

Memo

To: City Council
From: Park Advisory Board
through Amy E. Gilson, P.E., Director of Public Works
Date: May 6, 2015
Re: Tennis Court Project

At the Park Advisory Board meeting May 5, 2015 discussion was held regarding the council approval of \$75,000 for the reconstruction of the City owned tennis courts. While they understand that they are only a citizen advisory board established in Chapter 38 of the City Ordinances, the question has again been raised as to why they volunteer their time when they are repeatedly circumvented or ignored. The Board is very upset that consideration was never given to present this proposal to their Board for input as is customary. At the meeting on April 7, 2015 the Board was advised that a school group was trying to raise grant money to repair or replace the courts. It was understood and conveyed by the Director of Public Works that this would be paid for with grants and the match money would be provided by the Charlotte Area Recreation Cooperative (CARC) and the Athletic Boosters, and there would not be any City money used for the project.

If there truly is \$75,000 of City funds available for recreation, the Park Board feels strongly that it should be spent on higher priorities that were identified in the 2008 Parks Master Plan. While tennis courts are listed in that Council approved plan, they are near the bottom of the list. The Board is frustrated as projects they have presented as part of the budget process have been cut from the budget.

It is the Board's recommendation that council not fund the tennis court project at this time and put the \$75,000 toward other identified projects that rated higher in the Master Plan. Additionally, they are respectfully asking that any future projects be referred to their Board for consideration prior to council approval.

cc: Park Advisory Board