

SCPC NEWS

President: Bruce Carpenter, Vice President: Lynn Kramer, Secretary: Rod Stuve, Treasurer: Karen Stuve, Representatives: Karen Freeman, Rose Blackburn, Clark Brody

SCPC Today

Sisters Park & Recreation District is in the process of signing a long-term lease to use the old Sisters Elementary School located off Locust St and the future roundabout (To be completed by Memorial Day Weekend 2024). The move to this location is expected in January of 2025.

The SPRD Board is just concluding a Site Conceptual Design process for that location that includes pickleball courts. Pine View Tennis Club (located at Sage Meadow), with the potential sale of their property, previously offered to donate the proceeds to SPRD for the construction and maintenance of 8 permanent pickleball courts. If SPRD accepts this offer, they will be able to leverage the donation dollars into additional grant dollars that would enable them to potentially build out the entire site plan. It seems like a win-win to the SCPC Club leadership.

Breaking News!

On Thursday night, January 18, 2024, the SPRD Board held a special meeting. At that meeting the Board unanimously approved the staff’s recommendation as presented, to include 8 dedicated pickleball courts and 8 other amenities in the site design. This recommendation will go back to the DLA consultants to be reflected in their next draft. In addition, DLA has been asked to make the entrance to the area more welcoming and to move the walking path as close to the perimeter of the property as possible. On January 18, SPRD also received information from ODOT that the round-about would require more property along Locust St than originally

communicated. DLA will have to accommodate this recent development in their next design.



SCPC Background

In the late Spring of 2019, Bob Keefer, Clark Brody, and Bruce Carpenter sat in Takoda’s for lunch. We reflected on how we happened to meet each other, where that relationship had taken us, and the need for public pickleball courts in Sisters. We agreed on how to proceed and the concept of the Sisters Country Pickleball Club was born. Our goal was to create a pickleball club with the specific goal of providing public pickleball courts in Sisters, OR.

Sisters Country Pickleball Club

The usual first step was to form an organizational structure and leadership team (LT). Representatives from Sage Meadow (Pine View Tennis Club), Black Butte Ranch, Tollgate, and two at large were to form the first leadership team. This was an effort to include areas where pickleball was already thriving and to encompass Sisters Country, not just the City of Sisters. The first Leadership Team was as follows: Clark Brody,

President, Bruce Carpenter, Vice President, Vivian Bousquet, Treasurer, Robin Lewis Kane, Secretary, Lori Chase, Tollgate, and Riley McHugh, Sage Meadow. Forming a nonprofit was ruled out and the LT saw advantages to becoming a committee of Sisters Park and Recreation District. The SPRD Board approved this request, and the Club was officially underway in the summer of 2019.

First Steps

Our first goal in 2019 was to find players who would join the Club and support our effort. We had nothing to offer at that time but a hope for public pickleball courts in our future. We started with the 6 leadership team members, no money except the initial startup contributions of the LT, and a vision for a better pickleball future. If we were going to convince decision makers of the need for public pickleball courts, we needed to show them the level of interest for the sport in our community. We needed numbers.

Club Membership Grows/Fund Raising

As Club Membership grew, we needed to let the community know that we existed. We also needed more money to cover operational expenses. Lori Chase led most of this initial effort, applying for grant dollars, initiating the SCPC Pickleball Tee Shirt drive and sponsoring craft fairs. The tee shirt sale was such a success that others followed. Tee shirts provided great exposure for pickleball in Sisters Country. This was our only source of revenue at that time. Thank you Lori.

Behind the Scenes

During this time there were many meetings going on behind the scenes, meetings with Jennifer Holland SPRD Executive Director, the City Manager at that time, the School District Superintendent, a realtor, ODOT, and others. The purpose was to build relationships, provide the SCPC exposure, seek opportunity for public and/or private land, seek a source of revenue, identify partnerships, etc. During this time the Club grew to over 200 members and decision makers started to take notice. When the City of

Sisters began the process of revising their Recreation Master Plan, the SCPC made their presence known through their input. We asked you to show up, and you did! In the final draft, two pickleball courts are included with funding, as well as an unfunded 8 court covered complex with a site to be determined. Growing our Club numbers was paying off.

Winter Play

Jennifer Holland has strongly supported the SCPC from the start, representing our interests in her many meetings with decision makers in Sisters Country. Three years ago she made the gym available for Winter play on M, W, and F. The first year it was only used by a few hardy players. Since that time, use has grown to 5 days a week, and typically all three courts will be reserved. This has provided Club members a benefit until such time as our goal of 8 public pickleball courts is reached. It has also provided the Club a bit of needed revenue. In addition, she has helped us gain four pickleball courts lined on two of high school tennis courts. These courts may be used this summer as the roundabout will take out the Locust St Courts.

From Your President

The unanimous decision by the SPRD Board is a major milestone in our journey to the future SPRD Community Center. The Board, the staff, our Club Members and your SCPC Leadership Team have all worked hard to get to where we are today. We need to pause and celebrate our accomplishments to date.

We look forward to celebrating the signing of a long term lease with the School District. Other markers to look for are as follows: construction beginning on the roundabout, the sale of the PVT property, the completion of the roundabout, the completion of the SPRD grant request.

We will stay in touch.

Thank you Club Members for your support.

Bruce Carpenter