

From: Liz Fairweather [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 5:06 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject:

Hi,

I'd love for additional dog parks to be prioritized in light of the need to revise the budgets for CIP. It's crazy to me that we only have one in Ashland.

Thanks,
Liz Fairweather

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for July 7th 2020 meeting

Hi,

I'd like to go on the record as supporting the Parks and Recreation CIP projects for a bike skills park and a mountain bike trail in Lithia Park as part of the Lithia Park improvements. We have seen during this downturn in Ashland's economy that outdoor recreation and specifically mountain biking is a popular attraction for visitors and is contributing to our current economics significantly when other sources of revenue are limited. In other words more and more visitors are coming to Ashland for outdoor recreation and by far most of these visitors are coming for the mountain biking and I feel Ashland needs to diversify not only it's tourist economy but also what the parks and recreation department offers. We have plenty of basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball fields, tennis court etc, but Ashland is lacking in beginner friendly mountain bike trails and an area where beginners can gain skills.

Thank you,
Brian Long
[REDACTED]

From: Sara Burt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2020 6:19 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Input for July 8 Regular Meeting

Greetings,

Thank you for all your hard work. I recognize that the budgets for parks are small and dwindling, but I wanted to just put it out there that Daniel Meyer Pool is a very important part of our community and should be at the top of the city's priorities for park funding.

We've lived in Ashland since 1997 and have three kids that have taken swimming lessons, had birthday parties, and spent fun summer days swimming at Daniel Meyer Pool. I would hate for it to stay closed any longer than it has to.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sara Burt
Evergreen Lane
Ashland

From: Molly Silver [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>; Joel Heller <joel@ashland.or.us>; Jim Lewis <commissioner_lewis@external.ashland.or.us>; Mike Gardiner <mikeg@external.ashland.or.us>; Rick Landt <commissioner_landt@external.ashland.or.us>; Julian Bell <julian@ashland.or.us>; Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for July 8 Regular Meeting

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

RE: APRC Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Reprioritization

Public Testimony for July 7, 2020 Regular Ashland City Council Meeting

Public Testimony for July 8, 2020 Regular ARPC Meeting

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I write in support of creating additional off-leash dog parks to enhance community safety, both in response to the impacts of COVID-19 and the recent surge of wildlife aggression. Faced with looming financial problems caused by the pandemic, both the City and its Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (ARPC) have been tasked with reallocating funds for capital improvement projects. **I respectfully request that development of a new dog park be considered a priority despite budget cuts facing our community.** Understandably, any new off-leash dog park would be smaller scale than previously proposed. However, something is better than nothing. City of Ashland should act to address the community's pressing need by designating one of the existing fenced open spaces as an off-leash dog park.

At first blush, new dog park designation may not seem like a priority during a global pandemic. However, the creation of these outdoor spaces will offer safe venues for social distancing. Additionally, dog parks proactively address long term urban wildlife management concerns without the costs (moral and financial) of euthanizing aggressive deer.

Ashland's urban deer problem has been the subject of debate, concern, and ridicule for some time. In recent weeks, numerous residents have been attacked while walking their dogs in Ashland. Over the last two weeks of June alone, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has fielded over 15 reports of aggressive deer charging dogs and their owners in Ashland and Jackson County.^[1] After a one deer attack killed a small Lhasa Apso named 'Pixie' in East Medford, the ODFW issued safety warnings to address the uptick in aggressive wildlife encounters. These incidents have been highlighted in national^[2] and local^[3] news.

While experts generally attribute deer aggression to fawning season, attacks have not been isolated to does protecting their young concealed in nearby underbrush. The June 2020 ODFW reports have included an attack by a buck, rather than the typical mother-child protective. Additionally, the problem extends to rutting season with aggressive males vying for territorial dominance.^[4] A cursory Google search reveals recent deer aggression is not simply a one-off dilemma, but a yearly episodic issue that requires action to protect citizens and their canine companions.

Seemingly, the City's primary response to human-deer conflict has been a humane effort to educate residents about peaceful coexistence. Historically, City of Ashland has disfavored dramatic measures like euthanizing problematic deer.^[5] There is no reason to renew debates about deer culling programs, which have been deemed cruel and politically unpalatable. Other methods of responding to escalating deer population like relocation and

contraception have been rejected as too expensive. Additionally, studies show that around half of relocated deer die from the stress, and relocation spread diseases between wildlife populations.^[6] While educating the public about wildlife safety has clear benefits for the City of Ashland, this strategy is incomplete.

The problem with Ashland's hands-off approach is that it fails to address the root of the issue – increased human-deer contact in urban areas. Without meaningful alternatives like off-leash dog parks, individuals are left to their own devices.

The need for safe dog spaces has become more pronounced with the coronavirus pandemic, both for the safety of Ashland residents and urban deer populations. Many Oregonians seek solace from the coronavirus pandemic in the simple pleasure of walking their dogs. For those newly working from home, the necessary act of walking one's dog is a welcome reprieve. Without a COVID vaccine on the horizon, Ashland residents will be increasing their open-air recreation with dogs for the foreseeable future, increasing the frequency of potentially dangerous deer encounters.

Ashland has only one off-leash dog park on Perozzi Street, and in 2015 the City acknowledged it was already overcrowded.^[7] The problem of overcrowding is exacerbated by COVID, as dog owners are forced to seek alternatives to properly exercise their cooped up canines. For many, off-leash play like fetch is crucial to wear dogs out, preventing destructive behaviors which result from poorly exercised animals. In Ashland, all other parks and trails require leashes, so owners must walk their dogs further distances and for longer durations. More off-leash dog parks would allow residents to minimize contact with wildlife while providing a safe space for outdoor recreation.

Dog parks should be treated as a component of Ashland's wildlife management program rather than just a trivial amenity. High fences keep out deer while dogs are free to play, decreasing the likelihood of contact with territorial bucks and protective does. Concentrated dog scents in dog parks deter deer, further diminishing the chances of dangerous wildlife encounters. Reducing neighborhood foot traffic increases safety for wildlife, pedestrians, vehicles, and the community as a whole.

While fenced off-leash dog parks are not a cure all, the benefits outweigh the objections. Dog owners have long understood that off-leash areas require common sense and personal accountability. In using parks, dog owners are responsible for to ensure humans and pets are safe, and common areas are kept clean. Admittedly, some pets have behavior issues that prevent owners from using these areas, so dog parks do not eliminate the need for leashed walks through neighborhoods. However, reducing neighborhood foot traffic increases safety for wildlife, pedestrians, and vehicles. Every little bit helps.

As COVID forces our community to make hard choices about health, dog parks should be celebrated as a safe option for local recreation. Off-leash areas, such as the existing two-acre facility on Perozzi Street, offer wide open outdoor spaces for social distancing. Designating new off-leash areas will alleviate the overcrowding problem at the dog park on Perozzi Street. Ashland residents should continue to avoid gathering in crowded areas but should be permitted to exercise their dogs off-leash when it can be done safely.

Ashland's plan for a second dog park should not be another COVID fatality. A second Dog Park was approved as a Parks Commission goal in BN 15-17.^[8] The second dog park was considered “a top priority” in the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) 2019-21 biennium budget.^[9] Despite this, APRC has been forced to reallocate funds as part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).^[10] **Although budget cuts are a setback, they should not be taken as an excuse for inaction.**

As noted in the June 10, 2020, ARPC public comments, there are lower-cost alternatives to the full-scale development of the proposed second dog park on East Main Street.^[11] **Ashland could build a lower-cost version of the previously conceived second dog park. Alternately, Ashland could designate an existing open space park as an off-leash area, rather than crafting a new space from whole cloth.**

Ashland has numerous open space parks that could quickly be converted into off-leash areas to address the pressing need.^[12] Per the APRC, existing open space properties^[13] in Ashland include:

- Ashland Pond at the end of Glendower Street;
- Burnson Property, 327 Granite Street;
- Cottle Property, accessed from Terrace St/Ashland Loop Road or Herbert Street;
- Granite Property, 255 Granite Street;
- Hald Strawberry Park, accessed from the end of Sunnyview Street or across from Hitt Road on Strawberry Lane;
- Kestrel Property, on Kestrel Parkway (off of North Mountain Avenue);
- Lawrence Property, near 327 Granite Street;
- Liberty Street Park, near 855 Liberty Street;
- Oredson-Todd Woods, near 2260 Lupine Drive; and
- Riverwalk, west of North Mountain Park.

Any number of these locations could be designated as an off-leash area, and some already are fenced with sanitation stations. Adding features like double gate systems or fences for separate large and small dog areas could be much easier and cost effective than building entirely new parks from scratch. APRC already provides nearly 70 WoofWaste dispensers in the Ashland area.^[14] With budget constraints, ARPC can rely on those existing amenities rather than expending significant funds to put in new sanitation stations. When financially feasible in the future, ARPC can install additional sanitation dispensers and other amenities to improve any newly designated off-leash dog park.

Problem solving amidst a pandemic and financial crisis requires flexible, outside-the-box thinking. Designating existing open space areas as off-leash dog parks would be a fiscally responsible way to solve the above issues with deer, dogs, and our community. While pivoting to a new plan would take some effort, the City and ARPC should take a fresh look given the unfortunate fiscal outlook.

Despite budget cuts, the City of Ashland has the power to make our community safer and healthier by creating new off-leash dog parks. Please make community development in this area a priority in reprioritizing the City's capital improvement projects.

Thank you for your consideration and public service.

Sincerely,

Molly Silver

Ashland OR, 97520

[1] Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, *Aggressive deer reported in Ashland and east Medford: Residents urged to leash dogs, not feed wildlife*, (July 1, 2020) available at: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2020/07_July/070120.asp

[2] David Stroge, *Oregon residents encountering aggressive deer*, usatoday.com (July 2, 2020) available at: <https://ftw.usatoday.com/2020/07/oregon-residents-encountering-aggressive-deer>

[3] Mark Freeman, *Deer on the Attack*, Mail Tribune (June 30, 2020) available at: <https://mailtribune.com/news/top-stories/deer-on-the-attack-in-jackson-county>; Jamie Parfitt, *The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife office in Central Point is warning people to watch out for aggressive deer in southern Oregon after several incidents*, kdrv.com/ (July 1, 2020) available at <https://www.kdrv.com/content/news/Wildlife-officials-warn-of-aggressive-deer-after-dog-killed-woman-attacked-571591701.html>; *Aggressive Deer Reported In Ashland And East Medford*, (July 1, 2020) available at: <http://outdoornewsdaily.com/aggressive-deer-reported-in-ashland-and-east-medford/>

[4] Caitlin Fowlkes, *Deer terrorizes family in Ashland*, Mail Tribune (October 6, 2018) available at: https://www.nrtoday.com/deer-terrorizes-family-in-ashland/article_605eee1b-4cef-5256-bc7a-918f1c7d3cd4.html

[5] John Darling, *New law allows cities to cull urban deer, but idea is DOA in Ashland*, Mail Tribune (July 31, 2017), available at: <https://mailtribune.com/news/top-stories/new-law-allows-cities-to-cull-urban-deer-but-idea-is-doa-in-ashland>

[6] Juliet Grable, *Southern Oregon Towns Torn On Urban Deer Management*, Jefferson Public Radio (May 8, 2014), available at: <https://www.opb.org/news/article/southern-oregon-towns-torn-on-urban-deer-manageme/>

[7] Mariah Mills, *A second Ashland dog park is in the works*, kobi5.com (October 23, 2019), available at: <https://kobi5.com/news/local-news/a-second-ashland-dog-park-is-in-the-works-113629/>

[8] Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission, *Parks Commission Staff Report* (March 17, 2016), available at: http://www.ashland.or.us/files/Study_Session_Memo.pdf.

[9] City of Ashland, *2019-2021 Biennium*, pg. 1-29, (April 17, 2019) available at: http://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/Administrative%20Services/2019-21%20Budget%20Document/City_of_Ashland_2019-2021_Biennium_Budget.pdf; see also: <http://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=14907>

[10] ARCP, *Agenda For Study Session* (July 1, 2020), available at: http://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/APRC/2020/APRC%20Commission/_Packet_07_01_20_Studysession.pdf

[11] Bea Bacher-Wetmore, *CIP Reprioritization - Dog Park Comments* (June 10, 2020), available at: http://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/06_10_20_Public_Input_-_Dog_Park.pdf

[12] APRC Policy CP, *Dog Friendly Parks and Areas Policy*, available at: https://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/APRC/APRC%20Policies/CP_P_2005_01_24_DogFriendlyParksAndAreasPolicy.pdf

[13] APRC, *Dog Friendly Areas*, available at: <https://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=14451>

[14] APRC, *WoofWaste Stations*, available at: <http://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=16940>

From: E Hobson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 12:22 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for July 8 Regular Meeting

Good Morning,

To put in my two cents, I would love to see Ashland prioritize the Daniel Meyer pool rebuild. The closure due to Covid presents an opportunity to create something really special for when we're able to come back.

I would also love to see the Ashland Creek Park Basketball Court receive priority and dedication as well as improvements to the Senior Center because I think that would benefit folks here in the community, which is especially important when the tourism industry is down and people are looking to spend time out of their houses.

Thank you for listening,

Eleanor Hobson
She/Her/Hers

From: Jane Ferguson [REDACTED]
Date: 7/6/20 12:37 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Rachel Dials <rachel.dials@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Hunter Park Tennis Courts

Dear Parks & Recreation Department,

My husband & I are avid tennis players and enjoy playing at Hunter Park 3 -4 times a week. Many times when we go to play, the courts are nearly full or no courts are available. We have heard rumors that some courts may be transitioned to pickle ball courts. We are very concerned that this will negatively impact court availability.

We hope you can pursue other options to help pickleballers have more courts...and try to preserve Hunter Park for tennis only.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Please pass this note on to Michael Black and or the persons that may be in charge of these decisions.

Jane Ferguson,
[REDACTED]

From: Jo Wayles [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 7:41 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for July 8th Regular Meeting

Dear Park Commissioners:

I am writing regarding the discussion pertaining to adding pickleball lines to the Hunter Park tennis courts. I am strongly against this proposal.

The Lithia Park courts and the Hellman School courts have already been "pickleballed"; it is imperative that the Hunter courts remain dedicated to tennis. With the elimination of the Webster courts and the deterioration of Stadium courts, Hunter's 8 courts remain the only dedicated tennis courts in Ashland. These courts are used extensively by social tennis players, for instruction, and for the Ashland High School tennis teams. The tennis scene at Hunter is active and vibrant (and busy!).

I'm all for people enjoying pickleball. That said, I walk by the Lithia courts daily - at different times of the day - and VERY RARELY see 4 pickleball games going at once.

Please let us keep Hunter as a "public tennis club"!! As such, it is an asset to our community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jo Wayles
Ashland resident since 2003

PS Thanks for the new net on court 2. We really appreciate it. Court 3 net also is failing.. as are many of the fences. Thanks for taking care of our dear Hunter Park!

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From: Nora Knox [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Hunter Park Tennis Courts

To the Park Commission-

I am writing to ask you to keep the Hunter Park Tennis courts dedicated to tennis only. Ashland has lost the use of outdoor tennis courts at SOU and the courts at Lithia Park and Helman School have been painted and are used for pickleball. This leaves Hunter courts as the only public tennis courts available for play.

As a tennis player, it is extremely challenging to play on a court painted with lines for pickleball as it appears too chaotic. I look forward to playing outdoors all year and Hunter Park is the last place to play in Ashland. Since beginning to play this summer, the courts at Hunter Park are used extensively and are completely full each morning between 8-12.

Please do not take away the only dedicated tennis courts in town!

Nora Knox

From: Sally Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Save Hunter Park Tennis Courts!

I am writing this letter in support of the Hunter Park Tennis Courts for use as tennis only. I am thankful that the courts will be resurfaced.

I have been very pleased, and amazed, that the courts have been in full use all summer -- often no courts available. Without University courts, these tennis courts need to be maintained for tennis only. There seems to be ample court space for pickle ball at Helman School and at Lithia Park; and in Talent. Also, I see a conflict of interest on the Park Board when a paid instructor makes a proposal for more pickleball courts to fill his needs.

Thank you for your consideration. Sally Jones

From: Joanne Beckett [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for July 8 Regular Meeting

Dear Commissioners,

I am a tennis player who plays regularly at Hunter Park. I am asking that the commissioners preserve the tennis courts for tennis use and not paint pickle ball lines. The tennis courts at Lithia and Helman are painted with pickle ball lines. Also at Lithia, the courts are reserved for pickle ball only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8am to 11 am. (Prime summer hours) Curiously, there are no similar reservations for tennis only. Further, signs on courts all across the country stating "no bicycles, no skateboards, no rollerblades" because they really mess up the surface. Yet I understand with the resurfacing project the commission is considering allows cross use of bicycle polo. This makes no sense and will simply degrade the surface. The courts at Hunter Park are our last vestige of outdoor facilities as the college courts are gone and the others are marked up for pickle ball. And during this time especially, playing out in the fresh and open air is essential.

I understand that one of the sitting commissioners, Joel Heller, is a paid pickle ball instructor. If he is permitted to vote on this issue I view this as a serious conflict of interest. Mr Heller must recuse himself from all pickle ball related matters.

Joanne Beckett

From: Victoria Sheadel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 9:33 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for July 8 Regular Meeting

Hi Sean,

I am writing as a member of the Ashland community and the local tennis community. I understand that some of the Hunter Park tennis courts are being considered for pickleball and more bike polo.

I strongly object to any further conversion of the Hunter Park courts.

Pickleball: there are already two sites in town with pickleball lines, one in Lithia Park and the other at Helman School. The addition of these lines makes it very difficult to play tennis as the lines confuse players and impair line calls. It seems there is more than enough in town, along with several other Rogue Valley locations (including a new dedicated pickleball outdoor facility in East Medford), to satisfy the pickleball population. Also, I understand that council member Joel Heller, a paid pickleball instructor, is on the park commission and will be voting on these matters. I believe he should recuse himself from any votes on this matter as there's a clear conflict of interest there.

Bike Polo: I've already spent a good deal of time trying to talk to the parks department about the damage pickleball does to the tennis courts. It should be limited to single court, in my opinion, and not be expanded so as not to further damage more courts.

I have been involved in the Big Al's Tennis Tournament, an Ashland tradition for 40+ years. Many out of the area players have stopped coming to the tournament due to our lack of courts (9 courts at SOU) and the lack of *quality* courts. So many other communities value and maintain their courts, unlike Ashland as of late. We have continuously asked for more funds to be used towards repair (mainly large cracks down several of the Hunter Park courts) but to no avail. Now more than ever in the time of Covid, we need outdoor recreational facilities. The tennis community is strong here in our town, as I know I speak for many.

I urge you to reconsider not expanding the pickleball and bike polo courts; instead, maintain what we do have so that we won't have to spend more money to resurface and restore the courts back to tennis standards.

Thanks for your time & consideration,
Victoria Sheadel

From: Ed Laskos [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Hunter Park

We would like to voice our objection to the proposed alteration to the Hunter Park tennis courts.

Hunter Park has long been the jewel of the tennis facilities of Ashland, the only ones in town without pickleball markings. Not only has it served the day-to-day tennis needs of our local citizens, but also has been the main stage of Big Al's Tournament.

This tourney annually has brought in hundreds of players from the northwest and California. They, of course, spend money on our local restaurants, bars and motels. To degrade the courts with unsightly markings from pickleball, and the tire tracks from bike polo, would probably lead to the death of this event that has been enjoyed for 45 years.

We would also ask that Joel Heller, professional pickleball instructor and proselytizer be recused from any discussion or action by the board.

Ed and Sharon Laskos
1420 Fielder St.
Ashland

[REDACTED] voice and text

From: James Yang [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Hunter Park tennis courts

Hello Sean,

My name is James Yang and I'm a tennis player here in Ashland. I'm writing in support of maintaining the courts for use of tennis players against the idea of permanent pickleball lines on the courts. Here are some thoughts in support of that:

- * lines on the court are extremely distracting and considered mostly unusable by serious tennis players
- * The courts are used by Ashland high School tennis boys and girls team
- * Big Al's tennis tournament is hosted at these courts and is a source of revenue for the city
- * Use of the tennis courts for tennis has been a standby for many years and is increasing during covid-19. The 8 courts have been nearly full on many mornings with tennis players in the past few weeks that I have seen.
- * I have seen temporary pickleball lines that they can put down and pick up when they're done

Also my understanding is that Joel heller is on the Parks commission and also in support of the pickleball lines. I believe he should recuse himself in this discussion and situation.

Thank you
James yang

From: Kelly Sacks [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for July 8 Regular Meeting

Dear APRC,

I am an avid tennis player, a beginning pickle ball player and a member of the Ashland community since 1986.

I am writing to implore you to refrain from transitioning the Hunter Park Tennis Courts into multi-use courts.

We already feel the loss of all of the college courts. The use of the Lithia and Helman courts are no longer desirable due to the permanent and confusing lines for pickleball. In addition, the Lithia courts are now reserved for pickleball only during prime hours, three days a week.

With the Helman and Lithia courts already lined, why not dedicate them to pickleball until the courts at the golf course can be built? These four courts can satisfy 64 pickleball players at once!

The Hunter Park courts are also used for parks and recs programs, high school team practices and hosting of other high school teams, local tournaments and even some USTA Play. While pickleball and tennis can surely coexist within our community, I think all players will agree that having dedicated courts apart from each other is the best for all. Lining courts with both lines is confusing and makes line calls difficult.

The courts at Hunter park are teeming with tennis players these days. People are often waiting for a court to open. Many people play there year-round. And while some may want to downplay the size of the tennis community, has any real research been done by a neutral source?

As this issue has come up in the time of covid-19, please consider that tennis is listed as a low risk activity as the players are generally well over the recommended six feet apart. The nature of pickleball and the size of the court brings more people closer together more often. Inviting larger, closer groups onto the tennis courts puts at risk those people who are trying to maintain a distance.

Additionally, if you were to travel to tennis courts across the country, you would encounter many a sign reading "skateboards, bicycles and rollerblades are not allowed on the courts". This is because they ruin the surfaces. Which leads to more costly resurfacing. Bike polo is really hard on the courts. And the nets.

Please, keep the last of our playable outdoor tennis courts just that: tennis courts.

Lastly, if it is true that sitting commissioner Joel Heller is a paid pickle ball instructor, then his input and votes on any pickleball related business has, at the very least, the appearance of a conflict of interest and he should recuse himself from all related matters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelly Sacks

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From: Charile [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public testimony for July 8th meeting

To whom it may concern: Please do not resurface the Hunter Park tennis courts for multi use, these are the last courts tennis players have outside. The Lithia Park tennis courts already have pickle ball lines on them, and are reserved Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings for pickle ball something unavailable for tennis players, and the college courts are gone, we do not have other options. It is really important especially in these times of Covid-19 to be able to get outside in the fresh air and be able to play. Please leave tennis players with one set of courts that they will be able to play on.

Respectfully,

Mary

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From: Pat Bibee [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 11:35 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for July 8 Regular Meeting

To: The Parks Commission
Re: Hunter Park

Please keep Hunter Park for tennis - not a multi sport facility. Bicycles, skateboards and rollerblades really mess up the surface. Pickle ball lines are very distracting and are available on many other courts around the city.

Tennis is such a great sport for all ages and abilities. It's so important to have an outside place to play, especially in this time of COVID-19.

Thank you,
Pat Bibee

From: G.A. PATTON [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Forum July 8 Regular meeting

Dear Parks and Rec Commissioners,

As a member of the tennis community in Ashland I would like to make comments in regards to adding pickleball lines to the Hunter Park tennis courts. Once the lines were painted on the courts at Helman school tennis play at that site dropped off significantly. The lines are bright yellow and very distracting for tennis play. Those courts have been routinely used for Big Al's Tournament but I got so many complaints from participants in 2018 that I discontinued their use when I directed the tournament last year.

I have polled many tennis players in the last week. The majority of us feel strongly that pickleball lines should not be painted on the Hunter Park courts. It is fun to play tennis at Lithia Park but the courts usually have shadows as well as pine needles and leaves so most serious players play at Hunter. If pickleball lines (subtle) were painted on the Lithia courts the pickleball community would have two sites and 8 courts between Lithia Park and Helman School.

The sports of tennis and pickleball share several similarities, including players. However, it is hard to play both activities side by side because of the noise factor. Any tennis player that plays at or above the intermediate level relies on hearing the sound of the ball off the opponent's strings to gauge whether the ball was hit cleanly as well as its spin and pace. The loudness of the pickleball paddle striking the ball prevents that.

I hope that the August business meeting will be open to the public and that the tennis community can interact with the Board when the pickleball/tennis issue is on the agenda. In the meantime if you have any questions or comments you would like to make I would be happy to field them.

As a tennis player and member of the community since 1985 I want to thank the Board for helping make recreation a priority in Ashland. I know this is a tough time for the city and the Parks department and I appreciate you addressing our concerns.

Thanks again,
Gail Patton

From: mark greenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 12:27 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Hunter Park

I am writing to you as a longtime Ashland resident and avid tennis player. I will make a succinct argument to use Lithia Park for pickleball and preserve Hunter Park as a dedicated tennis facility.

Hunter serves the entire tennis community and has for years. It is often filled with tennis players of all ages. In the Spring it is used to by AHS for their District matches and has been the site of Championship Tournament. Moreover it is the site of Big Al's which is an iconic sanctioned USTA tennis tournament and draws players from all over the Northwest and Northern California to come to Ashland for at least a long weekend, generating business and tax revenue which is sorely needed especially now.

Putting pickleball lines on the courts will make them unusable for high level tennis. The reality is that the lines are loathed by tennis players. In addition pickleball lines will severely impact the Tennis Coaches' ability to train young inexperienced High School players, leaving the HS with a substandard facility.

The courts at Lithia are ideal for pickleball and are successfully used there now. In addition the courts at Helmand are rarely used and would serve the same purpose. Of course the dedicated proposed pickleball facility at Oak Knoll would be ideal and serve the entire community well.

Please consider that lining the Hunter Park courts for pickleball is not a simple way to obtain multi-use functionality, but rather will seriously downgrade the tennis ambiance. Please do not ruin our best public tennis option.

Sincerely,

Mark Greenberg

P.S. I would be happy to volunteer to work together with any reps of Parks and Rec or pickleball Reps to find a mutually acceptable solution.

From: Peter Finkle [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 12:29 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public Testimony for July 8 Regular Meeting

Hello Parks Commissioners,

I recently learned that with the budget cuts (and I thank you for acting quickly on that!), the Hunter Park tennis courts may be affected.

I am sure you know that Ashland already lost five courts when the new SOU dorms were built. SOU seems to be phasing out their remaining courts, which leaves Hunter Park as the primary place to play tennis.

The high school tennis teams play at Hunter, as do recreational players from Ashland and surrounding towns.

Big Al's tennis tournament brings players to town from N. Calif. and all over Oregon, as well as being an important community event.

Please do not paint permanent pickle ball lines on the Hunter Park courts or expand the bike polo beyond what's already there. Tennis is a lifetime sport (my father played until age 89 and I hope to match him) and we need Hunter Park as dedicated tennis courts for our community.

Thanks for all you do. I realize these are tough, nearly impossible choices, you are being asked to make.

All the best,

Peter Finkle

From: Cody Philips [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Tennis

Hello,
I am 26 years old and have been playing tennis since I was 5. Hunter park has long been a tennis park that has held and still holds a variety of UTR and USTA tournaments every year. I plead that you hear the tennis community in our effort to preserve the tennis courts at hunter park for the use of tennis only. There is a huge tennis community in southern Oregon that uses these courts daily.

Thank you,
Cody Philips

From: Hanna Greenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 12:58 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Hunter Park Tennis Courts

Hi Sean,
I am writing to you to please keep the Ashland Hunter Park tennis courts as a dedicated tennis facility. As a lifelong tennis player who has grown up in Ashland and gone through the Ashland Public Schools and Parks and Rec programs, Hunter Park has served as a beautiful space to play competitive tennis and teach children and adults of all ages and abilities. I have led summer Parks and Rec tennis camps for multiple summers, and it is crucial in teaching the sport to have the courts unobstructed by pickleball lines. As a competitive high school and collegiate tennis player, it is extremely valuable to have a dedicated tennis facility to promote the sport and be able to host tournaments, camps and other tourism/revenue driving events.

While the rise of pickleball popularity is very exciting for the community, I do think there are other alternatives without sacrificing the largest tennis facility in town.

Thank you for your consideration,

Hanna Greenberg

From: Marilyn Schreiber [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Hunter Park

I am writing to ask you to reconsider transforming the tennis courts at Hunter Park and using them for pickle ball as well. Having played on courts that are used for both, it is very distracting and difficult to play for tennis use. I have been a tennis player and long time resident in Ashland and have enjoyed this public tennis facility. Although pickle ball is very popular, so is tennis and almost everyone who plays, will say it is very difficult and less enjoyable to play on with the addition of pickle ball lines. I believe Lithia Park should be used for pickle ball and Hunter Park should remain a tennis facility.

thank you.
Sincerely,
Marilyn Schreiber