

07/18/22 CPBTC (Committee to Preserve the Buckeye Tennis Courts)

Status report for the 18 July Tennis Club General meeting - Dave Blanchard

Current Status:

At the 30 June GRF Board meeting the board gave the go ahead to Resident Services Director, Jeff Matheson, to let contracts for the design of a Pickleball facility adjacent to the Rossmoor Event Center for a cost of around 200 thousand dollars.

This approval appears to relieve the multi-year pressure of the Pickleball club goal of taking over tennis courts at the Buckeye Grove complex.

It is notable that both the Planning Committee which approved the Matheson proposal and the GRF Board which approved spending the money have a majority of members who are pickleball club advocates. So it seems that the pickleball club approves of the Event Center PB plan. It is also notable that the ECPB proposal initial cost estimate of 1.2 million dollars came out only slightly higher than converting our Buckeye courts but the Buckeye cost estimate did not include parking lot improvements, so it looks like ECPB would be the "cheaper" solution.

The Path Ahead:

At least 3 times in the past GRF Boards have listened to the tennis community and agreed to go ahead with pickleball solutions that would not affect the Buckeye tennis courts, only to be reversed when the Board membership changed. So why should we be optimistic at this time? Firstly, the cost comparison favors the Event Center site. Secondly the pickleball club leaders appear to favor the EC solution because it has almost all of the features for which it had been lobbying.

What could go wrong.

Residents who surround the EC area and would have to look at the new EC facility have eloquently spoken out in Residents Forums and in the Rossmoor news about the effects that the pb sound and the ugly view of the building would have on their lifestyles and property values. Director Matheson has implied that a new facility would be both sound abated and pleasing to look at. But if the residents are not satisfied with plans presented or if the costs for creating a satisfactory facility become extravagant, it is possible that other pickleball locations would again be back for consideration.

How did we get to this promising solution.

Many tennis club members have repeatedly, over several years, spoken out about what a bad solution pickleball taking tennis courts would be. It seemed that last year the GRF Board had given the Creekside location the go ahead, even saying that further study of tennis courts were off limits. When the next board reversed that position by approving a Sound study at Buckeye our Committee to Preserve our courts ramped up the level of our protests insuring that we had speakers lined up for GRF Planning Committee meetings, GRF Board meetings, writing more letters to the News and directly to the GRF director. We started asking why studies of other locations, like golf course sites hadn't been publicized. We suggested that certain conflicts of interest among of GRF board members might be the subject of future legal actions. Some of us got pretty

confrontational in our presentations. The tennis club board approved and executed the development and distribution of a flier to advise residents surrounding the Buckeye courts that the sound study might adversely affect their ways of life.

We don't know what led to pulling the Event Center pickleball solution out of the hat. We suspect the suggestion of legal action and unpublished alternate sites had some effect. At any rate, here we are.

At this time the committee is awaiting the presentation of the ECPB building plans to see if they go forward without effect on our tennis courts. If ECPB continues to proceed the committee can be retired. Right now we must just look at all planning documents carefully and listen to GRF Planning Committee and Board meetings intently as well as watching the Rossmoor News for any upsetting issues.