

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:50 AM
To: renukes@gmail.com
Cc: Linda Smith; Phillip Fleischmann; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Shakera Vaughan; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: FW: Petition to Mayor and Council
Attachments: PGRC Petition to Council for CIP funds Feb21.pdf

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin

Jeanette Coffin
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Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office
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-----Original Message-----

From: Renuka Soll [mailto:renukes@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:30 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>; All Agenda Materials <allclerk@townofchapelhill.org>; Manager <manager@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Petition to Mayor and Council

External email: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to reportspam@townofchapelhill.org

Dear Mayor and members of Chapel Hill Town Council,

As Chair of the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission, I would like to submit the attached petition on the commission's behalf.

Thank you,

Renuka Soll

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Renuka Soll, Chair
Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission

SUBJECT: Petition to the Town Council

DATE: February 23, 2021

The Parks, Greenways and Recreation Commission is petitioning the Town Council to appropriate additional funds from the Capital Improvement Program for the Parks and Recreation Department as shown.

Tennis / Pickleball Courts

In November 2019, the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission petitioned the Town Council to appropriate additional funds to address the disrepair of the tennis court facilities. Since that time, to our knowledge there has been no action that has resulted in the appropriation of such funds. We request that the Town Council act prior to, or as a part of the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget cycle, to fully fund the needed repairs for the tennis courts at Cedar Falls Park and Ephesus Park.

Since no repairs have been made, the court conditions at these two facilities have continued to deteriorate. Parks and Recreation has taken one court out of service at Cedar Falls for safety reasons and will likely have to take additional courts out of service soon. In addition, cracks at Ephesus have continued to grow and present a hazardous condition. The Parks and Recreation Department has continued to field numerous complaints about the court conditions at Cedar Falls and Ephesus. Photos of the court conditions are attached for your reference.

The tennis complex at Cedar Falls Park requires a complete reconstruction which has a probable cost of \$775,000. The Town currently has \$367,000 allocated in 2015 parks bond funds for the project; there is a funding gap of at least \$408,000. Public engagement and an engineered design for the project have already been completed. Ephesus requires a significant fix due to anticipated subsurface issues as well. A short-term fix could cost \$45,000 to repair the cracks; however, the manufacturer will not guarantee this work and does not recommend it. This temporary repair will require more significant investment soon. Because of this, we also request that the Town fund an engineering study to assess the subsurface conditions for the entire court complex at Ephesus and develop a plan with cost estimates on how to better address ongoing issues at the tennis and pickleball courts. Understanding that funding is an issue, we request that the Town quickly allocate the full amount to reconstruct Cedar Falls (i.e., at least an additional \$408,000) and we also request that the allocation of funding to complete short-term repairs and engineering study at the tennis and pickleball courts at Ephesus (i.e., at least \$90,000).

The tennis and pickleball facilities within the Parks and Recreation Department's inventory are crucially important. The 2013 Master Plan indicated a need for three more tennis courts;

however, no additional courts have been constructed and two tennis courts previously in the inventory at Ephesus were converted to pickleball courts to partially address pickleball demand. Given the popularity and growth in both sports, the Town desperately needs more tennis AND pickleball courts, and given current funding it is unable to adequately maintain the ones that it has in its inventory.

To the Commission and to many tennis and pickleball players, this is unacceptable, and the Town must do better to fund needed repairs to its current park's infrastructure.

Chapel Hill Pickleball recently visited with the Commission to share its concerns and tennis and pickleball players have reached out to the Town and Commission with concerns. The Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission feels that it is imperative that the Town take steps to fund the maintenance of its inventory of tennis and pickleball courts so that these facilities can continue to be the excellent recreational amenities that they once were. We urge the Town Council and Town Manager to find funds and work with the Director of Parks and Recreation to implement these repairs.

Consistent with its November 2019 petition and on January 21, 2020 memo to the Mayor and Town Council regarding Five Year Budget Priorities, the Parks, Greenways, and Recreation Commission is requesting the Town Council to appropriate additional funds for the routine maintenance of Parks and Recreation facilities. Up until 2018, the annual amount provided through the PAY-GO funds was \$370,000. Today, it is \$0. We request that the Town Council address this by reinstating the \$370,000 in PAY-GO funding for small project at parks, playgrounds, cemeteries, and trails in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

Legion Road Property

The Commission previously petitioned the Town Council to dedicate all the 36+ acres of the American Legion property at 1714 Legion Road for park and recreational use, only. We still stand behind this request. At our meeting on February 16, 2021, we voted to petition the Town Council to provide direction to the Parks and Recreation Department to actively promote the use of the space as a park as its long-term future is determined. This should include, but is not limited to, the placement of appropriate signage and amenities on site to allow this wonderful open space to be used for a variety of active and passive recreational purposes. Additionally, the Commission is interested in seeing a large picnic shelter installed on the site. We request that the Town Council and Manager work with the Parks and Recreation Director to allocate additional new funds to be utilized for the needed increased maintenance and monitoring at the site, consistent with the care shown at other Town park facilities.

Cedar Falls Park - Courts





Ephesus Park - Courts



