AGENDA

CITY OF BROOKINGS
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Council Chamber - 898 Elk Drive
May 28, 2009 - 7:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A. Minutes of April 23, 2009

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

VI. REGULAR AGENDA
A. Tennis Backboard Proposal – Richard Hayashi

VII. INFORMATION UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS
A. Easy Manor Park – Commissioner Benoit
B. Lower Stout Park – Commissioner Parrish

VIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
A. Next meeting June 25, 2009

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
April 23, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Vilelle called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Ken Barkema, Tony Baron, Michelle Benoit, Patricia Brown, Frances Hartmann, Tony Parish and Chair Don Vilelle
Also present: Gary Milliman City Manager, John Cowan Public Works Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **Motion made by Commissioner Benoit to approve the minutes of March 26, 2009 as written; motion seconded and Commission voted, the motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None

REGULAR AGENDA

A. *Swimming Pool* – City Manager Gary Milliman reviewed pool group rental rates for families/special events. Pool costs City $107 per hour per day to heat, clean and filter not including personnel hours. Suggested rental fee of $100 per hour with additional fees for lifeguards. **Motion made by Commissioner Parrish to approve the increase in pool group rental fees as presented; for lack of a second the motion died.** Discussion continued regarding pool costs and loss of pool party revenue if rental fees make it cost prohibitive for groups to rent pool. Suggested more marketing of pool availability for private parties to increase pool group rentals. **Motion made by Commissioner Baron to increase pool group rates to $60 per hour for 30 people or fewer, $80 per hour for 31 to 60 people, and $125 per hour for over 60 people; motion seconded and commission voted, the motion failed unanimously.** Discussion continued, suggested to raise 31 to 60 group amount to $90. **Motion made by Commissioner Benoit to increase pool group rates to $60 per hour for 30 people or fewer, $90 per hour for 31 to 60 people, and $125 per hour for over 60 people; motion seconded and Commission voted, the motion carried unanimously. Matter forwarded to City Council for approval.** Commissioner Parrish advised that Channel 9 is still in the process of making a parks video and pool could be included to encourage upcoming summer pool use and group rentals.

B. *Budget*: How It Works – Janelle Howard, Administrative Services Director provided a handout detailing the budget process and explained budget requirements. Gary Milliman advised that a grant has been submitted for a restroom and paving of the parking lot at Chetco Point Park. Funding has also been requested from the general fund for a park model to be set up in Azalea Park for security and maintenance. Details are not complete as not in budget yet.

C. *KidTown Enhancements* – Rob Carrillo, representative of the Ford Family Foundation Leadership Training Class provided mat product samples for the ADA KidTown enhancements they are planning. Discussed process of mat installation, safety and function ability. Mat pathway is going to be approximately 180 to 200 feet, and mats will be under the swings. The green mat color is preferred. Recommended to use wood instead of Trex for ramp. Fundraising by the Leadership Training Class for the project is in the process.

INFORMATION UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. *Easy Manor Park* – Commissioner Benoit advised the play equipment has arrived. Gary Milliman advised there is a new summer youth employment program that has volunteered to install the new park equipment in July. Public Works will begin demolition and prep work in June.

B. *Lower Stout Park* – Commissioner Parrish advised that the Lower Stout Park Subcommittee is meeting twice a month now. Volunteers are trying to raise the first $2000 to open an account with the Wild River Foundation to be able to be eligible for more funds. Trying to sell 1000 bricks for $50 or $100. Final park plans have not been completely approved.

C. *Bankus Fountain/Azaleas* - Commissioner Benoit advised that the planting of the new azaleas went great, with many volunteer groups assisting. Plans continue to finish plantings by the fountain.

COMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Baron – work continues on field improvements at Bud Cross Park; adding two batting cages to the existing snack shack building, with funds provided by Rotary.

Commissioner Hartmann – wanted to bring attention that she has noticed at the Skate Park that kids are not wearing helmets and bicycles are again using it.

Commissioner Parrish – May 2nd, Stout Mountain Railroad miniature Azalea festival is planned and again on May 24th during Azalea Festival weekend.

Staff -- Gary Milliman advised that the Capella is open 10am – 4pm most days now staffed with volunteers. The new summer employment youth group is looking for projects and have expressed interest in helping with the Azalea Park Garden Club, a screen clearance project and ivy removal at Azalea Park and the possibility of creating links on the city web page to all the parks in the area. No projects are definite yet, still in the process of determining if there are enough projects to have a crew here all summer. Commissioner Brown, president of the Azalea Park Garden Club said they would welcome the help and wondered if there was any possibility of ODOT giving the City the creek area at the botanical garden. In the past the City has made that request but ODOT has yet to respond. Possibility when Constitution Way is complete ODOT may abandon some property in that area.

John Cowan advised Oregon Department of Forestry planted redwood and red cedar trees in the creek area of Azalea Park, between the ballfields, and the volleyball and horseshoe pit areas.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm. Next meeting scheduled for May 28, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

_____

Don Vilelle, Chair
(approved at May 28, 2009 meeting)

Tennis Backboard Proposal

A tennis backboard is needed at Bud Cross Park to help develop tennis and for other activities. Tennis is a lifelong recreation that can be enjoyed by players of any age. Since tennis is more of an individual sport, it tends to attract a different type of person than team sports like football, basketball, baseball and soccer. It is another alternative for kids to participate in and enjoy outside. A backboard provides the easiest tool for learning the game as well as a partner when no one else is available.

Since there is no organized competition in the area, tennis will need to be developed a few players at a time. Potential new players will see others playing and will want to learn and get out to play. At some point there will be sufficient people and key individuals who will step up to organize tennis. A tennis backboard will accelerate this whole process.

The backboard that I have recommended here will cost $3315.00, installed. There are potentially other fees or costs that I do not know about at this time. I think that this would be a great investment for the park, the community and the kids. I would greatly appreciate any support that you can provide.

Table of Contents

Why a tennis backboard?
Who wants a tennis backboard?
Basic requirements for a backboard
Proposed location
Construction Alternatives
Recommended Tennis Backboard
Good & Associates proposal

Why a tennis backboard?

Tennis is a lifelong recreation that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. According to data just released by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), tennis is the fastest growing sport in America among individual traditional sports with an increase in participation of 43 percent from 2000 to 2008. According to the SGMA, tennis was one of only six sports to experience participation growth exceeding 40 percent from 2000 through 2008. Tennis is well ahead of other traditional sports like baseball, ice hockey, gymnastics and football, all of which suffered a decline in participation during the past eight years. In the last year alone (through December 31, 2008), tennis experienced a 9.6 percent growth in participation.

Tennis is really undeveloped in this community. The number of players in the Brookings-Harbor area is far below the average for a community of this size. Yet, the interest would be there if the opportunity were there. A few years ago, over 30 Azalea girls signed up for tennis classes. Several of those will be players for life.

A tennis backboard is a relatively small investment that will provide a basic tool that many kids and adults can use to learn how to play tennis at their own pace. How many of you remember trying to play tennis for the first time on the courts? You probably spent 90% of your time chasing balls rather than hitting balls. This really discourages many new beginning tennis players. Many of these potential players also will lack the confidence to play on the courts but will play against a backboard by themselves until they gain that confidence. A tennis backboard is a fast and efficient approach for improving stroke mechanics. It provides a repeatable ball bounce that makes it easy to work on your strokes. It provides the highest number of strokes per hour, even more than a ball machine. It provides feedback since a properly hit ball will return right back to you. 75% of pro tour players used a backboard for practice as youngsters.

The tennis backboard is great when a tennis partner is not available. It is a great activity for kids and others looking for something to do. Many players like to use it to warm up and it can be used while waiting for a partner or for a court when they are all filled. Players, who have not played for a while, also like to use the backboard to find their rhythm and work on their mechanics before playing against someone.

An additional reason for having a tennis backboard is that it is a great focal point for meeting other tennis players. The tennis backboard provides play time and makes you approachable for other players. In other areas, the backboard is used instead of scheduling a partner to play with. The players use the backboard until other players looking for a partner show up. This was a great way of meeting other tennis players and for playing a variety of different players.

Who wants a tennis backboard?

Is there an interest in having a tennis backboard installed? The following information was gathered in the fall of 2007 when this project was first looked at. The final conclusions should still be applicable.

I surveyed 25 players and all except one wanted to see a backboard installed. The one lives outside the area and is only here on vacations so he did not care. This shows that players with some experience see the advantage of having a backboard available and want to see one installed.

I had a teacher at the high school and a teacher at Azalea ask their classroom students if they would like to see a tennis backboard installed. 36 high school and 6 Azalea kids signed a petition in favor of the backboard.

The number of kids that signed up shows interest but the numbers are subject to interpretation. The numbers may depend on how they were asked, the enthusiasm of the asker and the commitment that is being made. My interpretation of the numbers in a hand waving sort of way is the following. The 36 high school kids that signed the petition represented about 40-45% of the students asked. I would guess maybe 15-20 will use the backboard at one time or another. 5 to possibly 10 would use it regularly and 3-5 will play tennis for the rest of their life. For the full high school population, maybe 25-50 players would use the board.

So far I have not found one person that is against having a backboard installed at the park. They either want the backboard installed or they do not care.

Basic requirements for a backboard

The ideal backboard size is 20 feet wide and 10 feet high or higher.

The material of the backboard is not critical as long as the ball bounces off of it well and there are no irregularities on the surface to cause the ball to bounce in odd directions.

A reference white line to mark the height of a net should be painted on the backboard with the top edge of the line 36 inches above the ground surface.

The playing surface shall be hard and smooth to provide a true high bounce.

Lines should be painted to define the court area. The side lines would be defined by the backboard width and the back edge of the baseline (end) should be 39 feet from the backboard.

An additional 4-6 feet of clearance should be provided outside of the lines.

It should be located adjacent to the tennis courts to generate impromptu tennis.

Proposed Location

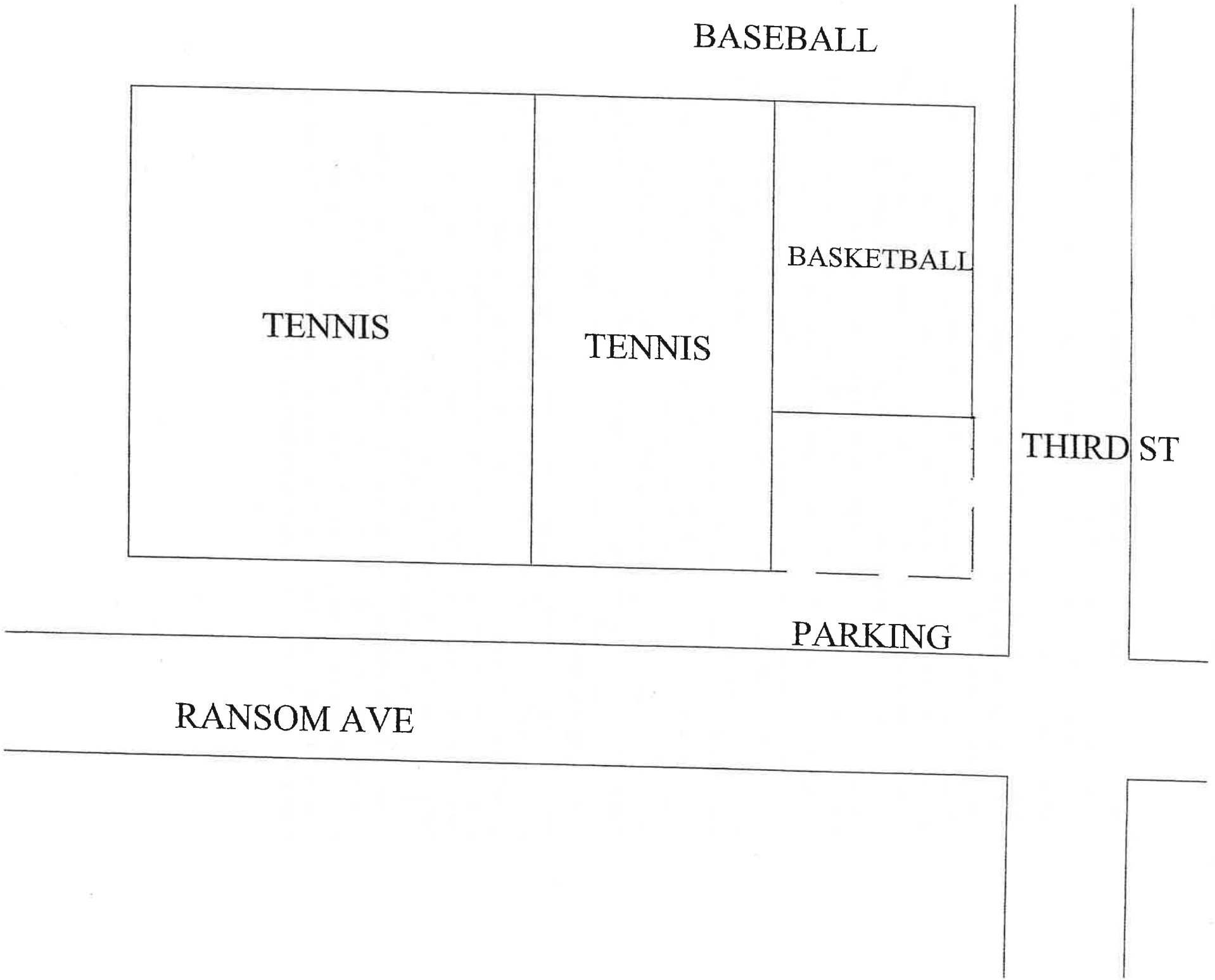
The old backboard which was torn down years ago was located in the parking lot adjacent to the swimming pool. It was mounted against the side fence of the tennis court. The pavement was very uneven and the board could not be used when the parking lot was used for swimming or baseball.

Based on the layout of Bud Cross Park and how it is used now, it is recommended that the tennis backboard be located at the Southeast corner of the park at the corner of Ransom Avenue and Third Street (See diagram). There is an area of about 47 feet square between the end of the basketball court and the parking area that is presently not being used for anything. Thus, there will be no impact on the present utilization of space. The area is paved. The surface is adequate though it could be better. The choice of this area has minimal affect on all other activities and the backboard will be available at all times. The backboard will be installed against the side fence of the tennis court (see the simulated picture).

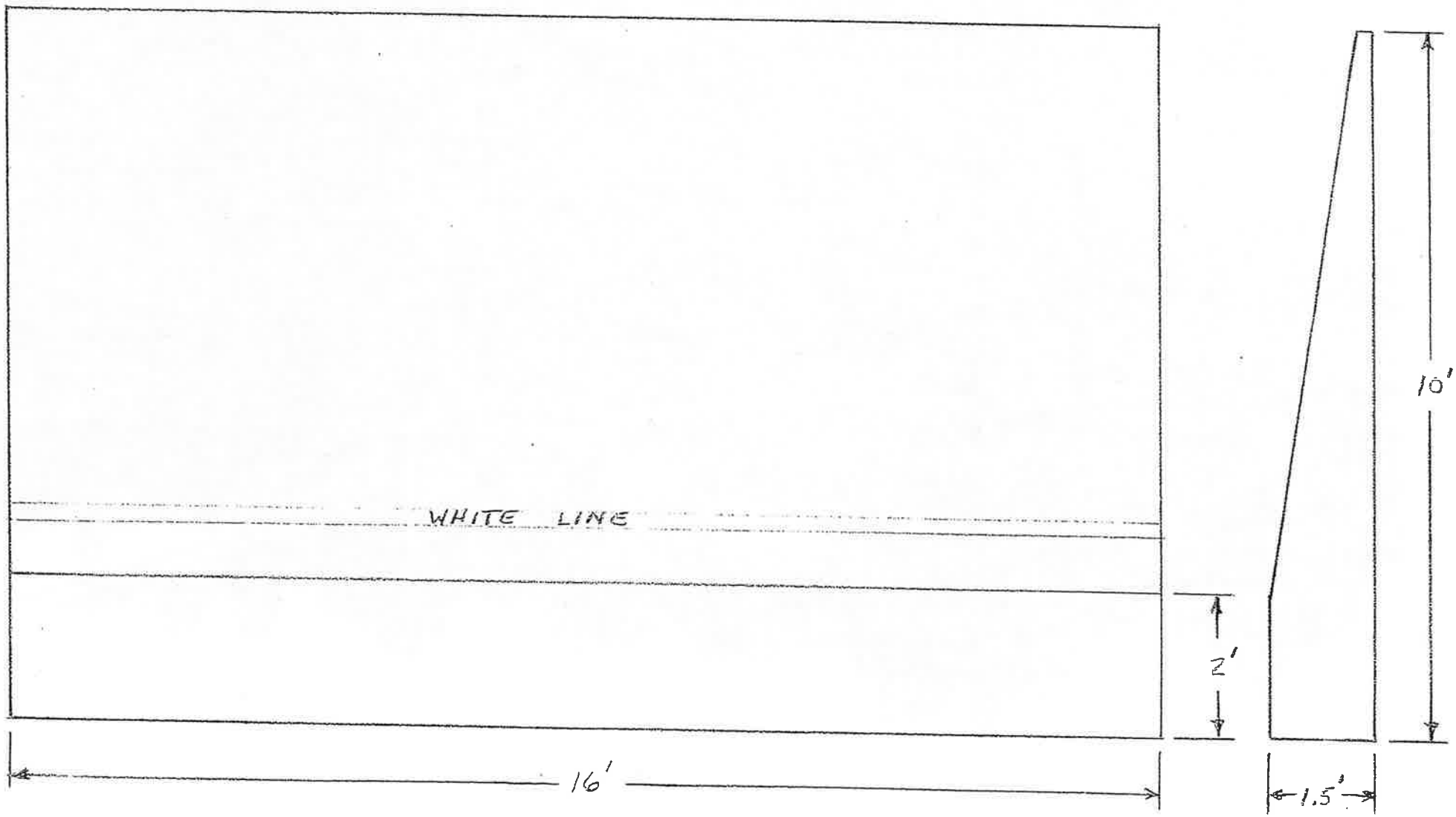
Other considerations for the selection of an area include safety, disturbance to other activities and neighbors, and visual effects. Play on the tennis backboard as proposed will have some impact on the surrounding activities. The most likely errant shot will be over the backboard. In the proposed configuration, this will interrupt play in the adjacent tennis court. This is not a problem if it happens sporadically. If it happens repetitively the person using the backboard will be asked to tone it down or stop. Errant shots that go to the side into the basketball court or into the parking area will be rare. In normal usage, this will only happen if the ball glances off the edge of the racquet or the edge of the backboard. At the back of the space away from the backboard there is a rise going up to the street. A ball would have to be hit very hard and high to bounce back far enough to get into the street. It is possible for an occasional ball to get into the street but it will probably not be any worse than what happens from the regular courts and the baseball field.

Noise is the next consideration. A tennis backboard does make noise as well as the racquet hitting the tennis ball. In addition, a repetitive or constant noise will be more irritating than a sporadic noise at the same level. The tennis players in the adjacent court and the neighbors directly across the street are the most likely people to have a possible issue with noise. It is not likely that this type of noise would impact the basketball players. The selection of materials and construction will determine the amount of noise generated by the backboard and this will be a consideration in selecting the construction for the board.

Visual effects will be driven by the selection of materials and construction as well. The size of the backboard will match the fence that is there so there is no impact on the field of view. Graffiti and vandalism is always a concern for a structure of this type. Materials and construction can deter this a little and possibly reduce the cost of repair work. The proposed location is the biggest deterrent because it is in a highly visible area.


BASEBALL
TENNIS
TENNIS
BASKETBALL
THIRD ST
PARKING
RANSOM AVE

TENNIS BACKBOARD
(~600 Lbs.)



FRONT

SIDE

Construction alternatives

Tennis backboards can be made out of wood, plastic, fiberglass and concrete. The attached table shows a comparison of the materials and some commercially-available backboards.

Wood backboards are low in initial cost but require a lot of maintenance and have a short life expectancy. If not maintained, wood will warp, split and fade very quickly. They are extremely noisy and can have irregular bounces.

Plastic and fiberglass are significantly more expensive than wood but require no maintenance. They are moisture resistant and should have a long life expectancy. They provide a consistent bounce and the noise level is about the same or less than a racquet hitting a tennis ball.

The Rally Master backboards are solid colored plastic so the color will never fade or peel. The solid plastic construction makes it tough enough to withstand the impact of baseballs. The boards are mounted directly to the fence so there is a potential problem with wind.

The Sportwall backboards are formed plastic or fiberglass casings that are filled with sand. Under normal usage and wear, they should have a long life expectancy. The casings are relatively thin though and they can be damaged or punctured.

Concrete walls are the most expensive approach. Because of the mass involved they require a large footing. As a result they are permanent fixtures and will have a long life expectancy. Maintenance is low with the possibility of sealing and painting. They provide a consistent bounce and the noise level is low. Concrete walls do cause an excessive amount wear to tennis balls.

Recommended Tennis Backboard

I surveyed some tennis player as to what would be the most appropriate type of material and construction for Bud Cross Park and the present situation. The consensus was not to use wood or concrete. Wood, like the previous backboard, is low in cost but has a short life expectancy, is high maintenance and generates excessive noise. Concrete is too expensive and is inappropriate for location proposed. I eliminated the Sportwall alternative because of the potential for damage and it is higher in cost than the remaining alternatives.

I recommend the manufactured backboard made by Good and Associates, an Oregon company. They have given me a bid for a backboard with some modifications that I have requested. The modifications will make the board more playable for 2 players at once, increase the height and make it a little easier to practice overheads. It will have a flat surface that is tilted back slightly for a more realistic rebound for the next hit. It is 16 feet wide so that 2 players can play at once and 10 feet high to match the height of the court fence.

One of the original boards manufactured by this company was installed in Medford in 1989 and is still in operation. Painting has been the only maintenance. It did require some repairs because the lower boards were exposed to some standing water. The manager of the club would definitely purchase another one if and when one were needed.

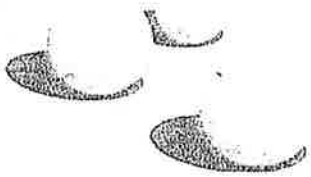
The life expectancy of this manufactured board is greatly increased over regular wood backboards because the hitting surface is a high-quality weatherproof overlay, which is meticulously primed and painted to seal all exposed surfaces. Pedestals have been added to the design to keep the structure out of standing water and eliminate the problem of the board installed in Medford.

Noise is a big issue to me for wood backboards and I suspect I may be more sensitive to it than most people. The noise of a tennis ball hitting plywood or even the 2x6's is objectionable to me. The proposed backboard will have the wood panels laminated to polystyrene sheets for noise reduction. I played on one of these backboards in Grants Pass. The noise level is greatly reduced but I still considered it marginal. As another point of reference, I asked some people who were picnicking just outside the court fence about the noise level and they did not have any problems with it. The backboard I have specified will include additional insulation material that should reduce the sound down to a level more comparable to the sound of the racquet hitting the ball.

Because we are in Oregon, the manufacturer will come to help install the backboard. The cost for the backboard and installation is $2215.00

Rally
Champion

The Arc is the Difference!



THERAPEUTIC BALLS
FOR HEALTH AND FITNESS

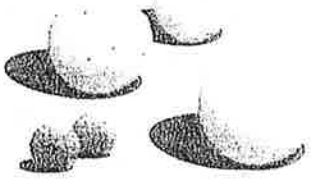
Rally Champion Backboard Product Specification sheet.

Item:	Unique dual curved and angled backboard that rebounds the ball with the arc distance (s), and timing of real tennis.
Frame:	Kiln dried Douglas fir that is cut into the curves needed to form the concavity. These pieces are then planned, sanded, pre-drilled, and painted. They are then pre-marked for ease of installation and custom packaged in 200 lb test cardboard.
Panels:	Exterior wood panel which is embossed with a Phenolic saturated overlay on the hitting face for weather proofing. The panel is pre-drilled (30 holes), and the sound reduction material (double skinned polystyrene 1/2 in.) The panel faces are primed and coated with two coats of exterior acrylic latex, the edges are sanded and coated 6 times. Packaged in 200 lb test cardboard with reinforced corners. The net tape is textured, weather proof, and pre-installed.
Hardware:	All hardware is individually packaged and marked for installer convenience. Panel screws and washers are painted green, touch up paint is included. Assembly instructions, practice tips, and 3 year warranty card. The anchoring hardware allows for installing against a tennis fence or to posts set in the ground
Company Brief:	Good and Associate has formally been producing realistic tennis backboards for 10 years. We've produced about 650, without one warranty claim.

GOOD & ASSOCIATES
Glenn R. Good • Nancy A. Good, P.T.
P.O. Box 607 • Aurora, OR 97002 • (877) 706-4322 • Fax (503) 266-7486

Rally
Champion

The Arc is the Difference!



THERAPEUTIC BALLS
FOR HEALTH AND FITNESS

April 7, 2009

PROPOSAL #1

An 8 foot x 16 foot Rally Champion Straight-Tilt model with sound reduction, delivered and installed for $2,715.00. We will include a 3 foot high 16 foot wide ball containment net that extends above the backboard at no additional charge.

PROPOSAL #2

An 8 foot x 16 foot Rally Champion Straight-Tilt model mounted on a 2 foot high x 16 foot wide 'pedestal' for overhead practice capability. This model will also have sound reduction but no ball containment net. The delivered and installed price is $3,315.00.

Enclosed please find a materials spec. sheet for our Backboards, (the Straight-Tilt model is the same except for curves). Also find a price and description sheet from one of our national dealer's catalogs.

GOOD & ASSOCIATES
Glenn R. Good • Nancy A. Good, P.T.
P.O. Box 607 • Aurora, OR 97002 • (877) 706-4322 • Fax (503) 266-7486

Source		Good & Assoc	Rally Master	Sport Wall	Sport Wall	
Material	Wood	Sealed Wood	Solid Plastic	Sand-filled ABS	Sand-filled Fiberglass	Concrete
Bounce	Irregular	Occasional Irregular	Consistent	Consistent	Consistent	Consistent
Noise Level	High	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low
Warranty		2 Year	20 Year	3 Year	5 Year	
Life Expectancy	5 Years	10 Years	> 20 Years	10 Years	15 Years	> 20 Years
Damage Susceptibility	Low	Low	Very Low	Moderate	Moderate	Very Low
Maintenance	High	Low	None	None	None	None
Cost	~$700.00	$ 3,315.00	$ 4,345.00	~$5000.00	~$6000.00	>$7300.00
		Tilted wall	Mounted to fence	Tilted wall	Tilted wall	
		Deeper bounce		Deeper bounce	Deeper bounce	