

**Pickleball Community Interest Meeting**  
**July 29, 2024, 6 pm**  
**The Senior Center of York, Suite 4**

**Attendance**

- P&R Staff Presenting: Fallon Scarantino, Amanda Roche, Amy Rowley
- P&R Staff in Attendance: Lisa Hanks, Emily Sinniger
- General public (encouraged to sign in)

**Welcome/Introduction**

- 5 minute start warning was given at 6 pm
  - ❖ The meeting began at 6:05 pm
- General overview of the PowerPoint presentation and introductions of presenters

**Upcoming Programs**

**Presenter: Fallon**

- Informed attendees about flyers for all fall lessons and comment cards made available on the back table
- Adult Programming
  - ❖ Beginner and Intermediate lessons
    - Offered on Wednesdays (September – October)
  - ❖ Advanced Pickleball Nights
    - Mondays evenings (End of August – beginning of December)
    - Aimed at being more competitive play (Rating of 4.0+)
    - No actual age restrictions, just based on skill
- Youth Lessons
  - ❖ Two sessions offered on Tuesday evenings (September – October)
  - ❖ Aimed at the more popular age groups
    - There will be no lessons offered for ages 5 – 8
  - ❖ Beginner Lessons
    - For ages 9 – 12
    - Must complete one session of beginner lessons to qualify for intermediate
  - ❖ Intermediate
    - For ages 9 – 14
    - Age group has been expanded to include a slightly larger range
- Clinics
  - ❖ Ages 5 – 8
    - Lessons lacked enough participants for this age group in the past
    - Two clinics are offered in September and October for free, but registration is required
    - Easier than lessons and will consist of basic skill-building, games, and team-building exercises
  - ❖ Teen clinic

- Free for ages 12 – 17 on one Saturday morning in October
  - This will be used to judge the interest of those age groups for possible tournaments and lessons in the future
  - Will have open play and focus on expanding skills, scorekeeping, and team building
- Family nights
  - ❖ Open to families and beginners
    - To encourage new players and gain more interest in the game
    - No experience is needed
    - Thursdays, from 5 – 8 pm (End of August – Beginning of December)
    - Maybe get some food trucks
- Asked for feedback on these events and possible ideas for future programs
  - ❖ Will maybe make intermediate nights in the future (similar to the advanced nights) depending on feedback and how the program goes

## **Updated Court Rules and Regulations**

### **Presenter: Amanda**

- New equipment for cleaning and drying the courts is available
  - ❖ provided to aid in the removal of water from the courts to increase playtime and general safety on the courts
    - mat(s) that will help to dry the courts that are made out of microfiber so they will not leave any threads
    - foam roller(s) to help squeegee the courts
    - new push brooms and towels
  - ❖ A small rubber-made shed will be put out at BCP to store the new drying tools next to the park office to keep the equipment off the courts and out of the elements.
    - The shed will not be locked so that anyone can use it, but it may be locked in the future if having it unlocked becomes a problem.
  - ❖ The public was asked to provide feedback on how the new equipment is working
- Rules and Regulations
  - ❖ Using USA Pickleball guidelines to help make the regulations and rules
  - ❖ A lot of organizations are moving from long rules lists and leading back to more general rules to keep signage to a minimum
    - Some signs may be temporarily moved due to construction
  - ❖ The courts are first come, first serve (FCFS) because they are all open to the public
    - Event nights and programs will not be subject to FCFS and will get priority over open-play
  - ❖ Try to stick with the current guidelines for scoring games

- Games are played up to 11 points, but players must win by a margin of two points
- ❖ Trying to fine-tune the paddle rack rotation system
  - Follow common courtesy and guidelines when moving markers and paddles
  - Try to keep the warmup times minimum to keep the play flow going
- ❖ Etiquette and courtesy are pillars of the rules and play on BCP courts

### **Q/A & Discussion**

- **Question:** Are the rotation guides being removed?
  - ❖ We are evaluating the current signage and will leave up the most critical signs/what is needed. A discussion was held about the rotation signs, the number of players waiting, etc., and we will revisit that and see what needs to change as time goes on. We will discuss the best rotation strategy possible and implement it once it has been decided.

### **Back Creek Park Projects and Renovations**

#### **Presenter: Amy**

- New parking, repainted courts, an ADA-Accessible kayak launch, and a fishing pier will be available at the end of renovations
- Construction updates will be put on the bulletin board; we will be using those more often to give out updated information about the park and renovations
- Pickleball and Tennis Courts
  - ❖ No great details on courts, but they will be fully repainted and redone
  - ❖ Work is continuing and should hopefully be done by next week, depending on the weather
- Start construction on new ADA-accessible kayak launch
  - ❖ Should take about ten weeks, depending on the weather
  - ❖ This will lead to changes in the parking lot and the bathrooms will be closed starting 8/4.
    - One handicap-accessible port-a-potty and one regular port-a-potty will be available
  - ❖ A new entrance to the courts will be open because the old one will be close
    - An alternate path past the courts will be provided
  - ❖ 14 parking spots (right up on the courts) will be closed during the renovations
- Parking Lot
  - ❖ The parking lot will be redone at the end of the other projects
    - It will take about two days for the parking lot to be redone
- Dog park
  - ❖ Renovations will begin soon
    - the fencing should be up by the end of the summer
- Court Lights

- ❖ They have/are replacing all lights at BCP with LED lights
  - citizens voiced appreciation for them

### **Q/A & Discussion**

- **Question:** A citizen said they used the lights in the early morning and voiced concerns about them being left on longer than needed because they could not figure out how to turn them off. She suggested that we consider/look into adding a timer to the lights so that it does not waste electricity.
  - ❖ We will look into a timer for the lights to turn off after a set time to save power.

### **Pickleball Court Layout Suggestions**

#### **Presenter: Fallon**

- No concrete decision about the layouts has been made yet
  - ❖ We have just been given some suggestions and have asked for citizen input
- Court Layout Suggestions provided
  - ❖ Split courts based on skill levels
    - Beginner/family
      - For first-timers trying to learn the basics of the game
      - Reserve 2 courts
    - Intermediate
      - For players with experience who already know the basics of the game, scoring, and can keep a good volley
      - Reserve 6 courts
    - Advanced
      - More skilled players for more challenging gameplay
      - Reserve 2 courts
  - ❖ Will still be using the paddle rack system
    - More racks have been added/will be added
      - There will be a paddle rack for each skill level that will be color-coded and labeled
    - Signage will be added that will specifically lay out the general rules for regular hours and free play (when we do not have any programs going on)

### **Q/A & Discussion**

- **Comment:** The way the courts are being split up is unfair. Players between skill groups will have difficulty finding a court to play on, and being separated from better players may make it hard for beginner players to improve. One citizen fears that people won't be able to improve their skills because they can no longer play with more skilled players and get tips and pointers/learn from them.
- **Comment:** There is an insufficient number of intermediate courts available compared to demand.

- **Comments:** Thoughts about the courts being self-regulated were brought up, and it was suggested that the split up of courts be used more as a general guideline and not a hard-fast rule. This will give beginners a more welcoming experience while ensuring there are enough courts for the players familiar with the game.
- **Question:** If courts of a different skill level are open, can we play on those even if we are not in that skill level, or do they need to remain open?
  - ❖ You can use the empty courts. Our programs will take priority over open play, and citizens were encouraged to consider the possibility of someone from that court's skill level coming out and wanting to play on that court.

### Open Discussion/Q&A

#### **Presenter: Fallon**

- **Question:** Will you be staffing the park?
  - ❖ We are looking into staffing the park during busy hours (mornings and evenings). We just hired more staff to start there once they are trained
- **Question:** How many courts will you use for your own programs?
  - ❖ Three courts will be left open to the public for free play, and nine will be used for theme nights or our programs.
- **Question:** A Citizen commented that we are not leaving enough courts for open/free play and that we are using too many courts for our own programs
  - ❖ The number of courts used will remain the same for now, but we will reassess the needed amount as time passes and we have more of our programs out there.
- **Question:** Why are the clinics free?
  - ❖ They are offered for free and with instructors in hopes of encouraging more people to play and get to know the game in a structured environment.
- **Programming Idea offered:** Host a skill assessment night
  - ❖ We are working on something like that and will offer a skill assessment at the end of clinics and lessons to help players group themselves in the proper skill level.
- **Question:** Is there going to be more seating? (**Answered by Amy**)
  - ❖ The bleachers will be moved during construction, so they will not be where they are currently, but the site of the new location has not been decided yet.
  - ❖ We will look into adding more seating but will have to wait to assess the seating after construction/renovation.
- **Question:** Will benches be placed on the courts for people waiting?
  - ❖ There are currently a limited number of benches on the courts, but we will consider the request to add more; however, it may be difficult/not possible due to limited space on the courts.
- **Question:** Will you add signage to the sides of the road leading into BCP for extra parking? (I.e., one side of the road has a no parking sign, and the other side offers parking)

- ❖ We may put up parking/no-parking signs as needed, but we will assess the parking situation once construction begins so we can determine the actual demand.
- **Comment:** Pickleball has led couples to reconnect, make friends, become more active, and bridge generational gaps since it is for all ages. Having designated beginner courts is a good idea for welcoming more people. She is glad this is where her tax dollars are being spent since it directly returns to the community.
- **Comment:** BCP was used for the Special Olympics, and this citizen wanted to thank Fallon and York County for the help setting that up and for allowing them the space to host it there. The Special Olympics are booked to use BCP through the end of August.
- **Suggestion:** You all should share programs with/in the BC Dinkers Facebook group
  - ❖ Fallon said she could share our posts there and pushed our Facebook page/encouraged people to follow it to get updates about Pickleball, BCP renovations, and the other programs we offer.
- **Suggestion:** Add a disclaimer/sign that notes that some courts will still be open for free play during the planned programs
- **Suggestion:** You should do Pickleball tournaments
  - ❖ We would like to start doing tournaments, but there will likely be none until spring. We will be taking suggestions on ideas for future tournaments and programs that you would like to see.

### **Closure/Meeting Wrap-up**

- Fallon thanked everyone in attendance for coming out to the meeting and sharing their opinions/thoughts
- Citizens were encouraged to comment via the comment cards on the back table.
- Fallon left her card with her info so people could reach out to her with further questions and feedback/suggestions on what we can provide and do in the future.