

From: [RUTH ANN CONNER](#)
To: [Arellano Sandy](#)
Subject: Public Works Mtg.
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 9:39:58 PM

Letter to City of Fort Bragg Public Works/Aug.11,2022

Dear Committee Members

I am asking that you PLEASE do not destroy the one remaining good public tennis court in the Fort Bragg area. Painting the pickleball lines, in addition to the tennis court lines, is so very distracting and annoying that that it ruins the tennis game. Pickleball players already have 2 courts lined for them: 1 tennis court is divided into 2 pickleball courts. Pickleball calls for more players and is a much more social gathering type sport which is often very distracting and annoying to tennis players. Please do not ruin the one good public court we tennis players still have available to us.

Is there any chance that the old middle school courts could be renovated into tennis courts or pickleball courts?

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Ann Conner

From: [Joanna Wigginton](#)
To: [Arellano Sandy](#)
Subject: Tennis Court
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 7:39:45 PM

Dear FB City Committee,

My tennis buddy have offered detailed and thoughtful letters. They cover the major points that need to be addressed. I'm just adding my name and plea to allow the one remaining tennis court publicly available to remain a playable, usable court!

Thank you.

Joanna Wigginton

From: [bill blackston](#)
To: [Arellano Sandy](#)
Subject: Tennis courts
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 6:55:42 PM

Hello Sandy...

I'm not going to repeat Mary Kay's letter as she has covered my feelings about the line striping of our only remaining court for the use of pickleball. These 2 courts were designed and built for tennis. Please help these people find a local place to play their game without destroying our tennis courts. These are two very incompatible court games and we have been dealing with this for much too long. Please help! Thank you for hearing us.

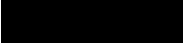
Maribeth Schreiber



[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Diane Snell](#)
To: [Arellano Sandy](#)
Subject: Turning a tennis court into a pickle ball court
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 5:58:37 PM

I support the construction of more pickle ball courts, but it does not make sense to turn a tennis court into a pickle ball court. Pickle ball players do not use the tennis net, and they do not need the tall fences. They bring their own nets. Pickle ball lines can be painted on any flat surface. Please do not damage the only remaining tennis court at Bainbridge Park.

Sincerely,
Diane Snell
Tennis player


From: [Andy Gabbert](#)
To: [Arellano Sandy](#)
Subject: proposed pickle ball courts at Bainbridge
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 11:25:43 PM

Sandy Arellano,

The great thing about pickleball is that it's a portable sport; meaning participants bring their own net and gear with them to play. Currently the city has striped one of two tennis courts on the entire Mendocino coast to be used for pickleball. This has created a high demand for the one remaining court.

I am a big fan of outdoor sports, and in particular, racquet sports that can be played outdoors on public courts. I always like to help find solutions. Pickleball requires painted stripes and pavement only and doesn't require a fence (ball does not travel) or net. I recommend using a portion of the paved property outside of the tennis courts or within another city-owned property. The two existing tennis courts are physically tied to that site because tennis players require a fence, stripes, posts, and nets.

The nearest public tennis courts are hours away at Healdsburg High School. I hope the tennis court can remain for tennis and that we can find another recommendation as shared above.

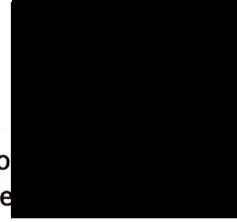
-Andy

Andy Gabbert


From: [Louise](#)
To: [Arellano Sandy](#)
Subject: tennis
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2022 11:27:46 AM

good day, I am unable to be at the Zoom meeting today...Here are my thoughts on Tennis vs P>Ball. This a.m. there were 14 pickleballers on the Bainbridge courts...they need their own place to play...maybe at the Starr center or at the old Middle school courts near the Sr.Ctr. They Cannot hog up the only 2 tennis courts we have in town...thanks you for hopefully getting this resolved to benefit both groups...Louise Mariana, [REDACTED]

John Curtis



Ho
Ce



Dear Fort Bragg City Council,
To whom it may concern.
Re: Bainbridge
tennis courts,

It has come to my attention the pickleball players want the second court striped for pickleball. I have played tennis for many years on the Bainbridge courts before the courts were resurfaced and restriped a few years ago. The F.B. city did an excellent job! However, at that time one of the courts was also striped for pickleball making tennis a little tricky to tell if the ball was in or out. I fully support pickleball as a sport. However, I hope the second court is not re-striped for pickleball. There are many folks coming out almost daily to play pickleball and have a great time, so I hope a permanent pickleball court is established somewhere else like maybe the Aquatic center parking lot? Or???

Thank You,

John Curtis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Curtis".

8/11/22

To: Public Works and Facilities Committee
Fr: Alis Valencia

Re: Discussion of pickleball/tennis courts

I am pleased that options for alternatives to pickleball in Bainbridge Park were brought up in this afternoon's meeting. The time and money involved to create new courts, however, indicates that substantial time—at least 1–3 years—will pass before this happens. The problem is that we need additional courts *now*. And the solution is simple: stripe the second tennis court for pickleball as well.

In my comment I noted that pickleball players are currently disadvantaged by having to play on courts striped for tennis. My question is Why should tennis players not be similarly disadvantaged? Because they were there first? Circumstances have changed; the city has a responsibility to serve both sports equally.

This past Tuesday morning, tennis players were on both courts at Bainbridge, and pickleball players had to wait an hour and a half to play. That's the nature of the situation, which can be alleviated by setting schedules for exclusive playing time and time limits for court use outside that time.

Finally, it's not as if the dual-striped court eliminates a spot for tennis: tennis players use it frequently. Compromise, not exclusion and delay, is needed.



My name is William(Bill)Ward. I am a local artist and avid tennis player. I am an advocate for building new facilities not to destroy or eliminate existing ones. I am not sure when the two existing courts were constructed, or how long the tennis players anxiously awaited before the glorious project was completed. But I can assure you, what the pickle-ballers are asking is not a continuation of that glorious event, it is the end of tennis play in Fort Bragg, permanently. The end though has already begun. One of the courts has already been painted to make it pickle-ball ready. The lines make it very confusing to play tennis on. What was designed as two tennis courts has transformed to two pickle-ball courts and one tennis court. I have witnessed pickle-ballers demanding we get off "their court" so they can play. When pickle-ballers arrive, there are ten to 15 or more players, meaning, if the second court is painted we would never get access, because they make a day out of it. As tennis players, we have not actively tried to re-claim our court, as the pickle-ballers are trying to take our last court away from us. The acceptable and amlikeable solution would be to build a pickle ball court or pickle-ball complex. Its never acceptable to mix sports. Basket ball, Football, Baseball, facilities built separeately, never joined.

-----Original Message-----

From: K Silva <hiksilva@mcn.org>

Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 10:18 AM

To: Peters, Lindy <lpeters2@fortbragg.com>; Albin-Smith, Tess <talbinsmith@fortbragg.com>; Smith, John <jsmith@fortbragg.com>; Arellano Sandy <sarellano@fortbragg.com>

Subject: Public Comment on Public Works Committee Meeting 11 August 2022 Agenda Item No. 3

Dear Councilmembers Peters and Albin-Smith~

I can't attend the meeting this afternoon and I have a comment I hope you will consider.

I hope that the school district will allow pickleball playing on the unused courts at the middle school or that the pickleball group is willing to put in a little work to fund or find funding for creating courts for their sport at a location that does not take away someone else's ability to play their sport (tennis) anymore. The tennis players should have their courts returned with the pickleball lines removed and so two tennis games can go on again at any time.

The Bainbridge Park Master Plan, on page 13, states " CDC staff had received requests to begin allowing soccer or pickle ball on the courts. Presently, kids and adults looking for hard surfaces that could accommodate activities other than tennis are available two blocks to the east of Bainbridge Park at Fort Bragg Middle School." and "This plan recommends maintaining the limitation of court use to only tennis to protect the long-term quality of the courts."

The Master Plan was created with a lot of public input and planning. It was a huge surprise and disappointment when lines for two pickleball courts were painted on one of the tennis courts without input from or notice to the tennis players or general public soon after the Master Plan was completed. It would have been more fair to create pickleball courts elsewhere rather than taking over one of the two tennis courts from the tennis players. Perhaps the pickleball players could raise funds and look into other funding opportunities to create their own courts if the unused courts at the middle school are unavailable. Look at what the dog park group was able to accomplish at the C V Starr Center without pushing others out of their recreational opportunities.

Right now, the greatest number of tennis games that can ever be played at the courts is two, but only if no pickleball is being played. There are now two pickleball courts taking over one of the tennis courts, meaning two pickleball games can be played at any time. Why create a situation to allow a total of four

pickle ball courts but still only two tennis courts, neither of which would be striped properly for tennis? Please don't add distracting pickleball lines to the remaining tennis court at Bainbridge Park. Those lines really are confusing to both new tennis players and those whose eyes are getting older.

And contrary to what some pickleball players have said, the courts are used by more tennis players than pickleball players throughout the day and tennis is gaining in popularity. They are just not as organized as a group, not all English speakers, and not necessarily aware of the request to add pickleball lines to the only remaining proper tennis court. Tennis playing opportunities should not be diminished and the tennis courts should not have extra confusing lines just because another group wants to take over their dedicated courts. It's not right. I urge you to do the right thing and let the tennis players have their courts back, properly striped, and steer the pickleball group to be considerate and find or create a place to play that does not just grab and take over the location where another popular activity is already taking place.

Sincerely~

Kathy Silva

August 10, 2022

Letter to City of Fort Bragg Public Works and Facilities Committee to be included in the agenda packet and for public inspection for the August 11, 2022 meeting

Dear Committee Members:

I have lived on the Mendocino County Coast since 1979. From 1996 to 2016 I served as a teacher and principal with the Ft. Bragg Unified School District. Throughout that time, I have played tennis on the Bainbridge courts. As the FBUSD courts at the Middle School deteriorated and became unavailable for play, and now the new FBHS courts have been restricted to school use only, and locked from public use, the availability of the Bainbridge courts has become the sole, free, public tennis court serving the Ft. Bragg, coastal area. On weekends and holiday weekends the courts are often unavailable (our coastal visitors come to play during these times, besides those locals that have M-F work schedules).

Sometime, during the past two years, extra lines were added to the east Bainbridge court, without any input from the tennis community. Then, the explosion of pickle ball began to emerge. Now, through the grapevine, we hear that the other court is threatened. Things have gotten tense between the pickle ball and tennis groups, and I'm listing here the reasons why the sports are incompatible on the same courts, and possible solutions.

INCOMPATIBILITIES

- 1. Tennis is a game which requires concentration and focus and usually involves 2 players (singles) or 4 players (doubles). It requires running in the back courts and to the alleys to return balls in play. It requires a much larger play area. People coming onto the court from the only gate on the west side cause interruption of play and distraction. With tennis, there is a respected "courtesy of**

the court” which requires no interruption while the game is in play.

2. Pickle Ball is a much more social and high-impact sport. Two courts are set up on each side of the tennis court with portable nets which the players install each time they play. This installation is noisy. There are 4 players to a net, so 8 people are on the court at one time. Also, players waiting to play, come with chairs to watch the action. At times, music has been played and the noise rivals the young folks on the basketball courts with their boom boxes. Add the ball and paddle noise, and you have a pretty high-impact court environment.
3. People unfamiliar with the “Courtesy of the Court” (not entering the court when an active game is underway, returning stray balls from another court when play has stopped and been acknowledged by the statement “ball on the court”) continue to be unaware of court etiquette even though numerous conversations have been had.
4. Playing on a tennis court that has been lined for pickle ball is very distracting for tennis players. There are so many lines in your visual field when you’re trying to return shots. Tennis players come earlier and earlier to get the court without lines.
5. Pickle Ball is sweeping the retirement community across the U.S. and that’s a good thing. People are out socializing, getting exercise, and having fun. They need their own facilities. They don’t need a high fence or nets. Tennis players have different requirements.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

1. Have the city of Ft. Bragg open discussion with the Ft. Bragg Unified School District to open their courts (they have 4 beautiful courts), and allow the public to use them outside of school times. Perhaps they could designate two courts for tennis, and two courts for pickle ball. I’m sure pickle ball would be a great addition to their PE program as it is more less physically demanding than tennis and might get more young people interested in exercising and having fun.

Commented [MKC1]:

- 2. Have the city of Ft. Bragg open discussion with the Recreation Center to develop pickle ball courts.**
- 3. Have the city of Ft. Bragg look at locations at Bainbridge and elsewhere to install pickle ball facilities as it is a growing interest among the retired community and visitors to the area.**
- 4. In the meantime, before a permanent solution is found, have the city of Ft. Bragg install a gate on the NE corner of the Bainbridge Courts so pickle ball players could come and go without interfering with tennis play on the west court.**
- 5. Take the pickle ball lines off the East Bainbridge court as they were installed without community input.**

Thanks for having this discussion, so everybody involved feels listened to, and a solution that works for both sides can be created. We can do this!

Mary K Champagne

FILE COPY

July 27, 2022

Dear Fort Bragg City Council,

This is in regard to the proposed addition of pickle ball lines on the tennis court at Bainbridge Park. As part of the tennis community in Fort Bragg, I ask you to please not add these additional lines. There is a large and active community of tennis players in Fort Bragg who consider tennis to be an important part of life. The pickle ball lines would make our game confusing and frustrating.

The pickle ball players have been made aware of this fact and despite this, lobbied the City Council to add lines to the only remaining public court in Fort Bragg. Efforts by the tennis community to amicably share the space have been ignored. Efforts have also been made to collaborate with pickle ball players to find other areas to make pickle ball courts which are easier to relocate because they do not require the space or the fencing.

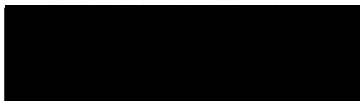
I urge you to explore options other than damaging our last tennis court. We understand pickle ball is a growing sport and we support encouraging physical activity. However pickle ball is a very different sport than tennis. Tennis requires focus and quiet while pickle ball is social and loud.

Our tennis community is diverse and growing. Some of us have been here for many years and some of us have moved here recently. Bainbridge Park is vital and we appreciate the City Council's efforts improve it. Please take all of us into consideration and do not add more lines to the tennis court.

Thank you for your consideration,



Andrea Parker



RECEIVED
JUL 28 2022
BY: SP