

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**To:** Howard Tipton, Town Manager  
**From:** Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director  
**Report date:** April 20, 2023  
**Meeting date:** May 1, 2023  
**Subject:** Bayfront Park: Pickleball and Parking Update

### **Recommended Action**

Provide direction to Town Manager.

### **Background**

Bayfront Park Pickleball and pickleball in general has been discussed at a number of Town Commission meetings since 2018, including March 21, 2018, May 21, 2018, May 20, 2019, June 17, 2019, September 9, 2019, October 15, 2019, and most recently on February 21, 2023.

As a result of several of these discussions, additions and amendments were made to Bayfront Park such that the current park amenities include five (5) pickleball courts, three which are dedicated and two which are shared on a tennis court. Past park discussions include the following fundamental premises (shortened for brevity):

- Bayfront Park is an open-to-the-public, first come/first served Town Park with multiple amenities serving a variety of users in a designed and balanced fashion.
- The intent is to maintain the beauty, amenities, and ambiance of the Park, which is why no considerations were given to adding pickleball or parking to the open field area (green).
- Parking is limited at the Park and ideally available as much as possible for all users.
- The higher pickleball demand at Bayfront tends to be highly seasonal and focused in the mornings.
- Offsite pickleball locations were explored, including at the Town Tennis Center, but not pursued at that time.

The Bayfront Park renovation was completed in 2017 and was designed with the following parking: 52 regular spots including shell, 7 additional accessible parking, and 1 additional electric vehicle spot. In March 2023, Public Works added six (6) shell parking spaces at the southern portion of the park.

Amenities at the park include dog parks, kayaks and kayak launch, basketball, pickleball, tennis, shuffleboard, pavilions, fishing piers and seawalls, walking paths, open spaces and recreation green, Recreation Center with fitness classes, a public beach access, playground, restrooms, and excellent views. Park areas, including the open green and Recreation Center, can be rented and accommodate a number of special events, such as weddings and organized gatherings, throughout the year. Park hours are from 5:00 am to 11:00 pm.

Parking works well the majority of the year. Based on Public Works observations over the past five (5) years, the most constrained period is January through March from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm noon. Public Works added a sign at each entrance expressing the intended use of parking for park users. Additional offsite parking is being discussed with Frontier and also with the Columbia Restaurant Group, owners of the pending Buccaneer restaurant site; however, the Buccaneer is in for building permitting, so that option may not be feasible for next season.

### **Discussion for Town Commission Meeting**

In an email to Mr. Howard Tipton, Town Manager, on April 14, 2023, Mayor Ken Schneier suggested a commission discussion on the following four (4) points:

1. There will be no elimination or movement of amenities at Bayfront Park now;
2. The second tennis court will be over-lined for use by pickleball players (2 courts) and tennis players (1 court) as soon as possible, provided that pickleball players may use that court only when no tennis players wish to use it, and provided that pickleball players supply the nets and posts required for pickleball play on that court;
3. The Town will continue to explore additional parking opportunities for Bayfront Park, e.g., Frontier property; Gonzmart property; and
4. The Town will continue to consider the demand for additional racquet sport facilities, where to locate them and how to fund them.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Provide direction to Town Manager.

### **Attachments (Available in the Town Clerk's Office)**

- A. PowerPoint Presentation
- B. Email from Mayor Ken Schneier to Mr. Howard Tipton, Town Manager

**End of Agenda Item**