

## Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2012

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### ***Board of Park Commissioners Ad Hoc Committee***

John Barber, Ad Hoc Chair  
Megan Heahlke  
Brice Maryman

### ***Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:***

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent  
Jeanette Geiger, Acting Coordinator

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters at 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Barber called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reviewed the meeting agenda and Committee members introduced themselves.

Commissioner Barber explained this is the first time the Park Board has held a public hearing before an Ad Hoc Committee (less than a quorum of the Board.) Tonight's recommendation will be presented to the full Board for a recommendation and to Acting Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation for his decision.

To watch the meeting and hear testimony and discussion, see  
<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591228>.

## **Public Hearing/Discussion/Recommendation: Non Tennis Activity on Tennis Courts Pilot**

Dennis Cook, Seattle Parks Athletics Manager, introduced himself and presented information on the outcome of the 18-month pilot for Use of Tennis Court #1 at Cal Anderson Park and Tennis Courts at Judkins Playfield for non-tennis activity. Prior to this meeting, Commissioners received a written briefing paper and Parks staff also prepared a summary of the written public comments sent to the Park Board prior to tonight's meeting, voicing support or opposition of the continued alternate use of the courts. Total Unique Opposing – 0; Total Unique Supporting – 26.

### ***Written Briefing***

#### **Requested Board Action**

This is an update briefing on the pilot of Non Tennis Activity on Tennis Courts. The Park Board will host a public hearing and then be asked to make a recommendation supporting the staff recommendation. The Board will hold a public hearing and make a recommendation to the Superintendent on this issue at the May 10 meeting.

#### **Staff Recommendation**

The staff recommendation is to make permanent the pilot use of Tennis Court #1 at Cal Anderson Park and the tennis courts at Judkins Park for bike polo and dodgeball.

## Project Description and Background

At the October 28, 2010, Park Board meeting, the Park Board approved an 18-month dodgeball/bike polo pilot program to be held at Bobby Morris tennis court #1 (located in Cal Anderson Park) and Judkins Park and Playfield tennis court, ending April 30, 2012. The recommendation came after a public hearing before the Board and extensive written testimony. Please see the motion below:

- Commissioner Jourdan Keith made the following motion: **Allow one court at Cal Anderson Park to be specifically designated for dodgeball and bike polo; and use Judkins Park courts for bike polo. Have this be a pilot project.** The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams and approved unanimously.

## Pilot

During the 18-month pilot, dodgeball and bike polo were allowed at Cal Anderson Park tennis court #1 and Judkins Park and Playfield tennis courts. Cal Anderson was the primary site during the pilot. Parks removed the tennis court net poles and nets from the Cal Anderson tennis court and removed the tennis nets from Judkins. The leaders of dodgeball and bike polo worked out a schedule that allows each organization adequate use time on Cal Anderson #1.



Bike Polo at Cal Anderson Park



Bike Polo at Cal Anderson Park

The Judkins tennis courts were not used as highly as those at Cal Anderson, due to the lack of lights at the venue. The primary use of the two courts at Judkins took place on weekends and later in the spring and summer on weekday evenings. The bike polo organization used wooden planks to divide the courts and keep the ball from rolling into the other court.

## Community Concerns

During the 18-month pilot, Seattle Parks and Recreation received four emails and phone calls opposing non tennis activities on tennis courts. The concerns were primarily directed toward the Judkins tennis courts.

--June 6, a complaint about dodgeball players drinking beer and being rude.

--July, a complaint about bike polo at Judkins; wants it moved and the courts refurbished within two weeks.

--January 12, a complaint about bike polo at Judkins.

--March 2012, a complaint about bike polo taking over at Judkins.

## Impact on Tennis Courts

Judkins Tennis Courts There is minimal if any damage to the courts (please see photo below).



### **Cal Anderson Tennis Court #1**

The color coating was worn before the pilot, damage had already occurred at the court. It was evident that the surface at Judkins is more conducive to wheeled activity because it does not have the color coating. The fencing is in no worse condition than it was at the beginning of the pilot period. The marks are from bicycle tires (please see the photo below).



### **Other Non Traditional Activities**

During the 18-month pilot, other non-tennis court activity organizations asked Parks about the possibility of allowing their activities on tennis courts. The Citywide Athletics Office heard from the following organizations:

- Pickleball (representatives made a presentation to the Sports Advisory Council): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pickleball>.
- Radio Race Cars (representatives made a presentation to the Sports Advisory Council): <http://racing-radio-controlled-cars.com/>.
- Futsal (soccer over a net): <http://www.futsal.com/index.php/history-of-futsal->
- Handball: [http://www.ushandball.org/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www.ushandball.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1).
- In line Roller Hockey: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roller\\_hockey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roller_hockey).

### **Staff Recommendation (details)**

Judkins Park is very suitable for Bike Polo and any other wheeled non-tennis court sport. With Garfield, I-90 Lid (across 23<sup>rd</sup> and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way), and the Amy Yee Tennis Courts within 1.5 miles north, east and south of the Judkins courts, we offer the tennis community reasonable alternatives nearby.

### Positives:

1. The court surface is conducive to roller skates and bike tires.
2. The double size court allows for two bike polo courts, and a possible inline skating rink.
3. The location is accessible from the I-90 bike path.
4. It is adjacent to the future skatepark.
5. The park is on a bus line.
6. The sport is a potential revenue generator for large bike polo events and dodgeball tournaments.

### Negatives:

1. Continued use for bike polo and dodgeball eliminates two tennis courts (they would need resurfacing to be playable for tennis).
2. There are no lights at one venue, which limits the amount of time the court can be used during the dark months.
3. A few community members question or disagree with bike polo at Judkins.

### In Review:

Parks staff do not believe it is possible for bike polo and tennis to co-exist at Judkins. The courts were not used a lot during the fall and winter months for bike polo because it got dark so early. Weekends were the prime time of use by the bike polo players. The court sat empty but probably no more than if it was just a tennis court during those dark months. Parks staff spoke to Matt Messenger, bike polo leader; he and the group have designed plans to make the court much more conducive to their sport, which would also support skating sports. Parks have not reviewed the plans at this time. The sport of bike polo is growing, along with other wheeled sports. Other sports that would like to use tennis courts are inline roller hockey, radio race cars and Futsal (soccer played over a net).

### Next Steps

- Issue a news release announcing the Superintendent's decision.
- Contact user groups and individuals who participated in the process.
- Implement a process to consider other emerging uses. Consider:
  - Accommodating emerging sports: assess the number of users, whether the activity is concentrated in one sector of the city.
  - Identify the courts that have potential for uses other than tennis, based on use patterns, existing surface, and other factors.
  - Address the issue of the number of courts remaining for tennis use.
  - Assess and develop guidelines for the type of maintenance required for the courts used for activities other than tennis.
  - Consider future fees and charges.

## **Board Discussion**

**Commissioners asked the following questions prior to hearing public comment:**

### **Commissioner Barber:**

-There were three complaints noted from neighbors at Judkins regarding bike polo; were they from three different people and what were the complaints about?

*Mr. Cook received one complaint and believed three different people complained the non-tennis use was taking tennis away from the neighborhood. The complaints were not opposed to bike polo, but voiced concerns about removing tennis use. He re-stated there are eight additional tennis courts nearby.*

-A complaint stated there is rude behavior and alcohol consumption at the Cal Anderson court. How does Parks handle the complaints?

*Mr. Cook responded that Seattle Park Rangers contacted the group. In addition, he talked with both the dodgeball and bike polo groups and was told the offenders weren't players. They were passersby who had stopped to watch the game. There have been no further reports of bad behavior.*

-How many outdoor courts are located at the I-90 Lid and are outdoor courts being added at Amy Yee Tennis Center?

*Mr. Cook answered there are two outdoor courts at the I-90 Lid and six at Amy Yee Tennis Center, with two of those recent additions. There are no plans at this time to add more. Commissioner Barber believes many people aren't aware Amy Yee Center has both indoor and outdoor courts.*

**Commissioner Maryman:**

-Is there a bike polo league, and pick-up games, and how is that structured?

*Mr. Cook: Those giving testimony tonight can best answer those questions; however, he understands bike polo is an organized sport, with weekend games structured by a league. There are drop-in games during the week.*

-Tennis is a single use of the courts and so is bike polo. Is this just swapping one single use with another? Or, does the Department have a plan to accommodate all other alternative uses, such as dodgeball, radio-controlled race cars, Futsal, handball, etc.?

*Mr. Cook: The intent was to make these pilot courts available for all alternative uses not requiring a net. The structure and size of the tennis courts seem to fit all of these uses. In-line hockey would need a two-court set-up.*

-The Staff Recommendation includes only bike polo and dodgeball. Is there capacity to also accommodate the five or more other sports requesting time on the courts?

*Mr. Cook: This recommendation is only for bike polo and dodge ball. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli added that 18 months ago, when this issue was first brought to the Park Board of Commissioners, only bike polo and dodge all players had requested use of the courts. The proposal brought forward was for these two uses, knowing that there are other underutilized courts in the city, with many more alternative use requests, and that this would establish a process the Department could go through any time the question of alternative use arose. The Board recommended a pilot at these two courts and, depending on the outcome of the pilot, the recommendation of the Board, and the decision of the Superintendent, the two courts be made permanent. Parks staff would then determine capacity to make other courts available for alternative use and use this decision process.*

-If the handball group becomes well organized and comes to the Department requesting exclusive use of a site exclusively for handball, this would be the process they would go through?

*Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli: Yes; this would be the process.*

-This recommendation isn't stating these other alternative uses aren't intended at Cal Anderson or Judkins Park?

*That is correct.*

**Commissioner Heahlke:**

-How were these two courts chosen?

*Mr. Cook: Parks looked at twelve courts two years ago and brought eight courts to the Park Board for consideration. Cal Anderson was already being heavily used by dodgeball players and Judkins was chosen because it was a double court, close to Capitol Hill, okay for bike tires, on a bus line, and underutilized. It was a good site to pilot in comparison to other courts brought to the Board.*

**Commissioner Barber:**

-He read in the briefing paper that one of the groups had submitted a proposal for improvements; what is the status?

*Mr. Cook: The group will address that in their testimony to the Board.*

-So that plan is waiting for the Board's review?

*Mr. Cook: It is just in the planning stage and as the process moves forward, it will first be presented to Parks staff for review.*

### **Public Hearing**

Commissioner Barber opened the floor for public comment. The Board's Ad Hoc Committee will make a recommendation tonight that will be forwarded to the full Park Board at its May 24 meeting for a recommendation to Acting Parks Superintendent Williams; he will make the final determination. Speakers were limited to two minutes testimony each, with 15 people testifying. A brief summary of the testimony follows.

Paul Crane: Opposed to alternative sports at Judkins Park tennis courts and asked that the courts be restored for tennis use. Mr. Crane is a landscape architect and has lived in the Judkins area since 1979, in the vicinity of the tennis courts. He is co-chair of the Jackson Community Council; however, he is not representing the Council in his remarks. He had e-mailed testimony to the Board earlier and sent photographs of the courts. He gave a history of Judkins Park and Playfield, as well as the Judkins Rejected Community Council, where he was president. He stated the City took federal monies that were to rebuild the Judkins area after the I-90 lid project and re-directed them to other areas of the city, hence the name Rejected. He believes the tennis courts were heavily used by both minority children and adults to play tennis. The bike polo players are not minorities, but primarily Caucasian and ride their bikes to the courts. He recommends they use the Cal Anderson courts as it has lights, restroom facilities, and works for their purposes.

Gabriel Rapier: Supports space for Futsal, an emerging sport. Mr. Rapier spoke on behalf of Puget Sound Futsal (a Portuguese word meaning small sided soccer or small size ball.) The organization has been around for three years and plays regularly at the Asian Rec Center and other locations around the area. He gave a detailed history of his sports experience in Seattle, including football, Futsal, soccer, and basketball. Futsal is an international sport, played in Japan, Brazil, Europe, etc., and is adaptable to many surfaces including tennis courts and roofs. It can share space with other sports such as handball and dodgeball and only needs a court, line, two poles and a net, and a ball.

Eben Haase: Supports space for Futsal. Mr. Haase grew up in Paraguay, South America, playing the game of Futsal. The game began in Portugal, and spread to Brazil and other countries and is very popular there and gaining in popularity in the U.S. An advantage of the sport is that it takes up very little real estate and needs only a 5X5 area on any hard surface, lines, and two goals. There is no cost to play and it helps kids and adults to become good at the sport of soccer. Another advantage is players don't need to speak English in order to participate. The Capitol Hill/Judkins area is seeing an increase in populations born outside the United States, with enough people familiar with the sport to allow for pick-up games and a tournament. League development will follow.

Jeremy LaCivita: Supports dodgeball and bike polo at Cal Anderson and Judkins Park tennis courts. Mr. LaCivita is a freestyle slalom skater and believes that is another appropriate sport on the tennis court surfaces. However, he did not attend the meeting to support his sport. Instead, he is supporting dodgeball and bike polo, as that is what is at stake tonight. He met Ethan Raup of the Mayor's office at a sports competition and Mr. Raup directed Mr. LaCivita to Cal Anderson Park as a site for dodge ball and bike polo and he and his friends started playing at Cal Anderson. Others have testified tonight about the need for spaces for these emerging sports. The Board has learned about Futsal, another emerging sport. Everyone is familiar with tennis and there are plenty of tennis courts. Now, spaces are needed for these new sports.

Sean Kauffman: Supports dodgeball at Cal Anderson Park. Mr. Kauffman stated dodgeball has been played at Cal Anderson Park for nearly five years. He has met most of his friends while playing dodge ball there. This sport is important to the community, as everyone is included and many people stop by to watch the games.



The players have tried other sites but having lights, such as at Cal Anderson Park, is a necessity. Making this a permanent dodgeball site is one of the best things that can be done for the community.

Arol Smith: Supports dodge ball at Cal Anderson Park. Mr. Smith stated dodgeball players are at the court playing, no matter what the weather – rain, snow, sun. They clean up after themselves; don't allow drinking on the court; and don't damage the courts. He acknowledged that some observers drink; however, the players do not. The game provides a safe environment for young people from all backgrounds and creed, judged only on their dodge ball skills. The dodge ball games are the most diverse thing happening in the city every Wednesday and Friday. The players are an eclectic group of individuals who get along well together.

Alex Danilchik: Supports a court for the Seattle area Radio Controlled (RC) race cars. He has participated in this sport for a number of years and has found it increases hand-eye coordination in kids. There are father-son, father-daughter racers and it is a sport where kids with disabilities can participate. It doesn't require much for a site: a smooth surface about the size of a tennis court. This sport gets kids outdoors, doing physical activity. They also learn about the technology of race or electric cars. He believes some tennis courts can be repurposed for these other sports.

Steve Widmeyer: Supports dodgeball and bike polo at Cal Anderson and Judkins Park courts. He is one of the oldest dodgeball players with the Capitol Hill group. Some of the players started when they were 15 or 16. Now, they've finished college and still come there to play. The dodgeball players work well with the bike polo players and share the court well. He testified to the Park Board five years ago on the need for sites for these sports and was disappointed with the outcome. However, the participants have persevered, with the help of Parks staff such as Dennis Cook, who saw the validity in these newer sports. It took courage for the group to bring this back to the Park Board. Approving this pilot program will show the participants that perseverance can pay off. He invited the commissioners to come out to Cal Anderson Park and play a game of dodgeball.

Todd Mason: Supports an outside location for Seattle Area Speed Racers. This is a thriving, non-profit organization that already operates in Seattle parks, at Magnuson Park's Hanger 30 in winter months. He requested space to expand the club by adding an outside court. This would involve converting a low-use tennis court into a permanent race track. The sport is for all ages, male and female, and is clean and quiet. His son is six years old and participates. Because this is a non-profit, their only economic operative is to provide for infrastructure, venue cost, and program the sport in a way to keep costs accessible and affordable to all. A park tennis court conversion is an economical means to build an excellent facility on a small budget. His club would like to partner with Seattle Parks to develop at least one court for this sport.

Jacob Danilchik: Supports a site for RC Racers in Seattle. The group currently travels to Tacoma or Monroe and would like to have a site in Seattle for this activity.

Mark Faasse: Supports a permanent site for dodgeball at Cal Anderson Park, as well as a site for bike polo, RC racing, and soccer. He believes a court for Futsal in the Georgetown area would be especially appropriate. He recommended that the top tennis courts be off limits for these other sports and that the Department use some that are in poor condition.

Gregory Storwall: He opposes using the Judkins Park tennis courts for non-tennis uses. He lives near previous speaker Paul Crane and is one of eight-nine people on his block who played tennis at those courts. This park is the center of the community and the tennis courts were well used. He has played tennis there with people from all walks of life, who spoke many different languages. Don't exclude tennis from this discussion because it has been around for a good while. Slowly but surely, the bike polo players started using the courts. He asked them to clean up after themselves and several times they parked on the basketball court and unloaded their gear, blocking him and his son from using the courts. They dealt with that, but problems started when the tennis court net started sagging from use during bike polo games, then disappeared completely. The net was removed without input from the community, then suddenly the courts became exclusive to bike polo. A park amenity that he and his neighbors enjoyed was taken away without their input.

W. Troy Thompson: Supports bike polo being made permanent at Judkins Park and dodgeball at Cal Anderson Park. After playing football for many years, he is no longer able to do so; however, he can play bike polo and recently participated at the Magnuson Park competition. Seattle's bike polo is known all over the world, with people moving to Seattle just to play here with some of the world's best players. Both the dodgeball and bike polo communities are very strong and the use of these courts is very important. All the friends he has made since moving to Seattle have been with the bike polo group and he has helped young people and participated in community service projects.

Lonnie Wells: Supports a permanent site for Futsal. He is a member of Puget Sound Futsal, which has drop-in sessions every Sunday. Participants come from many nationalities - Vietnamese, East African, West African, and American players – and all bring their own style to the game. Futsal is a very nurturing game, where older players help younger kids learn the sport. Puget Sound Futsal has weekly clinics around Seattle to help expand the sport and help more people participate. Anyone can play, no matter their age, skill level, or size.

Matt Messenger: Supports multi-use of Judkins court for bike polo, Futsal, roller hockey, field hockey, roller blades, and any other sports that use feet and a hockey stick. Mr. Messenger stated he originated bike polo here in Seattle about 14 years ago. Now it has morphed into a world-renowned sport and played around the world. Recently there was an all-women league world competition in Lexington, Kentucky. These alternative sports are a good fit with the new skate park being installed at Judkins Park, which is a well-used area.

There being no other testimony, the public hearing closed.

### ***Discussion and Recommendation***

Commissioner Barber thanked all those who testified and asked Mr. Cook to respond to additional questions from the Commissioners.

#### **Commissioner Maryman:**

-The discussion veered from two single uses (dodge ball and bike polo) to how to use existing assets in a multi-purpose way. What is the possibility of having these existing, flat, paved surfaces, needed by most of these sports, be scheduled like a gymnasium? One user group would schedule it for use, and two hours later another user group would be scheduled. It might take a few minutes between to change the nets from one sport to another.

*Mr. Cook: The flexibility is already there, as many of these activities are very similar in needs. If a sport doesn't need major construction, just a court and no lines, then it is fairly simple to do. [From the audience someone added that what they really need is a place with high visibility to pedestrians. Several of these sports expanded from people walking by and wanting to join.]*

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli asked Mr. Cook to address the different types of surfaces.

*Mr. Cook: Parks has several color-coded courts. At those courts, participants are asked not to play any "wheeled" sports on them. The courts similar to the one at Judkins Park, which would be concrete courts, would be suitable for bike polo and dodgeball. Some of the color-coded courts that are painted, rather than dyed, could withstand dodge ball, but not skating, polo, or other "wheeled" sports.*

#### **Commissioner Barber:**

-Please review the proposal for Judkins. Does it allow only for exclusive use of the courts for bike polo and dodgeball or is there a way to set up hours for tennis use?

*Mr. Cook: Currently, a four-foot wood barrier separates the courts and there isn't a net, so it isn't feasible for tennis. If there was a net, it would eventually sag. Parks' staff observation is that tennis isn't feasible with dodgeball use. Both the net and the poles were removed at Cal Anderson Park.*

#### **Commissioner Heahlke:**

-There are two courts at Judkins being used for bike polo; why not just one?



*Mr. Cook: There is a net and poles that separate the courts and there cannot be two activities at the same time. Bike polo needs both courts available for use. Dodgeball uses one-half of a single court. There are two separate courts at Cal Anderson, with one behind the other and not side by side. That allowed for just one tennis court (#2) to be used for dodge ball, and #1 is still used for tennis.*

**Commissioner Maryman:**

-How are these two parks classified, as there are different uses for different park classifications?

*Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli: He believes Judkins Park is a community or neighborhood park which would have a middle range of use intensity. Cal Anderson Park would be either a regional or community park that would have the next higher level of use.*

-It would help the commissioners, during this type of discussion, to have the classification stated up front.

*Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli agreed Parks staff will do so.*

-Commissioner Maryman is concerned the staff recommendation is to turn over an asset that has had exclusive use to two other exclusive uses. He appreciates that the dodgeball and bike polo players were able to work out a schedule at Cal Anderson Park. Now, there seem to be additional opportunities to schedule the courts for multiple uses. His understanding of the staff recommendation is that Futsal players could not use the court and he would entertain a friendly amendment that Parks allow as many uses at the courts as will work. While he realizes there is potential for some tension because of the need to have a permanent facility designated by tennis or radio controlled race cars, etc. he would like to see the Parks Department designate a portion of existing facilities to as many uses as possible.

*Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli: It would be in the Board's privity to make that recommendation. The recommendation brought to the Board tonight was based on the pilot the Board recommended 18 months ago where it designated the courts for dodgeball and bike polo only.*

Commissioner Maryman stated he wants to look at the recommendation from all angles. One is from a tennis player's view – by giving up courts, the options for playing tennis dwindle. If one or two courts are taken from tennis, he would like to see their use maximized with use from a number of other sports.

**Commissioner Barber:**

He agreed with Commissioner Maryman's comments. Judkins is a neighborhood park and the neighbors hadn't planned on having these outside activities. They are also getting a new skate park and that will bring kids in from all over the city. How do you address what elements are added to a neighborhood park? He believes when Judkins Park was in the planning phase, tennis was included. Have the parks' neighbors had adequate notice of the changes at their neighborhood park?

*Mr. Cook: Notices were mailed 18 months ago, per the Department's public involvement policy, of the Park Board's public hearing. As for this being a neighborhood park only, Mr. Cook stated both regional football and basketball is played across the street at Judkins Playfield – adjacent to the tennis courts.*

Commissioner Barber asked if the Department considers tennis courts a regional facility, as they are listed on a web page and available to anyone who wants to play tennis at them.

*Mr. Cook: Yes, the Parks Department's web page lists all 144 tennis courts. There are some competitive courts, like Lower Woodland Park, that have more than four courts. Neighborhoods may feel like the nearby court are for neighborhood use, however, they are available for play by everyone.*

*Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli: During the 18-month pilot, the Department did not receive any complaints the tennis courts were taken away from a neighborhood or any complaints of increased traffic due to this activities.*

**Commissioner Maryman:**

Designating a court at Cal Anderson Park seems like a good decision and he is in favor of a multiple use there. A recommendation on Judkins Park is more difficult, as he doesn't know why these courts were chosen and he believes it is a more controversial decision. What happens at Judkins Park if no one is playing bike polo; is the court open for other uses?

*Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli: The courts are open for all other uses. Just because the net is not there does not make it unplayable for tennis; it does make it more useful for other uses.*

Commissioner Maryman: However, with the net being gone, that sends a signal that discourages tennis players from playing tennis. He is concerned that Parks instead send a message that invites as many uses as possible into the space and not just set it aside for bike polo.

*Mr. Cook: Repeated a comment from the audience that nets on the courts sends the message that only tennis should be played.*

**Commissioner Barber:**

During the North Madison Beach Park fence removal, the Park Board made a decision to remove the fence. Afterwards, the Department scheduled meetings with the community.

*Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli: This is a different type of situation, as the Department has just completed an 18-month pilot at the two sites.*

Commissioner Barber: He believes the community could rally on either side of this.

*Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli: The Ad Hoc Committee has heard from the other sides of the community on this issue.*

Commissioner Barber: The Ad Hoc Committee could make a decision tonight. No decision is forever, and the Department could challenge the Committee's decision.

*Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli clarified that the Park Board is advisory to the Department. While it can make any recommendation it wants to the Superintendent, the final decision is his to make.*

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Maryman moved that the Ad Hoc Committee recommend to make permanent the pilot use of tennis court #1 at Cal Anderson Park and the tennis courts at Judkins Park for multiple uses to include, but not be limited to, bike polo, dodgeball, Futsal, RC racing, handball, and all other alternative uses referred to in testimony. Motion was seconded.**

**Discussion:**

Commissioner Maryman stated his motion emphasizes using the Judkins Park courts for as many uses as possible. Mr. Crane, who testified earlier, called from the audience that federal money was used to develop the Judkins courts and designated the courts must be used for tennis. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated Parks staff will follow up on this statement and report back to the Park Board, as this is the first time this has been brought up as a limiting factor.

Commissioner Heahlke stated that, any time a government agency is trying to serve a population with multiple needs, there is possibility for tension among the groups. The Board's role is to hear the voices of the public and make a decision from those. She agreed with Commissioner Maryman that all the comments did not speak directly to support the staff recommendation on dodgeball and bike polo only. Many instead supported Futsal and race cars being allowed on the courts. However, the testimony did go to the spirit of the motion and it is

important to honor that. The mission of the Department is to be inclusive to all and she believes the motion should recommend the courts serve multiple uses.

Commissioner Barber stated it is up to the Department's leadership to verify the needs of the other uses, as to size, appropriateness of existing fencing, scheduling, etc. The Committee is recommending a guideline to the Department, for the Superintendent to make his decision. He supports giving the neighbors additional time to give input.

Commissioner Maryman asked Parks staff to describe the next steps and processes. *Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation will be brought to the full Park Board at the May 24 meeting for a recommendation to the Superintendent. Assuming the full Board supports the recommendation, and assuming there is no issue regarding the federal funding, the Superintendent will then make his decision. Mr. Cook will work with all the groups to implement a scheduling plan and any steps needed to implement that decision. Members of the public are welcome to attend the May 24 meeting and hear the full Board's recommendation.*

The motion was read. [Note: A comment was called out from the audience to add tennis as one of the uses at Judkins Park. The three commissioners included this use in their recommendation to the full Park Board at the May 24 meeting.] **The vote was taken with all three commissioners in favor. Motion carried.**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
John Barber, Chair  
Board of Park Commissioners, Ad Hoc Committee