

**PTPC Special Meeting
October 12 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 pm by President, Lynn Pierle. Present were Board members Kim Anderson, Jim Dow, Jim Geren, Jeannie Ramsey, Patti Rowdabaugh, Eric Seder, Craig Walls and Sharlene Shiroma, along with 19 Club members and other attendees.

Welcome and Introductions

The Board members introduced themselves and stated what position they held.

Board Reports

Update on Courthouse Courts Protocol – Eric Seder

Eric reported that the County Commissioners had a mini tournament on 9/17 at the Courthouse Courts. Lynn and Eric were in attendance. Everyone enjoyed playing and the consensus was to get a 3rd court there sooner rather than later.

We are working with Matt Tyler of County Parks and Recs to figure out how these courts could best be utilized by the public. When the courts opened up, nothing had been decided. But when the players started using the courts, they worked it out amongst themselves and it was working very well. At the time, we told Matt the Club does not want to take responsibility in running this, because it's working fine. He was thrilled with the decision and it was decided to try it out this way and see out it goes.

As time went on, there have been some problems, in terms of, if it gets crowded, how to handle it. Matt asked how we should handle it. We sent him some rotation rules; for example, if a number of people are waiting, then two would go in and two would go out. He approved the idea and temporarily posted it on a laminated sheet of paper. If this rule does work out, then he will have the County Sign Shop make a permanent sign. Eric asked the Club members if they have any suggestions on what the sign should state, to let him know so it can be incorporated before the sign is actually made.

These rules are just a suggestion. If everyone that is playing agrees to do something else, then that's okay. The rules posted are just a way of getting everyone to play and no one is excluded.

Lynn stated that after Matt looked at other counties on their pickleball rules and noticed a lot of them used time limits, rather than rotating in, he and his staff want to do a rotation rule in the morning and a time limit rule in the afternoon. The courts will now be limited to 1 hr. of playtime in the afternoon. For example, if players arrive and you are playing for 35 minutes, then you have 25 more minutes to play and you have to relinquish the court to the arriving players.

Update on Negotiations with City – Jim Dow

Jim asked Lynn to report on this topic. She stated that the negotiations for the Mountain View courts are in hiatus right now. Our point of contact with the City is Steve King, the City Public Works Director. Where we are right now is, we had to submit a proposal to the Port Townsend Parks, Recreation and Trees Advisory Board which we did in August. They accepted our proposal and now it has to go through City Council. But before we can take it to City Council, we need to draw up a Donor Agreement because we are offering to pay for the courts if the City will grant the Club a specific period of time to use the courts. That has to be done on a written agreement. We are working with their lawyer on this Agreement and Steve King has been out of town for the last week. We are waiting for him to return so we can move forward. The next step in this process is for our Facilities Committee, which is Eric Seder, Jim Dow and Lynn to meet with Steve and their lawyer and finalize the Donor Agreement. Once it's finalized, we can then go to the City Council and ask them for permission to take over the Mountain View facility.

Jim Dow stated that it all assumes that the members present at this meeting agree to the proposal that we are making to the City. We did go to the City before with this proposal of extending the pavement by 20 ft. and the dog park people said, no, because it infringes on the dog park. We then went back and created another proposal to the City that didn't infringe on the dog park, but also had to talk to the YMCA people and get their approval. The YMCA said their kids play outside and if we put a fence around the courts, that would not work for them. We then made another proposal to make one of the courts a multi-purpose court where there are basketball and pickleball lines. Lynn is hopeful we will get the courts by Spring.

We also have a long term plan. The Mountain View courts are the first step. The next plan includes 4 courts or more or however many we can afford, but we can't do that until the City gives us a space. There are a couple of places near Mountain View. One of them is on the Mountain View site where we can expand 4 more courts. The other space is across the street at the golf course. What the Parks and Rec is doing over the next year is convening a committee that is going to do a Master Plan for Mountain View and the golf course.

Update on Indoor Play at the Y – Lynn Pierle

Lynn stated that we are going to have indoor courts at the Y. They were supposed to start on 10/11, but they are still working on the program for pickleball play. Right now we will have 10, 2 hr. sessions indoors Monday – Friday from 9a-1p. Wendy at the Y wants to start small. If there is demand for more sessions, then she hopes to add more sessions later on. For the types of sessions, we have given her Rated Play, Open Play and Beginner Play. No Scheduled Play for the initial launch of their program. This is a Y program, not a PTPC program. There will be a fee to play at the Y. Wendy wants to keep the cost the same as what she charges for the pool people. Basically, it's going to be \$6 a session, or you can buy a punch card which is 20 punches for \$85 that comes out to be \$4.25 a session. If you are a senior the punch card will be 20 punches for \$80, which comes out to be \$4.00 a session. And another option would be to join the Y for \$56 a month which would get you unlimited play, plus access to the pool and use of any other Y's in the U.S. The number of players per session will be capped at 12 and you have to wear a mask for indoor play for now. Wendy is also looking into if you have to be vaccinated.

Following are some questions (Q) and answers (A) from the floor:

Q: Kathy Thomas – Does Sequim use the Y all year?

A: Lynn – Yes.

Q: Kathy Thomas – So it would be good there, too?

A: Lynn – Yes, and there is also a Y in Port Angeles.

Q: Kathy Thomas – Does any Y have indoor courts?

A: Darryl Fling – Yes, the Y in Silverdale has indoor courts.

Q: Stan Jonasson – If there is going to be only 12 players per 2 hr. session, is it first come, first served? I know that some indoor places around Washington state are doing a reservation system for different days and times.

A: Lynn – The Y has a reservation system. Anyone who wants to play will have to make a reservation using their system, so it will be first come, first served. This will be on a trial basis. We don't know how it is going to work. If we need to cap the number of times you can play a week, then we will do that, or Wendy may open up more sessions.

Q: Mary Critchlow – So let's say we want to play November, December, January and February months only. Can I sign up for just those months at \$56 a month?

A: Lynn – Yes, I think it can be seasonal.

Q: Kathy Thomas – You say they are working inside. Are they making the courts different?

A: Lynn – No, but I think that is something we as a club would suggest about realigning the lines. There is room for full size legitimate official pickleball courts. We might be able to negotiate that with them. The other thing that they are doing is, they are creating a closed circuit television in there, because the person who is at the pool will also be managing the gym. That is also one thing they need to have done before they can open up the gym. They are also supposed to clean the gym, too.

Lynn then asked the question to the attendees of how many would play indoors and about half answered they would play.

Volunteer List – Jeannie Ramsey

Jeannie passed around a Volunteer List sheet for anyone that would be willing to help out with various activities, and if there is anyone that has a special interest or skill that they would like to assist with.

Social Sundays – Patti Rowdabaugh

Patti suggested having Social Sundays at Mountain View. Have it as open play so everyone can socialize and play with everyone in attendance. Lynn and Patti suggested having it start Sunday, 10/17 from 10a – 12p. Everyone in attendance liked the idea.

Patti presented to Mary Critchlow a token of appreciation from the Board for all her hard work as past President and in getting the Club started.

Topics for Listening Session

Lynn stated that of the 112 members, 56 responded to the Survey. She was pleased with the good response rate and was encouraged by the Survey results.

Scheduling

The following are questions, statements and responses from members of the club that were in attendance at the meeting.

Jennie Hoskins – I am curious as to the high school. Is there any chance that we are going to get more time over there?

Lynn responded – I don't know about the near future. Hopefully, we will, but as long as they want to use that space for their classes, we can't do anything. We have Saturday from 9a – 1p; Monday – Friday from 3:30p – 5:30p. This is the reason we need more courts. We cannot depend on the high school. It's their property.

Patricia Dombrowski – Is there an indication that we'll have greater access during the summer months when school is closed?

Lynn responded – Yes, but still 9a – 1p, because of the vociferous neighbor that has squelched our pickleball playing. We are trying to be diplomatic and accommodate his request for reducing the hours of play. This is another reason why we need those Mountain View courts.

Jim Dow responded – He talked to the PE teacher and he plans on having a pickleball lesson for the kids and then we talked about having a tournament with the old people vs young people :o).

Jennie Hoskins – What about when the weather is bad this winter? The high school is not going to be using that space. We used it all last winter.

Lynn responded – Here's the problem. Everytime we change the schedule at the high school, I have to meet with the Superintendent and she's not always available. I would like to be able to change it every day, but we can't work it that way.

Bob Landry – If the school is using the courts for pickleball, can we see if they can put in permanent nets?

Lynn responded – Yes, it has been suggested.

Fred Weinmann – Do we have any plans for a ladder system of play or something that everybody can participate in? I'm thinking ladders might be good to have.

Lynn responded – How about Social Sundays. We have a lot of ideas for those kinds of things that you are talking about and the Pandemic has really stifled us for the year. We haven't really been able to make any progress through this past year. All of those suggestions are great ideas. We need help with this. If anyone would like to run an event, socials, clinics, etc., let us know. My guess is that it would be Spring before we can get some of those programs in place.

Fred Weinmann – I've always been curious about how ladder play works in pickleball. I used to play ladders in handball.

Lynn responded – I want to talk about ladders, it's on my list. There was a comment in the survey about how players can get rated. People talk about rating all the time and that is a whole process that has brought a lot of anxiety, chaos and unhappiness. But if anybody who wants to take that on, have at it. You might even want to get a committee to work on our rating system. One way to get an idea about rating is to have a ladder. I think that is a good way to start. You can figure out where you are in the scheme of things. We would like to have a volunteer to organize a ladder. It would be a beginning and would be limited to 12-16 people with intermediate players. It would determine if you are a low intermediate or a high intermediate player. If you rise to the top, then maybe you can start playing with the advanced players. It's not a rating system, but at least it will give you a sense of your skill levels compared to others.

The way it works with doubles is that you have 4 people playing on a court. You play a round robin which means everybody plays 3 games with the 3 other partners. You keep score and you report those scores to the manager. Then there's a complicated system where you go on the ladder. If you had really good scores that day, you go up in the ladder. If you had poor scores, then you would probably move down. And you'll be rated from 1-16. 1 being the highest, 16 the lowest.

Lynn stated on the survey about open, rated and scheduled play, the preferences are:

The one that had the most preference is scheduled play with 3.9 out of 5

Then came rated play with 3.8 out of 5

And open play came in at 2.9 out of 5

On the question that asked to allocate court time, for those kinds of play, it was quite different.

If we had 10 sessions, 4 would be open play, 3 would be rated play and 3 would be scheduled play.

Stan Jonasson – A minor thing, when you schedule a game on Playtime Scheduler, if you have a set group of people that you are playing with, instead of putting just one in there and then you read the Note to see who's playing, could you also just punch in Guest 3 times? Then we wouldn't go to your game. It's slightly confusing when you are looking through the schedule a week or so ahead trying to figure out where you might play, because I've set up a lot of stuff. I don't want to set them up, but I'm looking for somebody to play with and I see those ones and I go there and I go another time because I don't know if it's changed somehow.

Patti Rowdabaugh responded – You're absolutely right. We've made that request many times, so that the number is reflective that the session is full.

Lynn responded – I'll put that in the next Blast as a reminder, but also word of mouth is also just as effective. If you can, tell your friends who use Playtime Scheduler that we really want to know the names, but if you can't, just mark it as guest, guest, guest.

Patti responded – We want to know that the session is full.

Fred Weinmann – Seems like we morphed the Playtime Scheduler system. Most of the scheduling of courts are automatically full. They are all saying 1 and they are all full. When we first started doing this a lot of people were setting up as open play, then over time it morphed.

Lynn responded – When you are signing onto Playtime Scheduler for the first time, it tells you, this is not a reservation system. It is a communications system. During Covid, we started using it as a reservation system. So that is how it morphed, but once we emerge out of Covid, then we might want to reconsider using Playtime Scheduler as a communication system which is what it is meant to be. We can set up our own reservation system if we have scheduled courts.

Jane Dow – Since we can't play Monday-Friday at the high school, have we asked if we can have all day Saturday and Sunday there?

Lynn responded – We have.

Patti responded – The neighbor won't allow us to play on Sunday.

Kathy Thomas – Somebody signs up on scheduled play days and it's usually a handful of people that are pretty consistent and there are 4 people that are always the same, but if somebody goes there and says, I want to play and challenge this court, they can say, no. Somebody who wants to play down there and wants to challenge on that court, theoretically, they should say, welcome. Is that right?

Lynn responded – That is right. Theoretically, that is true. We shouldn't be turning down anybody who wants to play. What we are doing with our reservation system is basically communicating that we have a foursome and would like to keep it that way. But if anybody wants to show up, you can.

Mary Crithlow responded – Just to clarify, at Mountain View almost all 4 courts are empty all the time. I give lessons there and I am there 3 or 4 days a week and very rarely is there anybody playing there.

Lynn responded – FYI, 75% of our members prefer to play in the morning.

Steve Lampert - I started playing 3 weeks ago. Last Saturday, since there were no more beginner lessons, I emailed and texted people that I had taken beginner classes with and I signed up on Playtime Scheduler for Mountain View courts. Right away 8 people wanted to play. It ended up 14 people came. Stan Jonasson came to help out. Just want to make sure I did it correctly and I didn't feel like anybody that was there said you can't play. That's why I get a sense that if I show up, I'm not sure the players would let me play.

Lynn responded – You should be able to get on a court.

Sylvie Bliss – I am intimidated being a beginner. I put myself as a 2.5. And I didn't know, like today, somebody had set up something at the Courthouse courts and it was for 3-3.5. I showed up and there were good players. I felt intimidated to wait my turn and left. What would you do, it's only at the Courthouse? I know it's open play, that is why I went.

Lynn responded – They cannot reserve the court and they cannot exclude anybody from playing at the Courthouse.

Fred Weinmann – I understand about open play and you can show up and play, but there is the 4 max and 5 max, what does that mean?

Patti responded – That was during Covid for contact tracing. We could only have 5 people on a court and you couldn't mix with other groups. That is not the case now.

Jim Dow responded – I'm confused, too. So if we are using one of the club's nets, then any club net game is considered open and you can go in and put your paddle in. That is sort of new.

Lynn responded – No, that is not new. We've been saying that all the time.

Peggy Tonan – You really confused me about scheduled play. That's why I play at Mountain View, because I was intimidated at the Courthouse courts, too. I thought that is what scheduled play meant, we can play with players we want. Then someone comes in on a scheduled court, they can come in. That's why I thought you had one open court at Mountain View and the other 3 were scheduled.

Lynn responded – Let's be clear. We've done scheduled play to accommodate those players who want to play with a select group, but you're basically saying, I want to play with these 3 people, please let us play. But if anyone else who didn't get the message shows up and wants to play, they should be included.

Peggy Tonan responded – The reason we like 4 people is because it's cold out. We don't want to sit out.

Lynn responded – The reserving of courts is to indicate that, I have this group and I want to play with them. Anybody who walks onto those courts, they're supposed to be open to the public. This thing about scheduling courts happened during Covid and it's becoming more prevalent among other pickleball communities. However, it also diminishes the opportunity to be social, to meet other people, to mix it up, to play with various people. We are trying to accommodate everyone.

Silvie Bliss – Is there a place we could put this online? At the beginning, I was playing with friends that are beginners, and then a really good player came and we thought we cannot ask him to play with us, because he is too good.

Lynn responded – We have asked our better players, when they join in with lower level players, to keep the ball in play.

Toni Davison responded – There is a Code of Conduct that the club has and it talks specifically about higher level players playing with lower level players and what each person's responsibility is to each other.

Stan Jonasson – When we first set up the club, it was supposed to be this welcoming group of people. We set it up to promote it to the community. I hope the people keep that in mind. It's not just a bunch of separate groups. It's supposed to be a community, we are supposed to be working together. I understand and I support that we should use Playtime Scheduler. You should be able to play with your friends, but do not lose sight of the fact that we are a community and we should all be playing with each other at least some of the time.

Upgrade of Mountain View Courts – Eric Seder

Eric stated there are several issues revolving around Mountain View. One is the surface and one is the configuration. We would like to expand that surface, but we've been told by the City that is just inviting trouble as we are just going into this Master Planning project. The City Manager and the Public Works Director are very interested in getting pickleball as part of that Master Plan. We fully expect to come out of the Master Plan with not just space, but also with money. There is something called Bank Capacity that the City has funds to distribute for certain programmatic things and one of them is anything that is involved in the Pros Plan. If you are a program asset in the Pros Plan, which we are, then they are going to have some money to give to you. I think just keeping it on the existing slab for now is the way the City thinks to, 'Keep the Peace' for now. Good things are coming. The Master Plan will be less than 1 year to process.

As to the surface, our initial thought was to raise the money. The County spent about \$25,000 for the Courthouse Courts, so that is an idea of how much it might cost. Jim Dow did some research on it, too, and thought it would cost around \$35,000. Hal Leskinen, a Civil Engineer, showed Matt Tyler all the problems with the Courthouse Courts. Matt was going to have the contractor take a look at it and see what he has to say about it. Eric was talking to Hal and Bob Wheeler about the courts at Mountain View and they mentioned instead of raising all that money, why don't we just acid wash or sandblast it. You are going to have a surface that is footing-wise just as good as the high school. You can repaint the lines. It would be quick and we can do it ourselves and it would cost around \$1,000 to do that. They thought we could try a small patch and see what it would do to the surface.

This is a big issue for the membership to have a chance to talk about. Which way should we go? If we did the acid wash or sandblast and we weren't satisfied that it wasn't good enough, we haven't spent much money and we could still go and raise \$35,000 and do it the other way.

Mary Critchlow – Don't know anything about concrete, but here's what I visualize. You are looking at the 2 smooth surface courts and you are wanting to sandblast those down so you get some grip like the other 2 courts? Is that what Hal is talking about? My visual is that all 4 courts will have these divots just like the 2 courts are right now. I think those 2 courts are terrible courts. The balls don't bounce right, it's uneven.

Toni Davison responded – I think that it would be grippy, if you were sanding something just to rough it up uniformly.

John Tonan responded – I have some experience in sandblasting. You can select the equipment and the grit and you can sand the 2 smooth courts so they have a texture on them. The other courts you can coat that or grind it down, but that is a lot of work.

Lynn responded – There is one other thing - if we go the acid washing or sandblasting route, we would have to have all 4 courts, because they would have to be on the footprint where they are now. The seams between the courts would stay there and have permanent nets.

Jim Dow responded – The permanent nets would cost about \$800 a court. And probably put the permanent nets on 3 of the courts due to the Y wanting to have some space for the kids to play on.

Lynn responded – That would mean we would have a roll-a-way net on the 4th multi-purpose court or if you choose 3 courts, on the 3rd court.

Mary Critchlow – Do you know how much space you would lose with a permanent net compared to a temporary net in between the 2 courts? I think you would probably lose a foot or a little more.

Jim Dow responded – No, I think the posts for the temporary nets also go like a foot outside the lines which would be the same. The permanent nets bolt down. This is an inexpensive first step that we would not lose much investment in doing. We could also put a fence behind the courts so we don't have to chase after balls all the time. Acid etching might be the first step to do to increase the adhesion of the PlexiPave© paint.

Eric responded – The City would allow us to paint the surface of the Mountain View courts like the Courthouse Courts if we want to.

Lynn – It would be a much cheaper way to go, and as a club we wouldn't have to raise that much money. We are looking at \$35,000 that we would have to upgrade the existing slab at Mountain View, using a professional contractor, fencing, etc. The question is, do you want the 4 courts with the concrete slab that has been washed and sanded and 5 ft. between each court as is now? Or do you want to spend more money to upgrade the surface and only have 3 courts? We would lose a court and have 12 ft. of space between each court, a 4 ft. high fence between each court similar to Sequim's courts.

Darryl Fling responded – It's important to have a spot of critical mass where everybody can play and socialize. That is how he met a lot of people and became friends. If we have 3 courts here, 2 courts there, it just scatters everybody and you are not going to have a good mixing. The more courts you have in one location the more mixing there will be.

Stan Jonasson – We are still going to have to spend some money to fill the cracks, right?

Jim Dow responded – Only 2 of the courts have cracks in the kitchen area. So you would have to fill them and smooth them over. It's not going to be a huge upgrade from what we have now court surface-wise. Maybe a little grippy. I don't think it would be a huge expense.

Eric responded – We should also take into consideration that getting a contractor to do a whole new surface is a hard thing to do right now. They are all backed up. Not sure when we could actually raise the money and get a contractor. This was another thing that motivated me. We could do this ourselves and we can do it right now and have a good surface.

Lynn responded – There are a couple of things that are still in play for a decision and that is Steve, the Public Works Director, has to weigh in on this and he just got back this weekend. The City will have an opinion about how we can go forward.

On the Survey regarding 3 courts vs 4 courts, 3 courts on a slab at Mountain View with 12 ft. of space and 4 ft. high fencing between each court got, 51.8%. 4 courts on the same layout got, 48.2%.

Jim Dow responded – The total cost of fencing would be about \$10,000. We can put a fence about a foot back from the edge of the court.

Stan Jonasson – Would you get a separate contractor to put in the posts and nets?

Jim Dow responded – We should be able to do it ourselves. You can buy nets with a plate on the bottom with 4 holes to put bolts in. You would drill holes and put a part in where the bolt would go into.

Lynn did a quick survey with members in attendance on 2 topics:

1. 3 courts or 4 courts at Mountain View?
7 wants 3 courts
19 wants 4 courts

2. Do you want to spend a lot of money to get a high grade surface or do you want to go the less expensive way, acid wash, sandblast and get something that can be quick?
17 wants the less expensive
11 wants the more expensive

Other Questions or Issues from Members

Jenny Hoskins – Can we get a restroom available at Mountain View?

Patti responded – She suggested the port-a-potty at the high school be moved to Mountain View.

Lynn and Jim Dow responded – We should move the port-a-potty from the high school to Mountain View and split the cost with the dog park people.

Jennie Hoskins – Is there any way we can get some new nets at Mountain View?

Patti responded – We can swap out the nets from the high school.

Lynn and Jim Dow responded – We can also buy a couple of new nets.

Jennie Hoskins – Can we get a squeegee at the Courthouse?

Lynn responded – Matt said he will do it. It's the county's responsibility. She suggested to Jennie to go onto the county website and send a note.

Jim Dow responded - We don't have one for Mountain View. We can probably get one for there.

Stan Jonasson – Would it be possible to see if Matt Tyler would allow us to paint lines on that middle court at the Courthouse and have a club member or board member get a portable net there and then we would have 3 courts?

Jim Dow responded – We can get a portable roll-a-way net for the Courthouse and Mary Critchlow mentioned you can lock them to the fence.

Ann Weinmann – Can we get a backboard some place where people can practice? Sequim has a portable backboard that they use. Stan mentioned that it's called a Pickleball Rebounder and they were about \$600 awhile back.

Lynn responded – That is a good idea and we'll look into it.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharlene Shiroma