



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AGENDA ITEM  
Assistant County Administrator /  
Department of General Services

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**Date:** May 06, 2019

**To:** The Honorable Board of County Commissioners

**Thru:** Jason E. Brown, County Administrator  
Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator

**From:** Kevin Kirwin, Director Parks & Conservation Resources

**Subject:** Staff Report and Update to the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners - Pickleball in Indian River County, Florida

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**BACKGROUND:**

At the March 26, 2019 Board of County Commissioners Meeting, Ms. Mari Colacino, President of Pickleball University, Inc. a 501(c) (7) operating at the City of Vero Beach's, Pocahontas Park made a presentation as a public discussion item on the state of pickleball in Indian River County and the growing demand for public pickleball courts. During her presentation, Ms. Colacino acting on behalf of the board and membership of Pickleball University, requested that the funding for a pickleball complex be made available sooner than currently planned for in the FY2021/22 Capital Improvement Element. The discussion followed a previous presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on June 19, 2018 from Mr. Ken Roberts regarding the high demand and lack of availability of pickleball courts in Indian River County.

During the discussion at the March 26 Commission Meeting, the Board requested that staff come back to the Board in four to six weeks with their findings and recommendations.

**ANALYSIS:**

As presented and discussed during the two presentations at Commission meetings, pickleball is a paddle sport that is played on a court with an area that is 20' x 44'. Pickleball can be played indoors or out of doors, singles and doubles. The number of recreational and competitive players has increased steadily over the last several years with a 12% growth reported by the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) from 2017 to 2018 in their most recent report.

Currently the Indian River County Recreation Division, is offering public indoor pickleball three days a week on six indoor courts in the gymnasium at the Intergenerational Recreation Center. Pickleball University has made an offer to the County to convert one of the two existing outdoor tennis courts at Dick Bird Park to four pickleball courts.

The City Of Vero Beach has twelve public pickleball courts converted from the tennis courts at the Pocahontas Park. Six of these courts are in poor condition and Pickleball University received permission from the City of Vero Beach Council during their April 2, 2019 meeting to raise up to \$180,000 to make pickleball court improvements at Pocahontas Park.

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The City of Sebastian currently has two tennis courts overlaid with pickleball court lines at Schumann Drive Park, with plans to develop an eight court pickleball complex in the vicinity of their golf course by spring 2020.

There are also private pickleball courts located throughout Indian River County with access to courts restricted to the residents and guests of the respective private communities.

The president and board members of Pickleball University and County staff immediately met following the March 26 Board of County Commission meeting and also held a subsequent meeting in order to reach a consensus on a proposed plan of action for the development of a pickleball complex at Dick Bird Park. The agreed upon outcome of these meetings was that staff would present an update to the Indian River County, Board of County Commissioners seeking approval and work with the County Administration to accelerate funding for the initial design phase of the pickleball complex development.

**FUNDING:**

The current FY 2018/19 Indian River County Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvement Element adopted on December 4, 2018, plans for funding in FY 2021/22 for a New Pickleball Complex at Dick Bird Park in the amount of \$450,000. The CIE identifies Park Impact Fees as the funding source for this project. Park Impact Fee funds are currently available in the amount of \$50,000 to provide funding for completion of site plans, construction plans, permitting and construction estimates for a pickleball complex at Dick Bird Park.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that \$50,000 of the \$450,000 in FY 2021/22 be moved forward in order to complete site planning, construction plans, permitting and construction estimates for a pickleball complex at Dick Bird Park. Staff proposes to include this request in FY 2019/20 of the next regularly scheduled update to the Capital Improvement Element.

**ATTACHEMENTS:**

Capital Improvement Element for **Parks and Recreation**, Indian River County Comprehensive Plan Adopted December 4, 2018.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Mike Redstone, Manager Recreation Division

Bill Schutt, AICP, Senior Economic Development Planner, Long Range Planning

**APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR MAY 14, 2019**