

**From:** [Patricia Moss](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Civic center Pickleball Courts  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 8:46:17 AM

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City Council Members ,

I am a resident of Palm Desert and have been playing at the Civic Center indoor courts for 3 years and since the courts are being remodeled I am now playing outdoor. When we all played indoor the courts were divided into 3 different groups(we paddled up according to our ability). Now outdoor we have only 1 place to paddle up. So it happens that all abilities will be playing with each other. It just doesn't make sense for an advanced player to play with or against a beginner player. It is not fun for either.

We would like to change that so that we have 3 different places to put our paddles. There are 3 gates so we can put our paddles up at whichever gate we feel comfortable with instead of just one. It's a small change but there is a lot of animosity going on at the courts that can be avoided by this one small change. I think everyone will be more comfortable and happy with this change.

Thank You

Patricia Moss



Palm Desert

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [ML Mittal](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball courts  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 4:01:47 PM

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Hello. First of all, thank you for repurposing the first three tennis courts into pickleball courts. They are definitely getting their best use. I've been taking lessons with the DRD for 2 years now and they have helped improve our classes. We have more space now and no longer have to set up the courts like we used to on court 6.

**I'm writing to ask all of you to organize open play by level.** Please divide the courts by level like they do in the indoor play at DRD, i.e., beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Palm Desert residents vary in level. Most are 2.5-3.0, some 3.5, and very few 4+. When the snowbirds come, they come at 3.5-4.5+. When professionals are in town, it is a disaster. Not everyone is able to paddle up at their level with 4 other friends, but organizing each former tennis court by level would help minimize injury from playing with higher skilled players.

Speaking of injury, **we need more dividers between former tennis court 2 and 3.** When we do drills in Mary's class (via DRD) we use the courts on former tennis court 3. Many of our balls roll onto the players on former tennis court 2 risking injury. If you can fully gate the courts, you will prevent this.

I really hope you can make these changes so we can keep moving in the right direction as a pickleball paradise.

Thank you for your efforts so far.

Sincerely,

M.L. Mittal, MD

 pd, ca 92260

**From:** [Ann Watt](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts at Palm Desert Civic Center Park  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:10:32 PM

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Dear Mayor Karina Quintanilla, Mayor Pro Tem Jan Harnick, and Councilmembers Gina Nestande, Evan Trubee and Kathleen Kelly:

My name is Ann Watt and I am a fulltime resident of one of America's premier cities, Palm Desert, California.

I would first like to take a moment to thank you all for the countless hours of public service you give to our community. Palm Desert is a great place to live and visit. I am very happy to call Palm Desert my retirement home. On behalf of all of the taxpayers of this City, I thank you for your prudence and fiscal responsibility. "Thank you" seems inadequate.

My concern today is not so much a complaint as it is a request - for completion of the newly built Pickleball courts at Palm Desert Civic Center Park.

The 12 new Pickleball courts are beautiful and are used daily by numerous players. However, I contend the courts project is not complete because of three missing items.

#### 1. Missing Item #1 - Lack of Paddle Holders

Currently players have to place their paddles on the ground against the fence in order to secure their spot in game rotation. Some paddles cost over \$200. The paddles can fall over or be inadvertently kicked or stepped on. The paddles do not belong on the ground against the fences. At one time there were metal paddle holders placed inside of the court playing area. The metal holders proved to be unsafe.

World class courts require world class paddle holders. These paddle holders are made specifically for Pickleball paddles and they are secured at shoulder level, on the three gates outside of the court playing area. I would guesstimate 3 paddle holders per the 3 court entry gates. Each paddle holder secures 4 paddles for a total of 12 paddles per entry gate. There is some cost involved but not a significant amount. This is a necessary expenditure to secure players spots in the rotation while keeping their paddles free from mishap.

#### 2. Missing Item #2 - Player Level Placards on the 3 Gates

Currently there are no player level designations on the gates. Before the courts were built, Pickleball was played indoors at the Palm Desert Recreation Center.

There were 3 courts in the Center. Beginner/Intermediate players (3.0) played on the far left court. Intermediate players (3.5) played in the middle court and Advanced players (4.0) played in the far right court. This arrangement allowed players of similar skill level to play and enjoy the sport equitably.

Currently, the outdoor courts have no Skill Level Designation which results in a lack of equity and enjoyment for all players involved. This inability to place your paddle in an area where

similar skilled players congregate has resulted in arguments and overall ill feelings amongst players.

I will give you my personal example of how this lack of a "Player Level Placard" on the court gates results in an inequitable and unpleasant experience:

Although I wanted to play with beginner/intermediate players (3.0) on the courts furthest from the parking lot, I had to place my paddle on the court closest to the parking lot where 4.0 players tend to congregate.

Along came a 4.0 player to hold his spot followed by 3 of his buddies that wanted to play with him. I looked at them and they looked at me. By rights I am the next player up and one of the 4.0 players would have to stay back. Neither of us wanted this outcome, so I ceded my position and allowed the 4.0 players to use the court. This is neither equitable nor a pleasant experience for anyone - and it happens all of the time.

By the City placing the "Player Level Placards" on each of the 3 gates, along with the paddle holders - players will be able to place their paddle in a protected holder while waiting for court time at their preferred level of play.

### 3. Missing Item #3

There should be Placards that indicate Court numbers 1-12. The need for court numbers is especially useful during tournament play. We are fortunate to host several Pickleball tournaments during the season, and being able to tell players which court they are playing on is crucial for a well run event.

With a small extra expenditure on the part of the City Council, and by implementing these three "Missing Items"; this will complete the 12 new Pickleball courts into world class courts - something both the contractor and the City Council intended all along.

On behalf of myself and many Palm Desert Pickleball players, we respectfully request your support and approval of these suggestions. Please advise of your decision or of any additional information needed.

Sincerely,

Ann Watt

[REDACTED]

Palm Desert, CA 92260

**From:** [Meg Howard](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMeeting Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 9:19:06 AM

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Dear Council Members -

I have been playing pickleball at the Community Center and absolutely loved the experience of playing indoors. It was so well organized with the three courts divided by player levels and each court having three paddle holders, which each held four paddles. This was a great and fair system to ensure that everyone got an equal chance to play and the teams were as close to equal as possible. Everybody was so nice and friendly and accommodating and a good time was had by all.

That has changed since the Community Center closed for remodeling and everyone now plays outdoors. Although there are three sections with four courts each, the higher level players are monopolizing the play and making all their own rules. As a member of the advanced beginner group, in the beginning we tried playing on the far court, as we did inside. That worked pretty well in the beginning, but lately players from the advanced group have taken it upon themselves to change the rules and force everyone to put their paddles only in one spot outside the middle court, forcing all levels to mix in with each other. On top of this, they are not even nice about it. Believe me, this is not fun for anyone. The really advanced players only get irritated when the lower level players make mistakes and it certainly is not challenging or fun for them to win a game in 5 minutes.

All we ask is to divide these courts into three sections and three levels, just like it was inside: Beginner/advanced beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. It would also be extremely helpful to have paddle holders for each of the three sections (see picture below). It seems to me that this would make it a much better experience for everyone.



Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Meg Howard