



January 6, 2022

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen.

The City of Spruce Grove and the Parkland Pickleheads have been able to maintain a mutually beneficial partnership surrounding the sport of pickleball. It is the club's desire to strengthen and further enhance our community partnership while promoting and supporting the steady growth and interest in the sport of pickleball.

The Parkland Picklehead membership has grown substantially and currently we have 460 members. Our club's membership is the largest per capita in Alberta. The Parkland Picklehead's memberships are inclusive, affordable, and encourage an active and healthy lifestyle for youth and adults in the Parkland community. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America with 4.5 million pickleball players and an average increase of 7.5% per year. The addition of 12 courts would permit the club and the community to meet the needs of the popular and ever-growing sport of pickleball.

The following highlights communities within Alberta that recognize and have worked with their local clubs to meet the need and support the growth of pickleball within their community. The City of Red Deer has 397 members. The City of Red Deer partnered with the Red Deer Pickleball Club and built a 20-court facility with an additional 4 courts to be soon added. The Medicine Hat Pickleball Club has 201 members. The City of Medicine Hat partnered with the Medicine Hat Pickleball Club to build a 20-court facility with an amenities building that will offer washrooms and a concession. The Parkland Pickleheads have 460 members. The City of Spruce Grove in 2016/17 partnered with the Parkland Pickleheads to jointly refurbish already existing, and under-utilized tennis courts to 12 enhanced and highly utilized pickleball courts. The Spruce Grove outdoor pickleball courts are used as a template for the development of many pickleball courts around Alberta.

The Parkland Pickleheads have hosted more total tournaments than any other club in Alberta and perhaps in Canada. We hosted 3 tournaments in 2020, 5 tournaments in 2021 and have 6 tournaments scheduled for 2022. If a club hosts a tournament, it is usually 1-2 tournaments a year. We have hosted the Alberta Provincial Championships 4 times (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2021) and Pickleball Alberta has asked the Parkland Pickleheads to host the Provincials again in 2022. The Parkland Pickleheads are recognized as one of the top clubs in Canada and are the benchmark with which other clubs strive to meet. The Club is ready to host major tournaments like the Western Regionals and /or Nationals in 2023, along with future Pro Events but cannot until we have minimum of 24 courts available for competition. Hosting tournaments from a central location within Alberta makes participation in a tournament attractive to players travelling from North or the South. These types of tournaments are mutually beneficial to not only the sport of pickleball but are tremendous economic boosters that benefit local businesses and add to the overall appeal of the community of Spruce Grove.

The Parkland Pickleheads have expressed a need to expand and further develop pickleball courts within the City of Spruce Grove. The club appealed to the City of Spruce Grove with a request to expand and develop an additional 12 courts near the 12 existing pickleball courts. There are two viable sites to consider: 1. On Reservoir #3 directly south of the existing pickleball courts or: 2. On Reservoir #4 just North of the Elks Hall. In response to our request, the City of Spruce Grove ordered an engineering analysis of Reservoir #3 to first determine the viability of construction of additional pickleball courts above the reservoir. The findings of the engineer analysis report determined that the surface above the reservoir will support and provide a suitable foundation for construction of 12 pickleball courts. Reservoir #4 is currently undisturbed raw land that would also provide a suitable build site for pickleball court expansion. The report's positive findings are the first but necessary step to begin establishing a mutually serviceable plan and proposal to build additional pickleball courts.

The Parkland Picklehead's past investments include monies totalling \$104,000 in combined grant and club funds to assist in the court enhancement of the existing 12 pickleball courts. The club has and continues to invest hundreds of volunteer hours cleaning and maintaining the courts, windscreens, and maintaining the green space around the court exterior. This has all been carried out in absence of a user agreement. We feel the benefits of a partnership with the Parkland Pickleheads has been firmly established. The club's past and prevailing actions accompanied with our significant financial commitment clearly demonstrates that the Parkland Pickleheads are serious and significant stakeholders working diligently within city owned facilities. Moving forward we would ask that our contributions be acknowledged with the City approving and partnering on the proposed court expansion project.

The Parkland Pickleheads are prepared and eager to partner again with the City of Spruce Grove to construct 12 new pickleball courts. This project will include a total of 12 sport ready pickleball courts which will include 2 championship courts. The Parkland Pickleheads are prepared to provide \$350,000 in funds to assist in the construction of these courts. We would also like consideration to be given to the future development of bathroom facilities and court lighting. The infrastructure for lighting should be planned during the construction phase. The Parkland Pickleheads are willing and prepared to continue to fundraise and assist with the funding of these future developments. If city council approves this project the Parkland Pickleheads will appoint Marcel Letourneau to work collaboratively with a city appointed project manager. Marcel Letourneau's extensive project management experience along with the pickleball related knowledge and experience he has gained as a club member and as the Club's former Vice President will provide valuable insight and direction as the court expansion project advances.

The court expansion project is first contingent on City of Spruce Grove Council's approval and then on a User Agreement between the Parkland Pickleheads and City of Spruce Grove being ratified. The User Agreement will address and clearly outline matters such as: basic maintenance to the existing courts and the 12 new courts, which includes but is not limited to, regular washing of the courts, rolling windscreens up in the fall, unrolling windscreens in the spring and reattaching to the fencing, determining when courts will open and close each season, club exclusivities regarding court usage, public exclusivities of courts, tournament bookings, etc. In November 2019 the club provided the City of Spruce Grove a functioning user agreement that the City of Red Deer has with the Red Deer Pickleball Club. This agreement was provided as a working document that the Pickleheads and the City of Spruce Grove could use, edit, and change as needed. Currently the agreement remains under review with the City of Spruce Grove.

The Parkland Pickleheads greatly appreciate the contributions the City of Spruce Grove has made in the past towards Pickleball and look forward to a continued mutually beneficial partnership in the development of these additional courts.

Sincerely,

Garand Jones, President

Parkland Pickleheads