

Council Chamber
580 Pacific Street and
Zoom Teleconference
Monterey, California

Parks and Recreation
Commission
Agenda

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

5:30 PM

Commissioners
Donna Gibson, Chair
Ellen McEwen, Vice Chair

Cyd Crampton
Dennis McCarthy
Kathleen Panetta
Christian Schmidt
Lacy Spangler

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The City of Monterey is committed to the safe public attendance of its public meetings and seeks to continue to offer virtual methods for public participation options. Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 remains in effect, providing greater flexibility for agencies holding public meetings during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

BEFORE EACH MEETING, members of the public may participate by submitting comment(s) to parksrecreationcommission@monterey.org until ½ hour before the start of the meeting. These messages are shared with the Council or relevant Board or Commission prior to the start of the meeting, but are not read aloud. All comments become part of the record and are made available online at <https://monterey.org/submitted-comments>

DURING EACH MEETING:

Join the ZoomGov Webinar to participate or watch the meeting live (no time delay):

- On a computer or smartphone: <https://monterey-org.zoomgov.com/j/1605663903>
- Or by telephone: Dial 833-568-8864 (Toll Free) or 669-254-5252 (Campbell, Calif.) or 646-828-7666 (New York, NY). If one number doesn't work, please try another.
 - Enter Webinar ID: 160 566 3903 #
 - If prompted to enter a participant ID, press #497461
- Need more help or seeking guidance on making public comments? Read our [ZoomGov Meeting Instructions](#).

Meetings are also streamed live on [youtube.com/cityofmonterey](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofmonterey) (10 second delay) and on Comcast Channel 25 (up to 90 second delay).

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PRESENTATIONS

- 1 **Presentation on the Status of the Parks and Recreation Department Operations for April through August 2021** (Not a project under CEQA Article 20, Section 15378 and under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)

CONSENT ITEMS

CONSENT ITEMS allow for a review of those items recommended for approval on consent or recommended to be continued, tabled or withdrawn, etc. Consent items consist of those items which are routine and for which a staff recommendation has been prepared. A member of the public or a Commissioner may request that an item recommended for approval on consent be heard on the regular agenda for further discussion.

Approval of Minutes

2 **Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

*****End of Consent Agenda*****

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS allows you, the public, to speak for a maximum of three minutes on any subject which is within the jurisdiction of the Monterey Parks and Recreation Commission and which is not on the agenda. Any person or group desiring to bring an item to the attention of the Commission may do so during Public Comments or by addressing a letter of explanation to: Parks and Recreation Director, 546 Dutra Street, Monterey CA 93940. The appropriate staff person will contact the sender concerning the details.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

PUBLIC APPEARANCE items are reports on action or informational issues that might stimulate public discussion, but that do not require formal noticing as public hearings. You are welcome to offer your comments after being recognized by the Chair. The Chair may limit the time allocated to each speaker.

3 **Receive Report on Pickleball and Tennis at Via Paraiso Park** (Not a project under CEQA Article 20, Section 15378 and under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS & STAFF COMMENTS

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS & STAFF COMMENTS supply the Commission with written or oral information that they may wish to discuss or take action by placing the item on a future agenda.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

COMMISSIONERS may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement or make a brief report on his or her activities. In addition, a Commissioner may provide a referral to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any City matter, or direct staff to place a request to agendize a matter of business on a future agenda. (G.C. 54954.2)

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 13, 2021 .

ADJOURNMENT

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting packet may be reviewed by the public at the Monterey Public Library. Information distributed to the Commission becomes part of the public record. A copy of written material, pictures, etc., should be provided for this purpose. For more agenda information, call 646-3866.

CITY OF MONTEREY'S 24-HOUR SUGGESTION HOTLINES:

Voicemail: (831) 646-3799

FAX: (831) 646-3793

Email: suggest@monterey.org

WebPage: <http://www.monterey.org>



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MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE BY CALLING 646-3866



Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda Report

Date: 9/8/2021

Item No.: 1

FROM: Karen Larson, Parks and Recreation Director
Prepared by: Shannon Leon, Recreation Manager

SUBJECT: **Presentation on the Status of the Parks and Recreation Department Operations for April through August 2021** (Not a project under CEQA Article 20, Section 15378 and under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)

INFORMATIONAL ONLY:

There is no written agenda report for this item.

This is to advise the Parks and Recreation Commission that the Parks and Recreation Department staff will give a presentation on Parks, Recreation and Sports Center division operations for April through August 2021.

Writings distributed for discussion or consideration on this agenda item, pursuant to Government Code § 54957.5, are posted at <https://monterey.org/Submitted-Comments> within 72 hours of the meeting.

Date: 9/8/2021
Item No.: 2

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF MONTEREY
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
5:30 PM
TELECONFERENCE
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

Commissioners Present: Crampton, Gibson, McCarthy, McEwen, Panetta, Spangler
Commissioners Absent: Schmidt
Staff Members Present: Assistant City Manager, Parks and Recreation Director, Interim Recreation and Community Services Manager, Park Operations Manager, Recreation Coordinator, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

ROLL CALL

PRESENTATIONS

- 1 **Presentation on the Status of the Parks and Recreation Department Operations for March 2021** (Not a project under CEQA Article 20, Section 15378 and under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)
Action: Presentation given.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

- 2 **Wednesday, March 10, 2021**
Action: Approved as submitted (6-0-1, Schmidt absent).

*****End of Consent Agenda*****

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

- 3 **Discuss, Update and Approve Proposed Priorities and Work Plan for 2021/2022** (Not a project under CEQA Article 20, Section 15378 and under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)
Action: The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed, updated and approved the Work Plan for 2021/2022.

On a motion by Commissioner Crampton, seconded by Commissioner McEwen and carried by the following vote, the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed, updated and approved the Work Plan for 2021/2022.

AYES:	6	COMMISSIONERS:	Crampton, Gibson, McCarthy, McEwen, Panetta, Spangler
NOES:	0	COMMISSIONERS:	None
ABSENT:	1	COMMISSIONERS:	Schmidt

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS & STAFF COMMENTS

Director Larson wants the commission and the public, especially the Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association, to know that we understand Pickleball at Via Paraiso Park is an important topic and we will address and resolve this issue as our resources and capacity allow. The Laguna Grande JPA will be meeting on April 21 at 6:00pm to discuss a proposal to hire a consultant to create a trail maintenance strategy and conduct an environmental review, receive a presentation from the transportation agency about the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway project, and receive a presentation from the City engineering team about the North Fremont bike and pedestrian improvement project, also known as the North Fremont Gap Closure Project. Thank you to the commissioners for all the support. Director Larson commended the entire Parks and Recreation team for reinstating and reinventing services for the community.

Interim Recreation and Community Services Manager Leon said we are in the process of hiring summer staff, though recruitment is slow without CSUMB, MPC and Hartnell being on campus. Offering several programs this Summer: Tiny Tots Summer Camp, Play It Safe Summer Fun Program, Beach Volleyball Camp, Challenger British Soccer Camp, Basketball Camp, Flag Football Camp, Baseball/Softball Camp, Stem & Minecraft Lego Camp, and several others. We are trying to make it easy for parents to register and provide childcare for the majority of the day. Due to COVID-19, we are having to re-invent the wheel, but are planning for the current guidelines and will adjust as necessary as the guidelines change. Since programs take several months to plan, we are not able to have Camp Quien Sabe or Whispering Pines Day Camp this year but are hoping to bring them back next summer. The Bunny Hop Photo Op was a great success. We rehired a Sports Specialist on a part-time basis and have just started the adult softball league with 18 teams (6 men's teams and 12 co-ed teams).

Manager Marcuzzo stated Parks staff has been working on getting all of the parks and ballfields open. Volleyball nets are back up at Laguna Grande and Montecito and basketball nets are back at all locations. The final piece will be the re-opening of Dennis the Menace next Tuesday. Fuel reduction will be starting early due to the lack of rain.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Crampton is impressed with the work being done with very little notice. Commended Manager Marcuzzo and staff for the condition of the parks.

Commissioner Panetta commended the staff and thanked Manager Marcuzzo for the cherry trees at Shoreline Park and said it's nice to see people playing basketball at the courts again.

Commissioner McEwen stated how nice it is to see the cherry trees blossoming, especially after this past year. Commended Director Larson for stepping into this role; it's been a trial by fire and it is such a pleasure working with everyone. Appreciates the upbeat tone these meetings always have.

Commissioner McCarthy said there are a lot of moving parts to the Pickleball issue at Via Paraiso, but it will be resolved at some point. He looks forward to having this topic on the agenda and seeing what can be worked out and what the alternatives are. Looks forward to being able to have the commission meetings in person soon.

Commissioner Spangler shared that her children are thrilled that parks are open again. Thank you to staff for making that possible.

Commissioner Gibson reiterated Commissioner McCarthy's point in that the Pickleball concerns have been heard and looks forward to getting this item on the agenda soon. Suggested the other commissioners do some reading on what other communities have faced with Pickleball. Hopes to do a park tour this summer and looks forward to meeting in person again.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

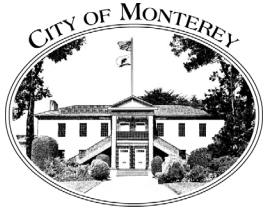
Chair Gibson adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

Karen Larson
Parks and Recreation Director

Donna Gibson, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission



Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda Report

Date: 9/8/2021

Item No.: 3

FROM: Karen Larson, Parks and Recreation Director

SUBJECT: **Receive Report on Pickleball and Tennis at Via Paraiso Park** (Not a project under CEQA Article 20, Section 15378 and under General Rule Article 5, Section 15061)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) receive a report on Pickleball and Tennis at Via Paraiso Park.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Parks and Recreation Commission oversees recreation activities in parks and recreational structures within the City of Monterey.

In the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP), adopted by the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission, Section 05. Guidelines & Projects, Other Program Spaces, Pickleball states:

“A large contingent of community members have advocated for the development of pickleball courts in the City. While not typically identified as a “need” the addition of a pickleball court (or more) would meet demand in the community and add additional variety to the City’s offerings. The sport is easy to play for all ages. Existing tennis courts could be repurposed for this activity. A two pickleball court (34’ x 64’ in total) can fit on one standard tennis court. An alternative is to build a new set of courts”.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

None from receiving this report.

As stated in the PRMP Goal 3. Economic and Environmental Sustainability, G3.1 Maintain and Enhance Existing Parks and Facilities, 3.1.3 “If it is necessary to develop new parks or recreation facilities, adequate maintenance and operations funds must be identified and incorporated into the project planning.”

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The City of Monterey determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)(CCR, Title 14, Chapter 3 (“CEQA Guidelines”), Article 20, Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to

CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or any reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

None.

DISCUSSION:

Background

As a result of community and neighborhood meetings, and funding from the Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program (NCIP) in 2017, blended pickleball lines were installed on both courts at Via Paraiso Park. Since then, pickleball activity has been enjoyed by neighbors and the public at the location. From April 2017 to August 2021, refinements have been made to both pickleball and tennis priority play times in order to balance the needs and desires of pickleball players, tennis players, and the neighborhood. Staff has also worked with pickleball players to promote appropriate parking locations and quiet play. In early 2021, the Monterey Vista Neighborhood expressed concern to the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club and City of Monterey regarding pickleball play at Via Paraiso Park. This report provides an update on the current status of pickleball for the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC).

Community Support for Pickleball

On April 26, 2017 the PRC held a Study Session on Pickleball in Monterey where community input was received, and the Commission provided guidance on developing a short-term and a long-term strategy for accommodating pickleball in Monterey's parks, addressed proposed Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program (NCIP) projects involving pickleball courts and tennis courts, and expressed consensus on the need for pickleball players and tennis players to share public resources.

At the NCIP Committee selection meeting on April 27, 2017, no new pickleball facility projects were recommended for approval and only the Via Paraiso Park Tennis Court resurfacing project was approved for NCIP FY17 in the amount of \$1,500 which included funding for the storage unit for pickleball equipment and blended lines. Following prior Commission approval and guidance, the storage unit and the "blended" pickleball lines were installed in October 2017 on both tennis courts following its resurfacing.

Priority Times: Shared Play for Tennis and Pickleball

A key shared use issue identified and discussed at the April Study Session was that of setting "priority times" for pickleball play and tennis play at Via Paraiso Park. Following the meeting emails were received from a tennis player and the pickleball ambassador with requested times for each sport. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings were requested by both the tennis player and pickleball player. Pickleball also requested Saturday mornings; with tennis requesting "weekends."

"Priority times" are not reservations for a particular sport. "Priority times" are designated times when a specific sport gets priority use of the court, with all other times being open play, first-come first-serve. These times are not monitored by staff, but are self-monitored by players, with an expectation of sportsmanlike conduct and courteous and respectful interactions. "Priority times" are not unique to Monterey. The concept is also implemented in neighboring cities such as Seaside and Pacific Grove.

At the May 18, 2017, PRC meeting the following “priority times” were established. From June through November 2017, Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to Noon were designated as “priority times” for pickleball and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to Noon were designated as “priority times” for tennis.

In order to be fair to all parties, the “priority times” switched in December for an equal six-month period to accommodate tennis players. Therefore, from December 2017 through May 2018, Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to Noon were designated as “priority times” for tennis and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to Noon were designated as “priority times” for pickleball. Sunday mornings and all afternoons/evenings are open times for either use.

At the May 18, 2017 PRC meeting, staff was directed to monitor the effectiveness of these “priority times” and shared use at Via Paraiso Park over the next 10 months, and re-evaluate after 12 months. There had been no change in the number of pickleball courts in Monterey. At the May 29, 2018 PRC meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission solicited public comment regarding the effectiveness of these “priority times.”

At the May 29, 2018 PRC meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission solicited public comment regarding the effectiveness of these “priority times.” At the June 21, 2018 PRC meeting, new “priority times” were set, which remain in effect today. The following “priority times” are year round and Saturdays are evenly distributed between pickleball and tennis throughout the year. Pickleball “priority times” are set for 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. Tennis “priority times” are set for 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Tuesday, Thursday and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month. All remaining days including Sunday mornings and all afternoons/evenings are open times for either use. Staff replaced existing signage with “priority time” signage (Attachment 1).

Additional Pickleball Courts

At the September 11, 2019 PRC meeting, the PRC voted to approve adding two (2) additional pickleball courts (for a total of six courts) at Via Paraiso Park by re-striping the current courts with funding provided by the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club. As of September 2021, these two additional courts have not been added. There has been no change in the number of free public pickleball courts in Monterey and there continues to be a need for additional pickleball or mixed use courts in Monterey.

Potential Dedicated Pickleball Facility

For FY 20, NCIP approved a feasibility study to identify a suitable location for a six-court pickleball facility to include review of potential sites, engineering studies and construction cost estimates. At the time, NCIP projects to build pickleball courts could be pursued by both PRC and the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club for FY 21.

For FY 20, NCIP approved a feasibility study to identify a suitable location for a six-court pickleball facility to include review of potential sites, engineering studies and construction cost estimates. A possible suitable location was located at Ryan Ranch Park. (It should be noted that the potential location at Ryan Ranch Park will need further review and approval by other agencies such as the Monterey County Airport Land Use Commission.) For FY 21, NCIP projects were suspended due to COVID-19.

Current Status

During the pandemic and in accordance with the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy's Tier System regulating indoor and outdoor activities, sport court play was suspended. Sport court play, including Pickleball and Tennis, was reinstated as local and State guidelines allowed. Since the onset of the pandemic, the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club has voluntarily suspended organized pickleball play and signage has been adjusted to accommodate pandemic response and some neighborhood issues such as quiet play.

The Monterey Vista Neighborhood has raised concerns about play by the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club and reported concerns about parking, noise, priority hours, and storage of equipment. The Neighborhood Association approves of pickleball on a small scale and suggests removing blended lines from one of the two tennis courts, creating one court dedicated for tennis and one court dedicated to pickleball as well as discontinuing "priority hours".

The Monterey Bay Pickleball Club is committed to growing the sport and for making it accessible on the Peninsula while working with local cities and the public at large. They also seek out partnerships with local educational institutions such as Monterey Peninsula College and Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, as well as privately run facilities such as the Chamisal and the Monterey Tennis Center, for shared access to tennis courts for pickleball use.

The City, with limited staffing resources, is dealing with the pandemic, a fiscal crisis, social equity issues and climate change. Given the fiscal and resource challenges, the City Manager has encouraged the Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association and the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club to discuss the future of a peaceful coexistence and develop a recommendation regarding the use of pickleball at Via Paraiso Park (see Attachment 3, letter from City Manager, dated March 24, 2021). At this time, the Neighborhood Association has declined to meet with the Club without a City representative present (see Attachment 4) while the Club has agreed to meet with the Neighborhood Association (see Attachment 5).

- Attachment:
1. Via Paraiso Priority Time Signage - Attachment 1
 2. Quiet Pickleball Equipment Signage - Attachment 2
 3. City Manager Letter to Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association and the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club dated March 24, 2021 - Attachment 3
 4. Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association Letter dated April 14, 2021 - Attachment 4
 5. Monterey Bay Pickleball Club Letter dated April 29, 2021 - Attachment 5

e:

Monterey City Council
Neighborhood Associations
Monterey Tennis Center
Jay Zwagerman
Gabriella and Chuck Clifton
Bill Wojtkowski
Char and Charles Carter
Lorna Monroe
Emily Hull-Parsons
Mark Thomas
Paul O'Leary
Barbara and Michael Lang
Susan Nine
Jean Rasch

**Priority Times for Court Use
(Year Round)**

Pickleball:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
1st and 3rd Saturday of every month

**Priority Times for Court Use
(Year Round)**

Tennis:

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
2nd and 4th Saturday of every month

**All remaining days including Sunday mornings
and all afternoons/evenings are open play.**

Courts are for tennis and pickleball play ONLY.



**MONTEREY
RECREATION**

• (831) 646-3866 • www.monterey.org/rec

PICKLEBALL COURTESY

ATTACHMENT 2

- **Please keep excessive noise to a minimum**
- **Please use only USA Pickleball-recommended pickleball and paddles for quiet play.**



THE CITY OF
MONTEREY

monterey.org/pickleball



March 24, 2021

Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association

Via e-mail: mvneighborhood@gmail.com

Monterey Bay Pickleball Club

Via e-mail: montereypickleball@outlook.com

Subject: Pickleball at Via Paraiso Park

Dear Neighbors:

Over the past two years, various community groups have come together to develop workable solutions that balance the desires and wishes of both pickleball players and residents near Via Paraiso Park. We suggest that the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club and the Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association come together to discuss a path forward, and how, if any, changes should be made to the existing policies regarding pickleball play at Via Paraiso Park.

As both groups are aware, the City of Monterey's staff, Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC), and Neighborhood and Community Improvement Program (NCIP) Committee have spent considerable time since 2016 to discuss, review, and develop policies and construct amenities that support limited pickleball use at Via Paraiso Park. Subsequently, the City, with support from the PRC, striped four (4) pickleball courts on existing tennis courts at Via Paraiso Park.

The City's current regulations allow pickleball play at Via Paraiso Park on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and alternating Saturdays from 9 a.m. to Noon. These policies support pickleball use by members of the community, while providing access to tennis players and quieter times for nearby residents.

In recent weeks, the Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association has suggested changes to the current pickleball regulations, which include: singles only play, returning to first-come, first-served permits, removing one pickleball court, and other requests. We received a petition from the MVNA with signatures. Meanwhile, the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club has requested dedicated courts for pickleball play. We also received a petition from them, which also includes signatures from MV neighbors.

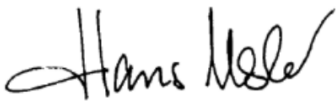
While a dedicated pickleball facility at Ryan Ranch Park or another facility can still be pursued through the City's NCIP, funds are very limited due to the fiscal impacts of COVID-19 (the City of Monterey is estimated to lose \$34 million due to the pandemic) and the allocation of funding and staff capacity to construct such a facility is uncertain. Our staffing resources are extremely thin, as our Recreation and Sports Center divisions experienced a 60% budget cut this year. Our current focus is to reopen our Sports Center as well as provide meaningful programming for all of our parks and yet-to-reopen recreational centers.

Given these fiscal and resource challenges, I think it is appropriate to ask neighbors to meet with each other and discuss the future of a peaceful coexistence. I am asking the Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association and the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club to meet and develop a joint recommendation regarding the use of pickleball at Via Paraiso Park.

The Neighbor Project at the Mandell Gisnet Center for Conflict Management, located at the Monterey College of Law, may be a helpful resource that provides skilled mediators to guide parties experiencing conflict. The Neighbor Project can be reached at (831) 582-5234 or neighborproject@mandellgisnetcenter.org.

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you,



Hans Uslar
City Manager

Attachments: Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association letter dated February 26, 2021
Monterey Bay Pickleball Club letter dated March 1, 2021

CC: Mayor and City Council
Parks and Recreation Commission
Assistant City Manager Nat Rojanasathira
Parks and Recreation Director Karen Larson
Interim Recreation and Community Services Manager Shannon Leon
Park Operations Manager Louie Marcuzzo



Dear Mr. Uslar, Ms. Tannahill, and Mayor Clyde,

Thank you for the update on pickle ball (hereafter PB) at Via Paraiso Park which you sent before the pandemic struck. Since the courts have been shut down or limited to two players at a time and we have all been involved in more pressing matters, we saw no urgency in responding earlier. However as things are gradually reopening, including the opening of the courts in the park, it is paramount to resume talks.

MVNA is pleased to hear that the Saturday organized club play will stop if/when play resumes. However, from MVNA's point of view, the City's overall proposal is not a win-win solution for the neighborhood. It does not address the issues cited in our initial letter to you regarding the health and welfare of our neighboring residents (or Monterey residents generally) and the protection of the neighborhood ambience of peace and quiet. Neither does it address the interests of our many local tennis players.

What the proposed plan does provide is the guaranteed long-term exclusive use of our tennis courts by an outside non-City sponsored club promoting PB organized group play by dues-paying mostly non-Monterey residents seeking to avoid better existing options outside of residential areas in Monterey and other Peninsula jurisdictions that require reasonable minimal fees outside of residential areas. Now that the budget is critically short of funds, the prospect of building a facility at Ryan Ranch is slim at best. Because PG, Monterey, Carmel, Seaside and Marina have existing facilities available for pickle ball, the expense of a new facility funded exclusively by Monterey seems unwarranted.

The policy of exclusive use of the courts by the PB club has had a dramatically negative impact on our neighborhood. Noise, parking issues, and the inability to play tennis while approximately fifty PB club players are using both courts three or four days per week, was never expected when NIP funds were used to stripe the courts for PB play. As a result, the Neighborhood Association has received many complaints. A petition voicing concerns about noise, parking, reserved times, etc., was signed by over 100 nearby residents, and provided to the City.

The City's revised policy does not address the noise issue for the many homes and residents surrounding the park. Based on our validated observations during the previous year, on the 12 days or more per month the club is now given exclusive play at the park, there will be up to sixteen players on the courts, which means four balls in play continuously for at least three hours. There will also be as many as 35 other people waiting on the sidelines for their turns to play. The combined noise of the wooden paddles striking the hard rubber balls mixed with the cacophony of participants' voices for three plus hours constitutes a real and unacceptable nuisance for the neighbors as well as those using the park for walking, picnics and the parents and children using the adjacent playground area. Understand that the park is set in a canyon and the noise carries far. Many surrounding neighbors are retired and at home during the hours dedicated to PB club play. The noise is very loud, irritating and disturbs the peace and quiet that we have enjoyed for years. Also troubling is the lack of parking during the PB club play. Few

spaces are already available in the park for residents and others who frequent the park with their children and infants who rightly want and should have easy access to utilize the facilities. On pickle ball days, for hours most if not all of the parking is used up by non-resident PB players.

As it regards the interest of resident tennis players, the revised policy dictates that the PB club will continue to have reserved play (3 weekdays every week) or twelve plus days per month, while the tennis players have allotted only (2 weekdays per week) or eight days per month. This is giving unequal use of our neighborhood park's tennis courts to the privately run PB club. It is important to note that the two courts under discussion have been exclusively tennis courts for decades, and that the 2017 NIP project to stripe the courts to accommodate PB use never included the expectation of reduced use for tennis or exclusive use times to anyone. Nor did the NIP project include a provision for the allowance of equipment storage to a privately sponsored club - a club which consists of dues paying members, the vast majority of whom do not reside in surrounding neighborhoods. The posted sign at the park indicates that organized group play is not allowed using park facilities without a permit, and presumably a paid fee. Why is an exception being made for a PB club that charges dues, consisting mainly of non Monterey residents?

We suggest the following changes be made to mitigate the various issues cited above:

- Until there is a herd immunity due to complete availability of vaccines locally, continue the policy of limiting play to singles only, disallowing gatherings of groups and the sharing of equipment. Allowing group play to happen will put our residents, seniors and young alike, at risk.
- Stop the preferential reserved time system and return to the first come first served basis. As a side note, the sign at VPP states that no adult team sports are allowed without a permit. Other groups pay fees to reserve the picnic area and fields. We see no reason to make an exception for organized, competitive team play by the PB club.
- Other surrounding cities provide reservable venues for PB play at a nominal cost. Because of the number of players, the per person charges at most facilities would be under a dollar per player for two hours of reserved play. The Morris Dill facility in Pacific Grove provides this option as does the Monterey Tennis Center. We see no reason for Monterey to subsidize more city courts when there are adequate alternatives already available.
- Direct or permit the repainting of one court. Removing the PB lines will return that court to exclusive tennis play. Non-city donations could fund this solution if City funds are unavailable. Having full time access to a dedicated tennis court, and the second court when not in use for PB play, decreases the need for residents to drive out of the neighborhood to play tennis. It also enhances tennis play by removing distracting lines and extends the life of the court as a maximum of four tennis players will be on the court versus eight PB players.
- Direct removal of the non-city storage container, PB nets and other equipment from the park premises as it presents an unnecessary liability issue for the city and taxpayers. Why is this storage being provided when the equipment is not available to non club PB players? Does this independent club provide liability insurance for all of its members?

- Other group uses of park facilities require a paid permit to reserve and access park facilities such as the picnic area and team sports facilities. The municipal tennis courts in PG and Monterey reserve for PB play on a first come first serve basis for a reasonable fee if the club wants to be assured of courts for their group. These locations are not within residential districts and have multiple courts for tennis as well as PB. The PB club has been paying nothing for standing reservations and exclusive use of both courts in a municipal park surrounded on all sides by single family homes. Tennis players have never been allowed to reserve the courts in the park though they may at the Tennis Center and Morris Dill and the many athletic clubs with courts. It's always been first come first serve at Paraiso Park and that seems appropriate for a small multi use neighborhood park.

To reiterate, MVNA believes we haven't reached yet what we would consider an acceptable solution. While we appreciate that efforts that have been made to find venues for club PB play away from homes and residents, the fact remains that the quality of life of residents have not been addressed, nor had the inequality between tennis and PB play. We think our suggestions herein do address those issues and urge the city to adopt and implement these suggestions before allowing group use of the Courts.

Yours truly,
Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association Board of Directors




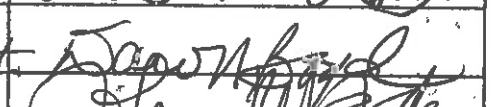

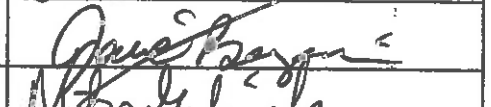
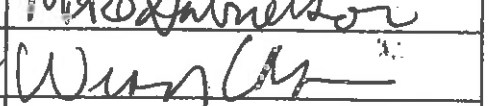



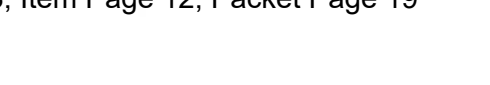
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Name	Address (Optional)	Signature
Paul O'LEARY	411 HERRMANN DR.	
Sue O'Leary	411 Herrmann Dr.	
NICK MODISSETTE	415 HERRMANN DRIVE	
Will Whitney	1211 Herrmann Dr.	
Dan Brey	104 Via Del Pinar Mont	
John Rebstock	108 Via Del Pinar	
Eric Montgomery	132 STEPHEN PLACE	
Kim Bugarin	106 Stephen Place	
Mike Gabrielson	145 STEPHEN PL	
Wendy Carr	223 Via Del Pinar	
Sierra AbuKins	231 Via Del Pinar	
Roni AbuSaad	231 Via Del Pinar	
GREG OGDEN	243 Via Del Pinar	
ALLAN LINN	124 VIA GAYUDA	

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Name	Address (Optional)	Signature
STEVE DON	22 VIA DEL PARADISO	[Signature]
Cathy Whittier	424 Herrmann	[Signature]
Dani de la Riva	400 Herrmann	[Signature]
John Charles	724 Togan Drive	[Signature]
LYDIA KUCHAREN	724 Togan Dr.	[Signature]
JANE SINK	1 Cielo Vista Pl	[Signature]
Darryl Sink	1 Cielo Vista Pl	[Signature]
TONY TOLNER	644 Santa Cr.	[Signature]
Cathy Giammarco	28 DOREY WAY	[Signature]
ROSEMARY KENNETT	27 VIA SATUBA	[Signature]
Ann Depina	81 VIA PARALSO	[Signature]
Heather Latta	61 Via Paraiso	[Signature]
[Signature]	51 VIA PARALSO	[Signature]
NAOMI SKUES	21 VIA PARALSO	[Signature]

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Name	Address (Optional)	Signature
Stevie Melanson	21 Via Paraiso	Stevie Melanson
Anne Davis	1 Via Paraiso	Anne Davis
Lee Sano	26 Via Paraiso	Lee Sano
Jim Burdus	62 VIA PARAISSO	Jim Burdus
Paul Compagno	82 Via Paraiso	Paul Compagno
Bennett Compagno	90 Via Paraiso	Bennett Compagno
Paul Compagno	82 Via Paraiso	Paul Compagno
Marie Compagno	90 Via Paraiso	Marie Compagno
Lauren Sanguino	300 Herrmann	Lauren Sanguino
Angel Sanguino	300 Herrmann	Angel Sanguino
Monty Bae	153 Littlefield	Monty Bae
Yeonwoo Bae		Yeonwoo Bae
Malcolm Colvin	120 Via Paraiso	Malcolm Colvin
Edwin Sandoval	140 Via Paraiso	Edwin Sandoval



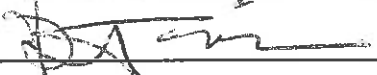

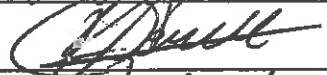
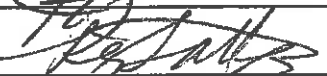

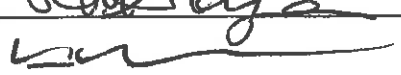






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Name	Address (Optional)	Signature
MARK PEACE	160 VIA PARAISSO	
Amanda del de la Vega	190 Via Paraiso	
Deannadela Vega	190 Via Paraiso	
Wendy Grover	2976 Crescent Rd. PB	
PHILIP MYRELL	122 SEENO ^{#2} ST. MONTEREY	
Ray Gallego	Soledad Drive Monterey	
Ron Glaze	18 Via Paraiso	
Kris R. del	341 Bol. Am St M	
JOEL SARAZIN	110 SHADY LN Mont	
Nick Funke	110 Via Paraiso	
Spiro M. Pettas	71 El Camino	
James Stauffer	268 Soledad Drive	
ALEXANDER ROSENBERG	263 MONTECITO ST #1	
Benjamin Tsuchiya	34 Castaneda Place	

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Name	Address (Optional)	Signature
Michael Ramsey	P.O. Box 2671 Carmel CA 93924	Michael Ramsey
Patricia Robinson	146 La Playa St. Monterey	Patricia Robinson
Damon Archer	3149 Hacienda Dr P.B.S.	Damon Archer
Wendy Grover	2976 Crescent Rd PB	Wendy Grover
Phil Lenhard	2976 Crescent Rd PB	Phil Lenhard
Matt Batchelder	NE Corner Monte Verde + 5th, Carmel	Matt Batchelder
ANNA ARCHER	3149 HACIENDA DR PB	Anna Archer
Barbara Schilling	801 Mesa Rd. Monterey	Barbara Schilling
Patty Powell	104 Laurel Dr CU 93901	Patty Powell
Courtney Doust		Courtney Doust
Bonnie Kirk	1141 Buena Vista PG	Bonnie Kirk
RICHARD CARR	801 MESA RD MAY	Richard Carr
JEFF GALEIN	4 EL CAMINITO DEL NORTE	Jeff Galein
Bruce Bonatti	69 Via Cimarron	Bruce Bonatti

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Name	Address (Optional)	Signature
MARCELLO ROMANO	462 WAY ST	Marcello Romano
Alice R.	"	Alice R.
Matilde R	"	Matilde Romano
Jerry Pethos	107 Via Del Pecos	Jerry Pethos
Lissa Lej	832 Franklin A	Lissa Lej
Michelle Alban	60 Cuesta Vista	Michelle Alban
JARRETT STEIN	LARKIN ST	Jarrett Stein
Kyle Batchelder	Monroe St	Kyle Batchelder
ALAN TEJER	832 FRANKLIN	Alan Tejer
MARY O'BRIEN	24520 Outlook	Mary O'Brien
Susie Barbee	8 Mt. Shadows Lane	Susie Barbee
FRED LUCCHIO		Fred Lucchio
KC CULLEN	4 CHUALAR PL	KC Cullen
GUS TERRAZAS	407 San Bernabe	Gus Terrazas

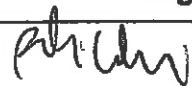


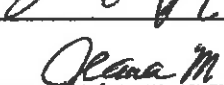



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Name	Address (Optional)	Signature
Robin Elahi	107 Via del Pinar	
MAIRA TERRAZAS	407 SAN BERNARDE DR	
Shannon Hugo	12 Via Chualar	
Thomas Hugo	12 Via Chualar	
Jeanne M. Jett	122 Monte Vista Dr.	
Scott Amberg	508 Herrmann dr	
Hans Jarnway	532 Herrmann	

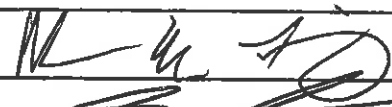

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Name	Address (Optional)	Signature
MEGHAN FINNEY		
SEAN HARRON		
Tara Mele		Tara
Alex LaPorta		Alex LaPorta
Paulette Tardio		Paulette Tardio
April 2nd		April 2nd
Heidi F. James		Heidi F. James
Sage ROUSE		Sage Rouse
Stephen Pellett		Stephen Pellett

To: Monterey City Manager, Parks and Recreation Commissioners (PRC), City Council Members and Parks Department

Date: March 1, 2021

The intent of this letter is to provide the City of Monterey, PRC, and City Council, with a general overview of the development of pickleball play at Via Paraiso Park (VP) and the transitions that have taken place over several years as pickleball has continued to grow locally. The ultimate goal of pickleball advocates has been and continues to be, working with community members, the PRC, etc. to establish dedicated pickleball courts.

A small group of pickleball fans first began play at VP approximately 5 years ago. Over time, as the sport began to grow locally attracting both new and more experienced players, the need for more courts became obvious to support play. As is well documented in previous PRC and NIP meetings over the past couple of years, avid pickleball players attended and presented at PRC and NIP meetings for the purpose of working together collaboratively with the community to create shared use of the tennis courts at VP, and to increase opportunities for people to use and enjoy the park. It has always been the intent of pickleball players to be respectful of the tennis player's use of the courts at VP as well as the care and maintenance of the courts themselves.

Initially, pickleball players would chalk lines on the tennis courts (since pickleball courts have a smaller dimension than tennis courts). However, this was met with a bit of resistance from a few tennis players. In order to be sensitive to tennis player requests, pickleball players would then tape courts and remove the tape at the end of play.

In 2016, following approval of the PRC and NCIP, one tennis court at VP was striped to facilitate pickleball play. This was done using a color that would not be offensive to tennis players and would blend in with the overall court color, while still being mindful of the existing tennis court lines. As the number of pickleball players continued to increase, in 2017, the NCIP approved a request by pickleball players to stripe 4 pickleball courts (in total) on the existing tennis courts. This supportive approval by the PRC allowed 16 players to play at one time, thereby vastly increasing the usage of the courts and decreasing the wait time.

All of this being said, it was agreed upon by both pickleball players and tennis players and supported by the PRC, to share the use of the courts by including all people interested in both pickleball and tennis. The initial agreement was for pickleball players to have priority on the courts on M-W-F from 9-12 noon. Conversely, tennis players would have priority use of the courts on T-Th-Sat from 9-12 noon. After six months the days would switch...pickleball on T-Th-Sat and tennis M-W-F from 9-12 noon. Afternoon play on any day was first come, first served abiding by the time limit posted on the fence signs. After 6 months, it became a bit confusing making the switch for both groups, so an agreement was made to keep the time frame as originally established for both groups while alternating Saturdays.

Again, as interest in learning and playing pickleball continued to increase, it became the focus of pickleball players to request additional support from the PRC and NCIP to establish dedicated courts for pickleball play. The NCIP granted \$4500.00 for a feasibility study to research where a suitable location for the creation of at least six pickleball courts could be built. As of this writing, there is a promising location in the Ryan Ranch area.

The pickleball community met with the Monterey city manager in February of 2020 with the purpose of finding a permanent solution to the issue of play at VP. During that meeting, which was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we came to an agreement that the pickleball club would give up the Saturday play at VP as gesture of good faith to the community. We had also found a viable location at Ryan Ranch that would be able to house a permanent pickleball complex. With support from the City Manager and Parks department, community pickleball players were going to submit a plan for funding through the NCIP. Unfortunately this was put on hold due to the economic downturn due to COVID-19.

Currently, there is a group of very active pickleball players who are working very diligently to make the goal of dedicated courts become a reality. This would clearly be a win-win for the community. Dedicated courts would enable more people to enjoy the health and social benefits of the game, and would continue to increase the opportunities for players of all ages and skill levels to enjoy the fastest growing sport in America.

Thank you, Mark Thomas
USAPA Ambassador

Pickleball Petition for Via Paraiso submitted by Monterey Bay Pickleball Club

As residents of the City of Monterey, we support the current pickleball play at Via Paraiso Park. Since September 2017, the Via Paraiso Park courts have been successfully shared between tennis and pickleball. We believe the current sharing is equitable and improves the well being of our residents and community.

We would like to be able to play at this location again once the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted for doubles in Monterey County.

Number	MVN	Name	Address	Phone Number
1.		Stanly Dowson	42 Castro Road Monterey Ca 93940	831-402-9906
2.		Devin Leuddeke	1187 8 th street Monterey Ca 93940	
3.		Hatty Leuddeke	1187 8 th street Monterey Ca 93940	
4.		Karen Hinton	32 LaPlaya Street Monterey Ca 93940	831-601-1544
5.		Patrick Belanger	821 Fillmore Street Monterey Ca 93940	831-884-3004
6.	X	Michal Osiadacz	12 Via Ventura Monterey Ca 93940	831-402-1168
7.		Howard Schrager	530 Larkin Street Monterey Ca 93940	831-420-7478
8.		Diane Biehle	529 Pine Steet Monterey Ca 93940	559-284-9536
9.		Steve Biehle	529 Pine Steet Monterey Ca 93940	559-696-8109
10.	X	Cheryl Puckett	21 El Caminito Del Sur Monterey Ca 93940	831-601-6756
11.		Tim Conway	22 Cramden Drive Monterey Ca 93940	831-372-7994
12.		Mary Conway	22 Cramden Drive Monterey Ca 93940	831-372-7994
13.		Richard Chase	1 White Tail Lane Monterey Ca 93940	
14.		Tom Fukunaga	PO Box 1864 Monterey Ca 93942	831-645-9533
15.		Roy Neuhaus	541 Newton Street Apt 12 Monterey Ca 93940	831-601-6441

Pickleball Petition for Via Paraiso
submitted by Monterey Bay Pickleball Club

Number	MVN	Name	Address	Phone Number
16.		Josh Silva	300 Glenwood Circle #251 Monterey Ca 93940	831-345-0293
17.		Sara Silva	300 Glenwood Circle #251 Monterey Ca 93940	831-345-0293
18.		Neal Gallant	2170 San Vito Circle Monterey Ca 93940	831-277-1627
19.		Gael Gallant	2170 San Vito Circle Monterey Ca 93940	831-277-1627
20.		Linda Lee Lesnik	51 Via Arcerolo Monterey Ca 93940	
21.		Peter Lesnik	51 Via Arcerolo Monterey Ca 93940	
22.		Melanie Pitnick	300 Glenwood Circle Apt 157 Monterey Ca 93940	831-241-8238
23.	X	Jay Zwagerman	42 El Caminito Del Norte Monterey Ca 93940	831-236-2682
24.	X	Lynn Zwagerman	42 El Caminito Del Norte Monterey Ca 93940	831-236-2682
25.		Vi Tran	428 Dela Vina Ave apt 114 Monterey Ca 93940	831-809-3567
26.	X	John Sovereign	150 Shady Lane Monterey Ca 93940	415-370-2586
27.		Beth Kurzava	3 Black Tail Lane Monterey Ca 93940	
28.		John Kurzava	3 Black Tail Lane Monterey Ca 93940	
29.		Judy Gaughf	13 Syvan Place Monterey Ca 93940	831-241-8614
30.	X	Carol Winningham	21 El Caminito Del Sur Monterey Ca 93940	831-649-5926
31.		Divya Mehta	601 Drake Ave Apt 3 Monterey Ca 93940	714-296-6488
32.		Scott Powell	601 Drake Ave Apt 3 Monterey Ca 93940	252-333-4418
33.		Marc Howard	959 Casanova Ave Monterey Ca 93940	831-601-8818
34.		Vanessa Howard	959 Casanova Ave Monterey Ca 93940	831-601-8818
35.		Jessie Howard	959 Casanova Ave	831-601-8818

Pickleball Petition for Via Paraiso submitted by Monterey Bay Pickleball Club

Number	MVN	Name	Address	Phone Number
			Monterey Ca 93940	
36.		Shirley Dickinson	799 Via Mirada Monterey Ca 93940	831-521-2023
37.		Erin Brown	484 Washington Street Monterey Ca 93940	831-345-0713
38.		Jamie Maddox	58 La Playa Monterey Ca 93940	
39.		Samar Hage	980 Fremont Ave Monterey Ca 93940	831-647-1491
40.		Andrew Melendez	411 Garden Ave Monterey Ca 93940	831-776-6336
41.		Adriana Melendez	411 Garden Ave Monterey Ca 93940	831-776-6336
42.		Kathy Yamamoto	1261 Pacific Street Monterey Ca 93940	916-873-6826
43.		Thomas Yamamoto	1261 Pacific Street Monterey Ca 93940	916-873-6826
44.	X	Michael Payan	311 Via Gayuba Monterey Ca 93940	831-320-7542
45.	X	Joe Sleckman	304 Mar Vista Drive Monterey Ca 93940	701-335-3033
46.	X	Barry Perkins	31 Via Ventura Monterey Ca 93940	
47.		Henrich Seizl	500 Glenwood Circle Unit 312 Monterey Ca 93940	831-601-8993
48.		Ari Gonzales	131 Lighthouse Ave Apt 9 Monterey Ca 93940	786-246-8510
49.	X	Lisa Micheletti	56 Via Chualar Monterey Ca 93940	831-402-4132
50.	X	Jim Micheletti	56 Via Chualar Monterey Ca 93940	831-402-4153
51.		Jerad McCarty	866 Jefferson Street Monterey Ca 93940	831-915-5893
52.		Marie McCarty	866 Jefferson Street Monterey Ca 93940	831-917-9516
53.	X	Gwen Pratt	135 Mar Vista Drive Monterey Ca 93940	

MVN= X= Monte Vista Neighborhood (12)



April 14, 2021

Mr. Hans Usler
 City Manager, City of Monterey 580 Pacific St
 Monterey, CA. 93901

Dear Hans,

The Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association Board discussed your mediation proposal on the pickleball issue at our regularly scheduled meeting on April 5th. The statements below sum up our collective response.

1. Providing an appropriate venue for a large pickleball club is a City-wide if not Peninsula-wide issue. Many of the club members live in other Peninsula cities and beyond. As one neighborhood we can not say it would be best to play in another neighborhood or town without the participation of all the other neighborhoods or towns.

2. We do not know what other courts in Monterey or in other Peninsula locations might be willing to serve the pickleball club though we suspect more appropriate venues do exist to accommodate a large group of club players. We have been told that the Monterey Tennis Center is opening up with four dedicated pickleball courts. The Morris Dill Courts in Pacific Grove are available for pickleball and possibly MPC is willing to have the pickleball club play there. The City also has entered into a joint facilities use agreement with MPUSD, so perhaps the City could negotiate times to make available the seldom used tennis courts at MHS or other school sites pursuant to the joint agreement and or the Civic Center Act that applies to public school facilities. Any one or more of these options or some combination of these or other venues seem like the simple answer to us until a dedicated pickleball facility may be funded and built somewhere on the Peninsula. Perhaps expense for such a facility could be shared by multiple cities that have residents seeking a location to play.

4. Many of our residents also enjoy large group exercise activities and for that they go to where those are available, like the tennis center or the Monterey Sports Center. We gladly pay fees to recreate in these municipal venues. Neighborhood courts in small parks are not designed for 50 people at a time with 16 club members playing simultaneously and continuously on 2 tennis courts with many club onlookers waiting for their turns to play, talking and cheering. This also involves the parking of many cars, so the availability of parking should be a consideration.

5. A group, who wants to meet together, needs to be prepared to pay for a facility that is designed to handle large groups with reserved times provided for them. As we understand it, dues are collected from club members. Our Via Piaraso Park is not such a location due to the peculiarly loud high pitch noise from the cumulative sounds of hard hit smashes and hits of the ball on the wooden paddles from so many playing at once. Also, neighbors and other park users cite the lack of parking and the lack of the courts for others to play tennis or non-club pickleball for extended periods of time.

6. Other sports groups at municipal parks pay for the use of the park facilities, like softball and baseball. Pickleball should also pay for reserved play times, but only at locations designed for that large of a group. The tennis centers all provide reserved times at an appropriate cost.

7. Pickleball is not seasonal, so the idea of a large group of organized players meeting in an embedded park 3 or 4 times a week for hours at a time, with no end in sight, is not acceptable to this neighborhood and we are pretty sure would not be acceptable to any residential neighborhood. This is born out by many other neighborhoods you'll discover by googling "pickleball" expressing similar complaints and petitions when pickleball is played too near to people's homes.

8. MVNA is not opposed to pickleball on a small scale in VPP. MVNA promoted the striping of the tennis courts to allow for casual first come first serve play just as it has always been for tennis before these reserved times came in specifically to accommodate large club play. Money for striping was only provided using NIP funds and this would not have occurred without MVNA's recommendation and the funds we were instrumental in securing. Club use for fifty people at a time was not what these courts are designed for. MVNA was never notified that a policy was being discussed by P&R to allow for a large scale takeover of the park and courts by a non city sponsored club on an ongoing basis. Tennis players would prefer to leave one of the two courts striped only for tennis with one court dedicated solely to tennis with no specific times provided exclusively either to tennis or pickleball. Both pickleball and tennis would be on a first come first serve basis.

9.. Upon looking over the pickleball petition it appears that only 12 members of the club live in the Monte Vista neighborhood. Many do not even live in Monterey. That is in comparison to the hundreds of residents that live near the park and in the Monte Vista neighborhood. Approximately 200 Monterey residents signed a petition against the allowing club play in small parks embedded in residential areas after this policy went into effect and the resultant problems experienced.

10. The twelve MVNA elected Board Members representing a cross section of MVNA residents voted unanimously to not participate in a mediation process by a private agency without City participation. This is a City-wide if not Peninsula wide issue. It needs to be put on the Parks and Recreation Commission agenda where our Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association members and residents can voice their concerns, along with the Pickleball Club. Better and more appropriate choices are available in Monterey and other Peninsula Cities nearby in which many club members reside. It should be a community wide interest to explore what options exist to serve the needs of pickleball clubs in a way that does not create a nuisance to residents. MVNA wants to be part of the conversation, but it should not be our conversation with the Pickleball Club alone. Please let us know when it will be on the agenda so we can participate in crafting a solution.

Yours truly,
Monterey Vista Neighborhood Association Board of Directors

April 29, 2021

Dear Mr. City Manager, Parks Department and Neighbors of Monterey:

I'm writing regarding the City Manager's letter (via email) of March 24, 2021, requesting the Monterey Bay Pickleball Club (MBPC) and the Monte Vista Neighborhood Association (MVNA) develop joint recommendations regarding pickleball at Via Paraiso Park and suggesting the use of mediation to discuss "peaceful coexistence". The MBPC Board and I have been working to develop our points-of-discussion and to put together a mediation team to represent the pickleball community, including Monterey residents.

As you know, since the March 24 letter, the City of Monterey relaxed COVID-19 restrictions on the use of public park facilities, including doubles play at the tennis and pickleball courts at Via Paraiso Park (VP). Since March 2020, out of concerns for the health and safety of the pickleball community and the VP neighborhood, the MBPC has maintained a strict policy of not supporting play on these courts. I am aware of pickleball play occurring at these courts in the last month (and singles play earlier), but that is not supported by MBPC, nor has the MBPC Board modified its COVID-19-related guidance to club members.

MBPC had conversations with MVNA early in 2020, before the pandemic, which were frankly not very fruitful. We think mediation with the Mandell Gisnet Center could be a constructive next step. In the last few days, however, I've learned that MVNA representatives at the April 14 Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) made public statements of their intent to not participate in mediation. I did not receive this communication directly from MVNA, so I could be mistaken.

I would encourage the MVNA to reconsider mediation. In these times of multiple crises, I personally believe communication and fair play is fundamental to the repair and rebuilding of our communities. To make the best use of our shared public parks and other limited resources, we should work together.

I also saw Mr. O'Leary's letter to the Editor of the Monterey Herald, published April 27. Mr. O'Leary continues to make the erroneous claim that the VP courts are reserved for "club pickleball play". As I stated earlier, MPBC is not and has not been actively supporting pickleball play at these courts for over a year. Furthermore, the City's current regulations provide "priority", not exclusive, play for both tennis and pickleball on these courts on different mornings. Priority play is for people, not clubs. MBPC has no agreements with the City for exclusive use of these courts.

As you know, just before the pandemic, I suggested that the priority play structure could be re-balanced by having priority mornings M-W-F from 9am-12pm for pickleball and T-Th-Sat from 9am-12pm for tennis. It was previously M-W F 9am-12pm for pickleball and T-Th 9am-12pm alternating every other Saturday. This was from an agreement and recommendation from the tennis players at keeping this schedule permanently rather than rotating every 6 months.

MBPC would like to clear up our misunderstandings with the MVNA. When we start mediation, we can all air our grievances and peacefully exchange our points-of-view.

I also propose the PRC Chair or designated commissioner participate in the mediation. This might have multiple advantages:

- these individuals can provide a more neutral point-of-view regarding the history of pickleball at VP and current regulations
- these individuals will be implementing any agreements and, by participating, will have a clearer understanding of the intent
- active participation by such third parties should encourage both MBPC and MVNA to take the mediation more seriously and, hopefully, improve the chances of a successful outcome

If you have any questions, please reach out to me directly.

Respectfully,
Mark Thomas
USAPA Ambassador

CC: Monterey City Council, PRC