

September 7, 2019

Mayor and Council  
Langley City Hall  
20399 Douglas Crescent  
Langley City, BC V3A 4B3



Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing this on behalf of the Langley Area Pickleball players and all others that use the Pickleball/Tennis courts at Douglas Park.

We would first like to thank the City Council for the recent refurbishments of the courts and the generous city grant that allowed us to put on the first City of Langley Charity Pickleball Tournament in July. The City staff were a great support through the months of refurbishing the courts and assisting with our very successful tournament. Huge kudos to Karlo Tamondong and Kim Hilton, as well as the staff at Timms Centre when we were rained out at Douglas Park, and we moved into the gym to finish off the tournament! Thank you all so much!

We would also like to express our disappointment with those same refurbishments.

Just a little over a year ago we approached the City to ask if we could tape off four courts on one of the two tennis courts so we could play on the courts regularly and this was gratefully granted. We now have 35-50 players coming out to play Pickleball during the day 3 to 4 times a week and another 20 plus players who use the courts in the evening. When a group of local players went to a council meeting this past Spring and asked to have the other tennis court relined with Pickleball lines, we were so excited that not only lines would be painted, but the surface would be refurbished! This now gives us 8 Pickleball courts – yeah!!

We offered our help, expertise and knowledge, sent measurements, designs, CAD drawings, photos of other courts, similar to tennis court conversions to John Epplette on how to assimilate tennis and Pickleball courts so both the sports could use the facilities equally. In all the examples, the Pickleball court designs were clearly a solid color of blue and the tennis courts a solid color of green, thus providing both sports a clear vision of play.

Pacific Ace began the work on the courts and we, several Langley resident Pickleball players, would stop by the courts from time to time simply because we were so excited to soon be playing on great courts! Pacific Ace has done a beautiful job on the surface refurbishing and we commend them for this.

At one point during one of these visits, we became somewhat concerned as it looked like the work in progress was going to turn out exactly like the old court designs with a refurbished surface, not an actual redesign of the court layouts. The tennis was going to be the dominate court with the Pickleball courts secondary in the visual appearance. I, on behalf of the players, reached out to John Epplette, by email expressing our concerns, and he emailed back saying that the Pickleball courts would have the more visual dominance over the tennis courts. Once

more, checking on the progress a day or so later, we realized that this was not the way it was being done. One more email to Mr. Epplette, and in another reply he said that the tennis courts would be dark blue and the Pickleball courts would be light blue. As of today, it is very clear this did not happen and the end result of refurbishing the courts is exactly like the old courts with the surface cracks fixed and new paint.

We, as concerned citizens of Langley City, are very disappointed and feel a great opportunity has been missed to become one of the premier Pickleball destinations in the Greater Vancouver Area. We have the perfect venue at Douglas Park for holding tournaments, with the beautiful park, washrooms, and so many services in the near proximity that would benefit from such events.

On that note, an opportunity for another tournament opportunity was recently lost due to the lack of clarity of the surface markings of the courts. I have been in touch with an organization called Super Seniors International Pickleball Association – <https://www.ssipa-pb.org/> - about the possibility of us hosting a tournament in Douglas Park and the opportunity was lost due to the confusing lines and background colours at the Douglas Park courts.

Today, pickleball players log almost a thousand games a week at Douglas Park. The tennis community in the City of Langley has a much lower number of players.

If the math was approximately calculated: on average 36 or so players (often more), 3 or 4 times a week and about 7 or 8 games each person per 3-hour session works out to be  $36 \times 3.5 \text{ days} \times 7.5 \text{ games} = 945 \text{ per week}$ .

We would like to understand what happened and would like to hear back from Council, or if possible, sit down with the appropriate people to discuss how this can be rectified. We as local players and most of us residents of the City would even be willing to help redo the painting and we would be very helpful in producing professional courts. We are willing to help and assist where we can, and as a representative of the Langley Pickleball players, I can be reached at 778.878.2467 for further discussion.

Sincerely,



John Robertson, on behalf of the Langley Area Pickleball Players



*This is what we were expecting, in appearance,  
but...*

*(ironically, found this image on [LangleyCity.ca](http://LangleyCity.ca))*

*— Clint Davies*

22 (1)