



## Resolution 2024-20

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY CLAY COURTS, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, FOR COLLABORATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF CLAY TENNIS COURTS AT EAST 46TH STREET AND SOUTH 32ND AVENUE IN MINNEAPOLIS, WITHIN MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL**

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is the steward of Minneapolis park system;

Whereas, MPRB owns, operates, and maintains land along Minnehaha Creek in south and southwest Minneapolis, constituting Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail;

Whereas, Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC) is a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of creating and maintaining public clay tennis courts for all-ages recreation;

Whereas, Beginning in 2019, MCCC and MPRB partnered to convert an aging and underutilized set of asphalt tennis courts at Waveland Triangle Park into clay surfaced tennis courts;

Whereas, The Waveland clay courts have become highly valued amenities for the public, and are believed to be the first public clay tennis courts in the Midwestern United States;

Whereas, Since the implementation of the Waveland clay courts, they have been maintained by volunteers organized by MCCC, which has led to a high quality playing surface and has reduced maintenance costs for MPRB;

Whereas, MPRB and MCCC wish to implement other clay courts in Minneapolis;

Whereas, Based on a review of adopted MPRB park plans, an assessment of asphalt court condition across the system, and conversations with multiple neighborhood organizations, MCCC and MPRB staff have determined that the next most viable location for clay tennis courts is within Segment 4 of Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail, at the intersection of East 46<sup>th</sup> Street and South 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue;

Whereas, The adopted plan for Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail envisions the retention of tennis in this specific location, but is not specific about surface type;

Whereas, The asphalt surface of these courts is severely degraded and the courts are in need of full replacement, and there is not currently funding available to do so;

Whereas, Both MCCC and MPRB are willing to bring expertise, funding, and staff time to this



project, but full funding for the project has not yet been achieved; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036, under Goal 1: "Foster belonging and equity," Goal 3: "Provide core services with care," and Goal 4: "Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships;"

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approves a Memorandum of Understanding with Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC), a nonprofit organization, for collaborative implementation of clay tennis courts at East 46<sup>th</sup> Street and South 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Minneapolis, within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail; and

RESOLVED, That the President and Secretary of the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.



TO: Administration & Finance Committee

FROM: Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent for Planning

DATE: 7 February 2024

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY CLAY COURTS, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, FOR COLLABORATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF CLAY TENNIS COURTS AT EAST 46TH STREET AND SOUTH 32ND AVENUE IN MINNEAPOLIS, WITHIN MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL

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## BACKGROUND

This action would approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC), a nonprofit organization. The MOU (*Attachment A*) creates a pathway for and commits both partners to the implementation of a new bank of clay-surfaced tennis courts within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail, at the corner of East 46<sup>th</sup> Street and South 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. A bank of three degraded asphalt tennis courts exists at this location currently. Under the MOU, MPRB and MCCC will work to advance fundraising and demolition activities leading to the creation of two clay tennis courts here. The Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan, adopted in 2020, envisions the continuation of tennis courts in this location, as opposed to two other banks of courts very nearby, which would be put to other uses (*Attachment B*). The plan is not specific about the exact number of courts to be retained. MCCC understands from experience that two clay courts are the limit of what can be maintained by community volunteers, and that quantity is proposed in the MOU.

MPRB and MCCC previously collaborated on the implementation of clay courts at Waveland Triangle in southwest Minneapolis. Both partners provided funding for the project, and MCCC constructed and donated the courts in 2019 and continues to maintain them on behalf of MPRB. The partners are both interested in creating additional clay tennis courts in Minneapolis, which provide a multi-generational opportunity for tennis play. Several sites across the city were identified and MCCC had conversations with local community members and neighborhood organizations to gauge general interest in this unique facility type. The Minnehaha Parkway location, within the Standish-Ericsson neighborhood, received positive feedback, in part because of the variety of court sport options in the immediate vicinity: newly resurfaced asphalt tennis at Lake Hiawatha, planned resurfacing for tennis at Lake Nokomis, new pickleball at Lake Nokomis, and tennis/pickleball combination courts along Bloomington Avenue.

A detailed Donation Agreement is not being sought at this time because there are still several



unknowns related to project cost and responsibility. It is expected that a formal Donation Agreement will be brought to the Board of Commissioners for approval at a later date. The MOU allows fundraising to begin, and ensures a collaborative effort around on-site signage, messaging, and demolition of existing courts. The MOU does not commit MPRB to any cash expenditures at this time but does commit to the demolition of the existing tennis courts, work that will be performed by MPRB staff. The existing courts cannot be resurfaced and must be removed in any case.

The MOU has been reviewed and approved by legal counsel as to form and content.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC), a nonprofit organization, for collaborative implementation of clay tennis courts at East 46<sup>th</sup> Street and South 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Minneapolis, within Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail.

This action is supported by the following goals and strategies in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036:

### **Goal:**

01. Foster belonging and equity

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03. Provide core services with care

### **Strategy:**

1.4: Provide a wide variety of programs in the parks and activities at events to promote social, multi-generational and cross-cultural interaction and that create shared community experiences to bring diverse residents together in joyful, artful, and playful purpose.

1.13: Support people's ability to age in community through inclusive engagement, programming, facilities and passive, low-impact recreation opportunities.

1.8: Prioritize youth and seniors in programming and park projects through ongoing research, proactive engagement, and embedding innovation in our culture and practices.

3.7: Design, evolve, and maintain high quality athletic facilities including fields, diamonds, skateparks, ice rinks, courts, and tracks to support a range of multigenerational sports balancing tradition and emerging trends.



04. Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships

4.1: Establish well-defined programmatic, facilities, and events-based partnerships with clear goals, evaluated through an equity lens, to increase the MPRB's level of service that support a wide range of partnership types including individuals, businesses, organizations large and small, and other government agencies.

It is also supported by Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan, adopted in 2020:

- Project 4-M: Renovation of Tennis Court at 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (pages 7-28 and 7-29)

**Attachments:**

1. Attachment A - MOU wth Minneapolis Community Clay Courts
2. Attachment B – Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan Pages

*Jbr 2.7.2024.*