



TO: Park Advisory Commission
FROM: Colin Smith, Parks & Recreation Services Manager
SUBJECT: WINDEMERE TENNIS COURTS - BACKGROUND
DATE: November 15, 2013

This memorandum provides a summary of the Windemere Tennis Court replacement project.

The tennis courts at Windemere were originally constructed in 1986, and were color coated in 2007. Cracking and heaving of the court surface began in 2008 and became more pronounced in 2009. Crack repairs were performed and new net posts installed in 2009 and 2010. Neither the crack repairs nor the net post installations were successful and additional cracking and heaving took place.

Not understanding why the repairs were failing, soil borings were taken around the court in April of 2011. Results from the soil borings showed heavily saturated soils, not conducive to game court construction.

In April 2012 neighbors and tennis players spoke at PAC asking that the courts be rebuilt. Subsequently, at the May 2012 PAC meeting, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE RECONSTRUCTION OF TENNIS COURTS
IN WINDEMERE PARK**

Whereas, the tennis courts in Windemere Park are in need of replacement;

Whereas, the tennis courts are a heavily utilized neighborhood asset;

Whereas, the tennis courts are in an underserved Northeast area of the City;

Whereas, saturated organic soils and a high water table have resulted in an unstable base and heaving of the existing net posts;

Whereas, a number of potential options exist for replacing the tennis courts;



Whereas, the Park Advisory Commission (PAC) values the input of the neighbors and community in making a decision regarding the tennis courts;

Whereas, reconstruction can be accomplished for 10-20% above regular court construction costs;

Resolved, that PAC supports the replacement of the tennis courts in Windemere Park;

Resolved, that input will be solicited from neighbors and the community through public meetings;

Resolved, that reconstruction will be accomplished for no more than 10-20% above normal reconstruction costs.

During 2012 staff had additional soil borings taken at different locations around the park, including samples from the center of the existing court. Essentially the soil borings showed heavily saturated soils near the existing court, with the worst soils located under the center of the court. Numerous other locations were identified in the park as having soils suitable for game court construction.

During 2012 two public meetings were held. On July 12, 2012 a public meeting was held on site and attended by 26 people. The attendees were informed that replacing the courts in the same location was not advisable because of the poor soil conditions, and walked the park to explore alternate sites. Amy Kuras, Park Planner, left with the assignment to bring back conceptual plans that placed the tennis courts at three different locations for further public consideration.

On October 8, 2012 a second public meeting was attended by 28 people. Three options were presented and some attendees voiced strong opposition to all options. Support or consensus for one of the three options was not achievable. A fourth option was generated at the meeting that placed the courts in a more central location. This fourth option received nearly unanimous support at the public meeting.

At the October 2012 PAC meeting this fourth option was recommended for approval, by the vote of 6 – 1. The resolution language follows:



RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED
RECONSTRUCTED TENNIS COURTS IN WINDEMERE PARK

Whereas, PAC has previously supported by resolution that the tennis courts in Windemere Park be replaced;

*Whereas, PAC has previously supported by resolution that this reconstruction be accomplished for no more than 10-20% above normal reconstruction costs;
Whereas, input from neighbors and the community has been solicited through public meetings and written communication;*

Resolved, that PAC recommends placement of the reconstructed tennis courts in accordance with Option 4 plan;

Resolved, that PAC continue to solicit and incorporate input from neighbors and the community regarding landscaping around the tennis courts and other associated park improvements.

Subsequent to the passage of this resolution and over the course of the last year, some Windemere residents expressed concerns about the selected fourth option, and how placing the courts in the center of the park may limit park utility. In September 2013, the Earhart Knolls Homeowners Association Board of Directors (EK) voted unanimously to ask PAC reconsider the placement of the courts to location one. Staff suggested that EK share their feedback with PAC at the November 2013 meeting.