

## Summary of meeting with City Councilor Borrego & Dave Simon 10-13-2020

### Overall summary:

Councilor Borrego requests Dave Simon to send her a plan regarding putting up signs for designated PB courts, install a gate for closer bathroom access, temporary and permanent net costs. She says she has some funds that could possibly help with these requests while Dave Simon must be cognizant of big picture, long-term plan for entire city. Also, ABQ Pickleball Club has done a lot of work to obtain some funding to expand MM complex already.

The group was mixed about idea to reserve courts. The preference is to have dedicated PB courts without members having to bring nets to set up and tear down. We could have scheduled times if needed since we already must do this to ensure there is a net and players present.

These are all great ideas, and we look forward to Mr. Simon's analysis and further communication from Councilor Borrego! Thanks again to all who showed up to promote our favorite addiction! We all agree that during times like the pandemic, great parks are CRITICAL to our well-being!

### Meeting:

We had approximately 40 pickleball players show up with interest in expanding pickleball resources on West Side Ventana Ranch! All were masked and kept social distancing.

Larry Lite and Nancy Lesicka also joined us to support this group and discuss long term vision for pickleball in Abq.

District 5 City Councilor Cynthia Borrega and Dave Simon Abq Parks & Rec came to hear our concerns and share information.

Some topics discussed related to VR Park included installation of security gates, a future plan to improve in & out access to park, and possibly some sort of permanent "office" that can have city staff help manage this multiple use facility.

Our Westside group requested a few things:

-Can we have our own permanent courts on this side of town like Manzano Mesa

**Dave Simon shared the vision for PB in our community. We must consider the whole city and what is best. MM is already a premiere complex and we hosted the largest # of Senior athletes ever in history of National Senior Games (>1200 over 9 days!). These kinds of events generate excellent ROI (return on investment) (approx. \$3 million/9 days) for city. So, Part 1 of Vision is to finish the job at MM.**

**Part 2 of vision is getting more courts out in the community. Our District already has more LINED courts than other districts (Ventana Ranch and Congress). There are plans to Line 2 dozen more courts around the city.**

**Some discussion about lining courts or using space near Sierra Vista Swimming Pool on Taylor Ranch/Montano road. Sierra Vista tennis courts are public courts (many of us thought it was a private club).**

-Discussion of our immediate concerns related to waiting for tennis players on the only 4 courts at VR lined for PB. While 2 tennis players can use a whole court, we could have 8 PB players using 2 PB courts. Lights often have not been working on 2 of the 4 courts at VR which Parks & Rec aware and have fixed several times. Currently lights out again on 1 of the courts. Dave Simon stated there are 2 new courts available in Los Ranchos on Green Valley Rd.

Requests made to

1. Install permanent PB nets on those courts so they can be designated for PB only.

**Advantages:**

- Some players do not own nets but can play anytime if nets are there.
- Inconvenient to set up and tear down nets every day
- ABQ PB has over 900 members. Would like City to accommodate our sport similar to tennis players.
- Dedicated nets/courts would appeal to younger generations as well. Many new school age/families are discovering PB and playing.

**Disadvantages/barriers:**

- Facility needs to be able to accommodate large tennis tournaments as well
- Unsure of cost for each permanent net due to City requirement to seek out bids etc.
- Dave Simon feels we need some kind of presence, small office with staff to help with oversight
- If tennis nets removed on these 4 courts, would need a barrier between PB courts

2. Requested additional bathroom facilities closer to this end of park

-Dave Simon asked if we are opposed to portable bathrooms and possibly wash sink area.

-Group not opposed but also requested a gate be installed at West end of tennis complex so don't have to walk all the way around through parking lot.

Alternatives/compromises discussed:

1. Place signs on VR courts lined for PB to alert tennis players that these courts are only ones lined for PB and please move to empty court.
2. Check in to sturdy PB nets (like used in some regional tournaments) that are heavy and can be left on site. (suggested by Nancy L. She says they are very "beefy" and would be difficult to remove).
3. Check in to prices to install permanent nets on these courts with potential option to remove and cap hole if needed for tennis tournament.

4. Have city employees available, reserve, or pre-scheduled court times. City would provide, set up and take down courts per schedule.
5. Many West Side residents agree bringing revenue to City with expanded premiere courts at MM is understandable. However, we have problems right now gaining access to PB courts at this park and we live and pay taxes on this part of town.

Respectfully submitted, Terri Wells