

## CPBTC Report for the Tennis Club General Meeting 21 March 2022 – Dave Blanchard

Members: Bernie Wolf, Carol Pillsbury, Pam Maloney, Linda Hague, Bill Leary, Bob Benz, Larry Barclay

### Current Situation

At the GRF Planning Committee meeting on 10 March, Resident Services Director Jeff Matheson presented a plan for Creekside pickleball that included 4 pickleball courts, restrooms, a fountain and overhead shading and recommended they proceed with plans to present them to Walnut Creek for approval. Matheson said the plan had some obstacles but was doable. Instead the two pickleball players on the committee made the motion for a Sound study at Buckeye. One of the PB members said it might lead to a “cheaper” solution. The other said we need to be prepared in case approvals by the city break down. The motion passed in a 3 – 1 vote.

### Background

(Some dates may be inaccurate)

In 2013 tennis courts 7 and 8 were completed at Buckeye. The GRF Board had funded their construction to meet the needs of Rossmoor tennis and the Tennis Club programs.

In 2018 Jeff Matheson approached the Tennis Club president with a pickleclub proposal to take over courts 1 and 2. The president told him that would devastate Rossmoor tennis plans.

In early 2020 the tennis club president and VP agreed to meet with pickleball leads to discuss what could be done to get a great facility for Rossmoor pickleball. The pickleball leads offered a compromise plan: they would take over Buckeye courts 7 and 8 and would actively engage with the tennis club in supporting one another's programs. The tennis club said that wasn't a compromise it was a takeover.

In November and December 2020 the GRF Planning Committee reviewed pickleball plans to acquire Buckeye courts and other option including upgrading pickleball at Creekside. Many of our club members spoke in the Residents Forums of the GRF Planning Committee and the GRF Board meetings and had opinions published in the Rossmoor News about the drawbacks of converting the tennis courts to PB courts.

Apparently our voices were heard. In December 2020 the GRF Board unanimously approved \$300,000 to improve the pickleball courts at Creekside with the stipulation that the Buckeye tennis courts are out of consideration for pickleball use.

In the ensuing months, studies estimated that the cost of pb at Creekside might balloon to over a million dollars due to soil instability. So the new board again allowed the tennis court option to come alive along with several other options. Of the other options, three survive: Creekside, Buckeye and use of the park area outside of Rossmoor.

So our members again spoke at GRF meetings and addressed the Rossmoor News including the December 2021 Planning Committee meeting. At that meeting the committee proposed a plan to add one PB court to Creekside so the PB club would have four courts at Creekside and two in the Fitness Center. Jeff Matheson said “it seems that might be acceptable to the PickleBall club.”

Then at the 10 March 2022 planning committee meeting, Jeff Matheson said the next action for Creekside was to develop detailed plans which could be taken to the city for approval but two committee members, Bentley and Hamaji, who were both instrumental in developing the original initiative to use Buckeye courts for PB proposed studying the sound issue at Creekside before going ahead with proceeding at Creekside. Member Kathleen Stumpfel disagreed but was outvoted 3 to 1. So the Buckeye sound study proposal will go to the GRF board on March 31 for approval.

Each time the pickleball/Buckeye issue surfaced our members have successfully persuaded the GRF Board that putting pickleball at Buckeye would ruin our tennis programs. We have spoken in the Residents Forums and written letters to the Rossmoor News to successfully keep the PB initiative at bay each step of the way. Another factor that appears to have influenced Board decisions is the reporting by the News of the Planning Committee and GRF Board meetings. The RN writers have been very even-handed in their reporting, including both the issues and the voices of our people who spoke at the meetings.

So we should must continue to speak out in the Residents Forums and write news articles. Excellent articles have been written to the news lately by Ken Anderson, Bob Benz and Frank Haswell.

I’ve made a list of issues we should continue to address along with some new ones We should have as many people as possible speak at the 31 March meeting even if more than one person addresses the same point. The Rossmoor News creates pressure by referring to the number of people who spoke and quoting our speakers’ key points.

People who have spoken in the past should address the GRF Board again. Other members can pick a topic and talk about it so that we show a force in numbers. Talks can be brief and to the point but must be completed in less than 3 minutes.

## New Topics

- Why aren't 4 courts at Creekside and 2 in the fitness center enough for pickleball?
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- Both the Planning Committee and the GRF Board have members who helped develop the pickleball club's plan to take over Buckeye tennis courts. Should they be voting on the takeover issue
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- If it's OK to take fully used facilities from one club and give them to another, why hasn't the Creekside golf course been considered. By cutting a few yards off of Creekside Golf Course holes 2 and 3 just behind the Gateway facility there would be flat land for 8 pickleball courts, restrooms nearby, ample parking, and no sound issues. It seems only fair that if Buckeye tennis courts are fair game then the golf course should be fair game.
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- Why hasn't GRF funded a detailed study of parking and traffic at Buckeye.
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- Sound abatement studies should include the affects of sound on adjacent tennis play.
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- Study the effect on tennis of some 60 pickleball players playing and milling around the courts
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- Why does Creekside pickleball need restrooms, fountains and shade. They only play half-hour matches. They can carry a bottle of water and walk to the clubhouse.
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- Soon, additional tennis courts likely needed rather than 2 less with growth of tennis popularity and player longevity. The sport has grown 28 percent in the past two years
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## Repeating Topics

- Buckeye is fully used as was planned and funded by prior GRF Boards
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- Parking and traffic will be unbearable and unsafe

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- Noise for residents and tennis players
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- Experience of other venues trying pickleball/tennis colocation/ law suits
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