

City of Piedmont  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

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DATE: November 19, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Paul Benoit, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Consideration of Approval to Solicit Bids for Improvements to the Recreation Center Tennis Courts, and to Coordinate with the Piedmont Recreation Facilities Organization (PRFO) and the Piedmont Tennis Community in a Fundraising Campaign for the Project

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RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize Staff to solicit bids for the needed improvements to the Recreation Center Tennis Courts as specified in this report.
2. Authorize City Staff to launch a fundraising campaign in partnership with the Piedmont Recreation Facilities Organization (PRFO) and the Piedmont tennis community to raise funds for the project and a sustainable, long-term maintenance program for the Recreation Center Tennis Courts. This campaign anticipates granting naming rights for the Recreation Center Tennis Courts for a period of 25-50 years as outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND

The City's four tennis court facilities are resurfaced on a rotational schedule set by the Facilities Maintenance Plan. Based on condition assessments and discussions with the Recreation Director, the scheduled repair of the tennis courts, located in the following areas, follows this order:

- Linda Beach Park
- Hampton Park
- Recreation Center
- Piedmont Park

Repair work on tennis courts at Linda Beach was completed in 2016. The tennis courts at Hampton Park required more substantial repair and these courts were completely renovated in early 2017, as part of the comprehensive Hampton Park improvement project. The Recreation Center Tennis Courts are next on the schedule, and, similar to Hampton Park, more extensive repairs and improvements are required at these courts. This is due in no small part to the fact that the Recreation Center Tennis Courts receive the most use of any of the tennis courts in the City. Besides being a popular venue for recreational tennis players with City-issued decals, these

courts are the headquarters of the Piedmont High School Boys (spring) and Girls (fall) Tennis Teams, the Piedmont Ladies Tennis Club, as well as year-round Piedmont Recreation Department clinics and camps. Also, due to the success of the Piedmont High School Tennis Teams, this venue has been popular for the post-season playoff tournament for the North Coast Section of the California Interscholastic Federation. Due to the combination of this extensive use and deferred maintenance needs, a comprehensive project for the refurbishment, repair, and improvement is necessary to ensure these tennis courts remain safe and playable.

### NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

Recreation Director Sara Lillevand and Director of Public Works Chester Nakahara have met multiple times with PHS Tennis Coach Neil Rothenberg, Coach Jim Landes, and Assistant Coach Corey Reich to review the issues they are facing with the use of the courts. It was agreed that these tennis courts need to be repaired and improved to sustain the level of intensive use they receive.

After extensive discussion, the following items were agreed upon as defining the essential scope of work for the immediately needed improvements:

- Resurface tennis courts with a slipsheet overlay system
- Install new net posts and nets
- Install new fencing surrounding and new ball stop fencing between courts
- Install a new storm drain channel at the west end of the complex

In the FY18-19 Budget, Council appropriated \$250,000 for Recreation Center Tennis Court improvements. This budgeted allocation is sufficient to cover the cost of the repairs necessary for continued safe play (slipsheet overlay resurfacing and new net posts).

Staff requests Council authorization to solicit bids for this work, so that it can begin in the spring of 2019.

### ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

In addition to the needed improvements, City Staff has determined that the facility would be greatly enhanced for all members of our community with the following improvements:

- Install new bleachers for spectators and tennis court benches for players (\$25,000)
- Install new LED lights (\$30,000)
- Install new drinking fountain with water bottle filler (\$10,000)

Currently the City does not have funds allocated for these additional improvements.

## FUTURE MAINTENANCE

In discussions with the PHS tennis coaching staff, consideration was also given to the possibility of a more sustainable approach to maintenance of these heavily-used tennis courts. One way to accomplish this is by establishing a specific fund for these courts. If such a fund were to be created, it would allow the City to obtain better long-term value from the City's ongoing investment in maintaining this important City asset. The City does not have funds earmarked for this purpose, but during the process of developing the scope of work for the improvements to the tennis courts, it became apparent that there is a very positive and largely untapped level of community support for tennis activities in Piedmont.

## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Because of the current focus on improvements to the Recreation Center Tennis Courts, Staff is proposing to work with the Piedmont Recreation Facilities Organization (PRFO) and the tennis community in Piedmont to engage in a public-private partnership that would raise significant funds for the proposed project. Such funds would allow the additional improvements to be made and could raise funds to be used for future maintenance of these tennis courts.

## NAMING RIGHTS

Staff recommends taking this opportunity to raise private funds in support of naming the tennis courts in honor of Coach Corey Reich.

Corey Reich graduated from Piedmont High School in 2004, where he was a member of the Men's Varsity Tennis Team. While attending Middlebury College in 2007, Corey was diagnosed with ALS at the age of 21. After his diagnosis, he returned to Middlebury and graduated with honors in May of 2008. Corey moved home to Piedmont after his graduation and has been the Assistant Coach for the Piedmont High School Men's and Women's Varsity Tennis Teams ever since. The home practice and competition courts for PHS tennis are the City-owned courts affectionately known as the "Rec Courts." Corey is a powerful and inspirational coaching presence on these courts every day throughout the girls' fall season and the boys' spring season.

With Council approval, a key component of this fundraising effort would be a 50-year naming right to name the facility the COREY REICH TENNIS CENTER. Specifically, the public-private partnership would endeavor to raise sufficient funds to complete a resurfacing every 5 years and a projected surface replacement at 25 years (for a total estimated future cost of \$425,000).

The proposed goal is to raise enough money to renovate the courts and endow 50 years of maintenance costs. This is a lofty goal and one that, admittedly, may be difficult to reach. Nevertheless, a threshold for the naming of a significant facility like the Recreation Center Tennis Complex should be set high, and established prior to launching this fundraising effort.

Given the uncertainty around how much might be raised, Staff recommends \$300,000 as the threshold for a 25-year naming right and \$600,000 for 50 years.

If approved, the proposed project would be completed during the spring and summer of 2019.

By: Sara Lillevand, Recreation Director