

Date March 31st 2016

To: Chair and members of Pre Budget Committee
Chair and Members of Reserve Budget Process Committee
Chair and Members of TP Board of Directors
General Manager Mark Nordman and Senior Management

From: The Timber Pines Pickleball Club.

We represent about 200 Pickleball Club members. We also speak on behalf of future Timber Pines Community pickleball members who will find Timber Pines and pickleball as a reason of why they want to reside or are attracted to our active community.

You may be aware that pickleball as a sport nation wide, is attracting strong growth given its health & activity based benefits. I would suggest that you should visit the USAPA web site to assist you in understanding the depth of involvement, and the many communities that are now shifting gears, to develop PB facilities to respond to the excitement and demand for active based sports for all ages, including Plus 55 communities like Timber Pines. We believe it's a meaningful, productive activity for all residents of TP.

For your information the TPPB Club started in 2010 as a group of 20-25 people, taping the court layout at the Lodge location as a means to play. From that time we have now grown to 200 players with no signs of stopping. We graduated to four striped courts around 2013 as membership evolved to 120 players, but now find demand is outstripping the four courts we have in play.

With restricted use to four hours per day, we have altered normal playing habits by reducing point totals for games from 11 to 9 to 7 in order to rotate players in, rather than them sitting at the side lines.

We have also resorted to rotating players in at four at a time rather than two players who played the winners again to actively involve people, given time limitation for use each day.

We provide instruction on Saturday and schedule competition play with part of the four hours from Monday to Friday being devoted to play between men, ladies, and mixed players to ensure participation by all.

With the four courts at present we have categorized one for novice or beginner play, one for advanced players, and two for intermediate level of play to respond to level skills or abilities.

We have an outstanding PB Web Site to communicate to membership and connect to the pickleball community and other interested individuals who may wish to understand what

TP has to offer them. I would encourage you to visit the site at www.tptimberpinesclub.org.

Also, we have hosted tournaments within our Club for members and separate members and guests players from outside TPC who are equally enthused by this sport. In February we hosted 125 players for a member guest tournament over three days.

We have donated funds to community schools as a means to giving back, and we have supported local businesses in light of their support for our club. The Cove restaurant is one recent example wherein 70 people from PB enjoyed a dinner and a fun function.

Most recently, we surveyed our Club members as to their thoughts on the future needs for pickleball in Timber Pines.

We did this by using our PB Web site (www.tppickleballclub.org) and linking it to a survey that they could respond to on line. We are very pleased with the participation rate of 66 returned surveys, and the thoughtful comments, which we intend to pass along to all TPC Board members and the TP Management staff as a resource for you to reflect on TPC residents input relating to PB. See the accompanying document. We intend to post the results of this survey for our Club members and others who visit the site to see.

We would like to state that we are lucky to have so many good people listening to the ideas, working to make things work, & making the results match the vision. We consider the TPC Board as being a key player in the pickleball community decision making process, who can effect great change for the community that will continue to allow Timber Pines to be a premier Plus 55 community.

We believe that the Lodge/RAC area should be central anchor for a pickleball facility, in a similar manner as the Country Club area is for the tennis club and other activities.

These two centres of focus within TPC are arranged with a variety of other complimentary activities, buildings, and functions.

As for the Lodge/RAC location, it provides for integration of a pickleball sport, with golf, bocce, swimming activities, and an established infrastructure framework of buildings, equipment which serves the social and physical needs of the community and its residents. To disconnect us from the Lodge/RAC centre would orphan us, should we be placed in a stand alone site.

Pickleball we believe would strengthen/ re-enforce this focus to offer a range of participating activities.

In this regard we ask the **following consideration** of the TPC Board, the Pre Budget, and the Reserve Budget Committees;

1. Look at the PB facility needs in a 1-5 year and a 5-10 year framework so as to not under plan facility needs.
2. The best ratio for courts to Number of players that we can find for benchmark purpose for Private Clubs is the USA Tennis Association of 1 court per 20/40 players based on a list of particulars elements we can provide you with.
3. Position decisions in conjunction with the TPC Board to **Declare** the courts at the Lodge a dedicated PB facility immediately and;
 - a. move to reconfigure the location for 6 – 8 courts as play and safety factors may dictate, with appropriate amenities for:
 - i. court separators,
 - ii. wind break screens,
 - iii. shade cover areas for on court players and spectators,
 - iv. permanent PB nets, rather than portable ones.
 - v. planned expansion capability for the playing surface when appropriate to meet future demands
 - vi. a storage building for equipment
 - vii. Electric water foundations at convenient locations
 - viii. Better access to washrooms by footpath or via a new entrance into the RAC
 - ix. More bike racks to support alternatives to car and car parking
 - x. Electric outlets to support electrical needs for coolers during tournament play and technology needs including wireless internet access
 - xi. Ball racks for each court
 - xii. Spectator bleachers/seating for tournament events
 - xiii. Dedicated space centrally located on play area surface for a convenience shelter for administering play including a shaded area for tables and chairs
 - xiv. Appropriate Club signage location, and display board/kiosk for club information
 - xv. Some dedicated spaces for pickleball parking adjacent to the facility including dual role parking for carts and cars
 - xvi. Appropriate court lighting for evening play
 - xvii. **If warranted**, consider noise attenuation features to mitigate noise conflict with any adjacent residential home (s)

Specifically the TPPB Club requests the following:

- 1. that you confirm or approve appropriate funds in the 2016/2017 Budget to effect the changes noted above and implement a construction building program in the summer of 2016 to position the TPPB Club and TPC as a community recognizing the benefits and role of active facilities relating to pickleball in supporting a premier lifestyle.**

Thank you for your time and your consideration

The Board of Directors TPPB Club

President – Tom Asbel

Vice President – Gino D'Ámbrosio

Secretary- Bill Schneider

Treasurer – Bruce MacLean