

CITY OF COLUMBUS
SPECIAL PARK BOARD
MEETING
INTERACTIVE MEETING FORMAT
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
08-05-2025

The 08-05-2025 Special Park Board meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Brad Norling at the City of Columbus City Hall. Present were Board members, Steven Ray, Kris King, Andrea Messina, and Bob Bodene. City Council Liaison Mayor Ron Hanegraaf, City Administrator Jack Davis, Assistant City Administrator Aaron Berg, Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, and Lorie Spangler were also present.

Absent: None

Also Present: Arnie Wicker

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Motion by Norling to approve Special Park Board agenda for 08-05-2025 meeting as presented.

Second by Messina.

Roll call vote: Ray – aye; King – aye; Messina – aye; Bodene – aye, and Norling – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

Tennis Court Bids: Norling stated that at the July 15th meeting, the Board agreed to delay the decision on the tennis court/pickleball design until they had the opportunity to review the results from the survey sent out to the community.

City Administrator Davis reported that the contractor's bid extension had been secured until August 31, 2025, with no additional fee. Norling went on to present the two main options that were included in the survey: a base bid replacing the existing tennis courts with two new tennis courts with pickleball lines overlaid on both courts, and the other option was one tennis court and two dedicated pickleball courts.

The Board members reviewed results and noted significant resident input favoring dedicated pickleball space. Norling commented that initially he was in favor of the two tennis courts but acknowledged the survey results and the small cost difference, he shifted his support toward the dedicated pickleball court option. Bodene and Messina both supported the dedicated pickleball court option stating public feedback demonstrated clear preference. King voiced her preference to preserve the two tennis court option with overlaying the pickleball layout on each court. King added that current use and conversations with residents found dual use acceptable.

Board member Ray inquired about the safety concerns regarding back-to-back pickleball courts without fencing. Mayor Hanegraaf, who has played pickleball, noted that while separation is ideal, most public courts mirror the proposed layout.

City Administrator Davis commented that in the Park Master Plan future for additional pickleball

courts can be placed at the existing field #5 (t-ball) field location and the existing tennis court can be restriped to accommodate two dedicated tennis courts.

Motion by Norling to recommend to the Council the approval of replacing the existing tennis courts with the base bid with alternate one option; one tennis court and two dedicated pickleball courts.

Seconded: Bodene

Roll call vote: Ray – aye; King – Nay; Messina – aye; Bodene – aye, and Norling – aye.

Motion carried.

City Administrator Davis explained that there is a \$47,000 funding gap between the funds available and the cost of the project. Davis noted some potential solutions that could include:

- Selling Hidden Park and using the sale proceeds to reimburse the city.
- Applying future park dedication funds from potential developments.
- General fund transfers or other sustainable funding measures.

Davis also noted the city currently receives \$21,000 annually from the cell tower lease and \$2,700 is given to the park fund, which is insufficient for long-term park needs.

PARK BOARD MEMBERS OPEN DISCUSSION:

The board identified the playground equipment as the next priority, given its deteriorating condition.

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled park board meeting is Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJORN:

Motion made by Norling to adjourn.

Second by Messina.

Roll call vote: Ray – aye; King – aye; Messina – aye; Bodene – aye; Norling – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Lorie A. Spangler

Respectfully submitted: Lorie Spangler, Deputy City Clerk