts (6 or more)
- Restroom availability
- Adequate, safe parking
- High perimeter fencing

- Low barriers between courts
- Shaded player rest area
- Permanent, heavy-duty nets
- Access to water
- Proper sun alignment (N to S)
- Quality court surface
- Spectator bleachers
- Non-residential area (noise issue)
- Permanent court lines
- Lights for evening play
- Paddle holding system

INDOOR COURT/VENUE NEEDS: *What makes a quality indoor Pickleball court venue?*

- Multiple adjacent courts (6 or more)
- Restroom availability
- Adequate, safe parking
- Access to water
- Quality court surface
- Quality portable nets
- Player rest/waiting area
- Paddle holding system
- Climate controlled venue
- Permanent court lines

POTENTIAL OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL EXPANSION LOCATIONS IDENTIFIED AND DISCUSSED:

What outdoor areas were identified and discussed that may have a potential for new outdoor courts?

Location	Comments
Meadows Park	Potential for adding 4 courts. Needs fencing, barriers, etc.
Windsor Park	Probably not a good spot for expansion due to nearby houses.
Alexander Park	Possible 6+ court areas include by swimming pool, softball field #1, next to football field on east side, by track-field area, or other area that has about ½ acre of space.
Wapacuta Park	
Tepee Tonka Park	
Under the Viaduct of Hwy 60	Offers shelter from rain. Accessible downtown location.
Land next to the Viaduct	Behind the Crooked Pint restaurant.
Faribault Middle School	Possibly convert some of the tennis courts or the City and district jointly construct Pickleball courts at the school.
City property near the Armory	City owned acreage – potential for an outdoor court complex.
Faribault Industrial Park	Would be a nice recreation area for workers and others. May make the space more attractive to new businesses.

POTENTIAL INDOOR PICKLEBALL EXPANSION LOCATIONS IDENTIFIED AND DISCUSSED:

What indoor areas were identified and discussed that may have a potential for new indoor courts?

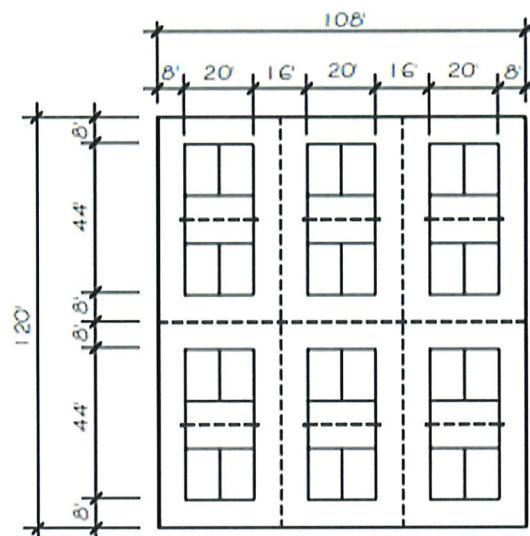
Location	Comments
New multi-purpose community center with 6+ courts	Would be ideal if a new community center is being considered. Barriers between groups of courts would be needed (e.g., wall curtain).
School district and City Fieldhouse concept	Voters rejected district proposed Fieldhouse in 2018. Cost sharing would be ideal.
Renovating existing community center for 6 courts	Court area would need to be in one large multi-purpose area with wall curtains.
National Guard Armory	Large space. Already has volleyball. Won't allow permanent lines. Unsure about the possibility to establish a regular use schedule.
Former gymnastics building at the Fairgrounds (next to 4H)	
Public school gyms during summer break	Not sure about potential availability. Shorter time window for use. Would require facility supervision/staff.
Former UBC Building	

PICKLEBALL COURT COST INFORMATION AND EXAMPLES: What are the costs associated with constructing outdoor or indoor courts?

The two most helpful websites for **outdoor** Pickleball court construction are:

- [USA Pickleball](#) – Provides detailed info on space required, court surfaces, contractor information, maintenance, barriers and fencing, lighting, accessories and amenities.
- [Pickleball Central](#) – Provides similar info as above but also discusses cost factors.

Sample outdoor 6-court dimensions (20' by 44' playing surface and 16' between courts):



See [photos and news article](#) of the Great Falls (MT) 6-court **outdoor** facility. This beautiful quality venue replaced two tennis courts at a cost of \$268,000 which included a new basketball court, sidewalks, and a pavilion. Click [HERE](#) for an 8-court outdoor photo.

Sample **outdoor** Pickleball costs:

- Net/Court Tape - \$300
- Court Resurfacing - \$3,500 - \$5,000
- New Court Construction
- Basic (\$10,000 - \$15,000)
- Basic plus lighting and fencing - \$20,000 - \$35,000
- 8-Court Community Complex with fencing but no lighting - \$110,000 - \$150,000
- 8-Court Community Complex with fencing, lighting, and stadium seating - \$300,000+

Actual Meadows Park Pickleball court (2) costs: \$30,000*

Actual Windsor Park Pickleball court (2) costs: \$18,000*

*(*Note: Costs varied due to pre-existing surfaces and other factors unique to each park.)*

Indoor Pickleball court development cost is highly variable depending on construction of a new facility or remodeling an existing facility. Remodeling costs would obviously vary greatly depending on the existing condition of the building and desired court expansion.

The cost to create a Pickleball venue within a new building (e.g., new Community Center) would not require significant separate funds if a large, multi-use gym space could be lined for Pickleball. In that scenario, Pickleball costs would primarily be court lining, nets, balls, paddle holding system, and storage area.

Click [HERE](#) for multiple indoor pickleball venue photos.

PICKLEBALL EXPANSION RECOMMENDATIONS: What are the recommendations (in priority order) for expanding Pickleball venues in Faribault?

Ideal Scenario Recommendations: The following top two priority recommendations represent a longer term (and higher cost) commitment to recreation in Faribault.

- **Recommendation 1A:** Construct a new, multi-purpose Faribault Community Center facility that includes a singular, large gym space with permanent lines for 6-9 Pickleball courts and wall curtains separating groups of courts.
Actual Example – [Rustad Community Center](#), West Fargo (ND) Park District. Facility includes 3 Basketball Courts, 5 Volleyball Courts, 9 Pickleball Courts, Walking Track, Indoor Playground, Creative Studio, Meeting Rooms, Weight and Exercise Rooms, and Classroom Space. Cost: \$7.4 M and 55,000 square feet.

- **Recommendation 1B:** *(An alternative to 1A)* Construct a new, multi-purpose recreational Field House that includes a singular, large gym space with permanent lines for 6-9 Pickleball courts and wall curtains separating groups of courts. This could be solely owned by the City, or jointly owned by the City and School District.
Actual Example – The [Brecksville](#) (OH) school district and the City jointly built and own a multi-purpose fieldhouse open for citizen use adjacent to an elementary school.
- **Recommendation 2:** Adjacent to a new Community Center (described above) would be an outdoor Pickleball area of 6-9 courts. These courts would include all the amenities described in the “Outdoor Venue Needs” section of this report.
Actual Example – The [New Ulm \(MN\) Parks Department](#) recently constructed a 6-court outdoor Pickleball venue at Lincoln Park that includes some of the amenities noted in this report. Two tennis courts were converted into 6 quality Pickleball courts.

Short Term Recommendations: The following recommendations in priority order reflect Faribault player ideas for more immediate action toward Pickleball venue expansion.

- **Recommendation 3:** *(Note: Faribault Pickleball players are generally more in favor of indoor court expansion because of the year-round availability to play.)* Create or expand **INDOOR** court venues by:
 - 3A** – Remodeling the current Community Center to include space for 3 additional courts.
 - Or, **3B** – Contracting with the National Guard Armory for the permanent lining of 6 courts, portable nets, and an ongoing day and evening play schedule.
 - Or, **3C** – Researching and identifying an existing indoor space for purchase or lease that would accommodate 6 courts. This space could be multi-purpose but would need a playable Pickleball surface. *(Note: Although potential indoor venues were discussed, considerable additional information and research would be needed to identify a feasible venue.)*
- **Recommendation 4:** Create or expand **OUTDOOR** court venues by:
 - 4A:** Constructing 6 (or more) outdoor courts at Alexander Park on space deemed by the Parks Department/City to be best suited for new courts. Include quality venue amenities, especially wind barriers.
 - Or, **4B:** If 4A is not feasible, construct 4 additional quality outdoor Pickleball courts at Meadows Park. Add quality amenities including those described in this report. Wind barriers would be essential. This would bring the Meadows court total to 6 courts.
 - Or, **4C:** If 4A or 4B are not feasible, research and identify city-owned outdoor space that could accommodate 6+ courts, plus amenities. *(Note: Although the expansion group discussed potential outdoor venues, considerable additional information and research would be needed to identify a feasible venue.)*

Waupacuta Park (Option 3) Faribault, MN

