



CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
Parks and Visitors Services Committee Meeting
206 N Fifth St

AGENDA

Regular Meeting

August 10, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME
- 2) OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Approval of February May 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Jacksonville Review Column Report - Kristen Sullivan
- 3) ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - a. Ashland Devo Cross Country Mountain Bike Team
 - b. Pickleball Court Discussion
 - c. City Parks to-do list
 - d. Forest Park to-do list
- 4) OTHER BUSINESS:
 - a. City Council Liaison Report – Councilor McClain
 - b. Public Works Report – Max Woody, Public Works Operations Manager
- 5) PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minute limit per person)
- 6) NEXT MEETING: TBD
- 7) ADJOURN



Parks and Visitor Services Committee

May 26, 2021

Committee Members Present: Chair, Omer Kem, Kristen Sullivan, Kristin Swartz, Gary Sprague,

Staff Present: Public Works Operations Manager Max Woody, Recorder Watson

Volunteer Present: Tony Hess

1) CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME 5:00 PM

- Approve minutes
- Election of Vice President – Kristin Schwartz moved to elect Kristin Sullivan to the position of Vice President. Gary Sprague seconded the motion and the vote was favorable.
- Election of Recording Secretary – Omer Kem moved to elect Kristin Schwartz to the position of Recording Secretary. Kristin Sullivan seconded the motion and the vote was favorable.

2) OLD BUSINESS:

a. Jacksonville Review column report – Kristen Sullivan

- Kristin Sullivan – last column was in the April issue and next column will be on fire prevention and put in the July or August issue.

3) ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- City Parks To-Do-List
 - Tennis & Pickle Ball Courts need repair. Currently getting bids
 - The Wall at the water feature in Doc Griffin Park needs repairs before opening up for the summer of 2021
- Forest Park To-Do-List
 - Gary Sprague introduces new volunteers for Forest Park – Tyler Giles, Neil Smith & Dave Smith. They briefly spoke about their passion for the park and how/when they will be volunteering their time. Their main focus will be on maintenance and safety for the mountain bike trails.
 - Gary Sprague speaks to the Suspension Bridge. There will be a ribbon-cutting June 5th at 10:00 am
 - Gary Sprague speaks to placing signs about fire prevention at Forest Park and doing maintenance to kiosks.

4) OTHER BUSINESS:

a. City Council Liaison Report – Councilor McClain

- Councilor McClain speaks to main focus of City Council – ethics and rules for Council and focusing on fire safety for the city.
- Councilor McClain speaks to the new City Council format of one regular session per month and one work session per month.

b. Public Works Report – Operations Manager Max Woody

- Max Woody speaks to repairs and seasonal projects at Jacksonville parks
- Max speaks to MRA doing grading work on roads at Forest Park

5) PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minute limit per person)

6) NEXT MEETING: July 14, 2021, 5:00 PM

7) ADJOURN: 5:51 PM

Angela Watson

From: Jeff Alvis <administrator@jacksonvilleor.us>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 2:38 PM
To: Linda Graham
Cc: mayor@jacksonvilleor.us; Max Woody; Angela Watson
Subject: Re: Pheasant Meadows Park issues

Max, please see this gets put on the parks committee agenda

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED

JUL 30 2021

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

On Jul 30, 2021, at 11:34 AM, Linda Graham <info@scheffels.com> wrote:

During last year's COVID-19 shutdowns, the neighbors noticed that the tennis court at the end of East D Street had been taken over by pickle-ball players. It seemed sporadic, at first, and we in the neighborhood employed patience considering folks were trying to get outside and stay healthy. Well, they have grown in numbers and are overstepping the boundaries of a once quiet neighborhood. They start (weather permitting) around 7:30-8 am most mornings and don't usually end until it gets too hot to be out in the sun. Now, we have players coming back in the cool of the evenings. This past weekend, I had to walk up at 9 pm and ask them to call it a day. No one even acknowledged me but they did leave as it was getting too dark to play. I have had to point out to players on several occasions that they were parked in the "no parking" areas on the north side of East D Street and west side of Beverly Way. The constant noise from hitting the plastic balls on the court and cackling laughter and shouting of the players can wear thin. I took my grandsons to the playground at the park a couple of weeks ago and all the benches were taken up by players waiting their turn to play. The south side of East D Street is completely taken up with cars of players from the edge of the court to the west fire hydrant. The access gate to the adjacent pasture is always being blocked. This makes it difficult to care for the cattle and horse on their property. There are also dogs being tied up to the covered area of the park at its entrance which can cause problems with other dog owners walking into the area with their leashed pets. Most of the time, the dogs are leashed but it seems to be more common to see unleashed dogs in the park. Whether they belong to the pickle players or not isn't clear to me. I know this is the only tennis court in our fair city so we, as a neighborhood, understand there will be a certain amount of noise emulating from the court at various times. I suggest the following as possible solutions to try:

Clearly mark the south side of East D Street as a "no parking" all the way from the pasture gate to the western fire hydrant. Currently, parking is allowed. At the same time, improve the "no parking" area signs on the north side of East D Street as well as the southwest side of Beverly Way.

Schedule and sign approved pickle ball times which would also allow for tennis players to get a chance to play their sport. A possibility could be having pickle ball allowed 8 am to 8 pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday and 8 to noon only on Saturdays. That way, everyone could have a chance to use the park as intended. The court should be closed for any type of play from 8 pm to 8 am so that it could be enforced, upon complaint or police observation. Also, please prohibit the use of the ugly plastic orange constructing fencing that has been recently added to the court.

Please improve signs addressing unleashed pets in the park and make them more visible. These should also be posted at the east entrance to the park along the path.

This is a small, neighborhood park. It was never intended, nor designed to be, a regional destination facility. Your assistance in these matters would be appreciated. Thank you.

Linda Graham
1015 Beverly Way
P.O. 626
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Email: info@scheffels.com
Phone: (541) 261-9446

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

To: City of Jacksonville

From: Property Owners in the Pheasant Meadows Neighborhood

Re: Pickleball Noise, Vehicle Congestion, and Off-Leashed Dogs at Pheasant Meadows Neighborhood Park

Per a request from Max Woody, we are writing to describe the impact of the recent high-volume use of Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park on neighboring residential properties.

The aim of this letter is to describe the situation and propose workable solutions, NOT to complain and ask the city to “shut down pickleball play”.

History:

Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park was built as the homes in Pheasant Meadows were being built. Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park was not designed to be a destination park (such as Doc Griffin Park), but rather as a local neighborhood park (similar to Nunan Square Park). Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park was originally built (around 1999-2000) with one tennis court, a grass area, a picnic table, and four striped parking spaces. The playground was installed by community volunteers in approximately 2005. Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park does not have a bathroom.

As Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park was being built, the city proposed installing a practice “backboard” wall on the east fence of the tennis court. The late Stan Lyons of 815 Singler Lane requested the city not install the wall over concerns of the sound of a tennis ball bouncing off the wall. The city acknowledged and agreed not to install the wall. A plan to install a basketball hoop on the SE corner of the tennis court in the park was similarly canceled by request over the same noise concern.

In 2021, Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park became very popular with groups of people playing pickleball. This game involves two or four players striking a hard plastic ball with solid paddles over a short net. At Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park, players set up temporary nets (typically four at a time) across the tennis court. Often, this results in 16 people playing simultaneously.

Recently, green sunscreen fabric has been installed on the tall west fence of the court, as well as orange plastic netting, presumably to keep balls from rolling onto adjacent courts. Each seems unsightly and out of place.

Neighborhood Concerns: Noise, Congestion, Dogs Off-Leash

Noise:

A simple Google search shows that many communities nationwide are grappling with the noise of pickleball. Some have outright banned the play of the game when courts are near property lines. The sound of pickleball play echoes throughout much of the Pheasant Meadows neighborhood and parts of “Whippleville”. Reasons would seem to be:

1. Hard plastic balls repeatedly impacting the hard paddles.
2. The courts are elevated from Pheasant Meadows neighborhood. Most new pickleball courts (e.g., in east Medford) seem to be installed in a depression to help reduce the known noise.
3. Up to four games (16 players) playing at the same time.
4. Unlike the tennis court, pickleball courts are oriented north-south. This means half of players are hitting directly toward the Pheasant Meadows neighborhood.
5. At least four property lines are located within 100 feet of the court.
6. Play begins before 8am and (weather permitting) may continue until dark some evenings.

Vehicle Congestion:

As previously stated, Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park has four striped parking spaces. Residents in the area have commented about chaotic experiences at the corner of D Street and Beverley Way during times of busy pickleball activity.

Dogs Off-Leash:

When the heavy use of Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park began, some pickleball players brought their dogs and leashed them to trees or the chain-link fence between the court and the park walking path while they played pickleball. This action violates city ordinance (posted on sign at the park) regarding dogs in city parks. Presently, dogs are not commonly tied-up in the park, and we greatly appreciate the city addressing the issue.

Solutions

As previously stated, residents in the Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park area were asked to describe the situation. We also very much want to propose workable solutions, NOT to complain and ask the city to “shut down pickleball play”. So, let’s look at solutions:

Noise:

Reduce pickleball courts from four to two. This solution would bring the number of courts available at Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park a bit more in proportion to Valley-wide pickleball court availability. Currently, Jacksonville has four pickleball courts for a population of only approx. 3,000. Medford has approx. 20 courts for a population of approx. 85,000 residents. Most pickleball courts seem to be located at the large/destination Fichtner-Mainwaring Park, a 12-minute drive from Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park. Initially, players could use one of the two painted courts on each side of the existing tennis net. Then eventually one court on each side of the existing tennis court net could be painted for pickleball when scheduled court resurfacing is next performed.

If reducing to two courts does not sufficiently reduce pickleball noise, the addition of acoustic panels along the low chain link fence line on the north side of the court should be considered.

Vehicle Congestion:

Prohibit parking in non-marked areas. The city could provide signage indicating information about safe/legal parking options for those visiting the Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park. Reducing available pickleball courts from four to two would also logically reduce vehicle congestion.

Dogs Off-Leash:

Improved signage at the park. Signage at Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park could clarify city ordinance about dogs being off-leash in city parks as well as display information about the Waggin’ Tails Dog Park (located near the skate park).

Posted Court Access Times:

Additionally, court access for tennis during cooler parts of the day should also be available. A posted court schedule listing “tennis only” and “pickleball only” play times should be considered, at alternating 1.5 hour intervals, starting and ending with tennis because it is quieter than pickleball.

Sincerely,

Property Owners of:

215 N. 8th Street
265 N. 8th Street
635 E. D Street
715 E. D Street
755 E. D Street
1015 Beverly Way
1005 Beverly Way
810 815 Singler Lane
815 Singler Lane
820 Singler Lane
825 Singler Lane
830 Singler Lane
840 Singler Lane
845 Singler Lane
855 Singler Lane
860 Singler Lane
865 Singler Lane
875 Singler Lane
880 Singler Lane
885 Singler Lane
640 Carriage Lane

Note: Every property owner we spoke to, except two, agreed enthusiastically to support this letter.

Property Owners in support of the recent letter submitted to the City of Jacksonville regarding recent high-volume use of Pheasant Meadows neighborhood park:

215 N. 8th Street *[Signature]* 8.1.21

970 Beverly Way *[Signature]*

265 N. 8th Street *[Signature]* 8/1/21

530 Carriage Ln *[Signature]*

620 E. D St. *[Signature]*
635 E. D Street

715 E. D Street
745 E. D Street *[Signature]* Sandra Scott 8-1-21
755 E. D Street *[Signature]* 8.1.21

1015 Beverly Way *[Signature]* 8-1-21

1005 Beverly Way *[Signature]* 1 Aug 2021

810 Singler Lane *[Signature]* Barbara T. Dun

815 Singler Lane *[Signature]* 8/1/21

820 Singler Lane *[Signature]* Sandra Alley 8/4/21

825 Singler Lane *[Signature]* 8/1/21

830 Singler Lane Margaret McNeely 8/3/21
835 Singler Ln. *[Signature]* 8/1/21

840 Singler Lane *[Signature]* John McNeely 8/1/21

845 Singler Lane *[Signature]* 8/1/21

855 Singler Lane *[Signature]* Ted Jureson 8/1/21

860 Singler Lane *[Signature]*

865 Singler Lane *[Signature]* 8/1/21

875 Singler Lane Peggy Don Peffley 8/1/2021

880 Singler Lane *[Signature]* James R Fox 8/1/21

885 Singler Lane *[Signature]*

640 Carriage Lane *[Signature]* Felix M. Praeten

995 Beverly *[Signature]* 8/1/21
640 D Street Melinda Tackett 8/2/21

RECEIVED
AUG 05 2021
CITY OF JACKSONVILLE