

18:12:23 From Michael to Hosts and panelists:

The Audubon Tennis Courts are an extremely successful public facility. The courts are packed on weekends and busy many weekday mornings. The major feature of the courts is their Rubico (soft) surface, which is much better in the heat and in wear and tear on the body, particularly with adult players. It would be an extremely bad idea to reduce the number of such courts. We need more of them, not less, as well as lights to allow more court time.

18:18:42 From Julie Oreck to Hosts and panelists:

I CAME ON LATE..WHY CAN THE COURTS ONLY BE OPEN 5 DAYS

18:20:22 From Michael to Hosts and panelists:

Sounds like the idea is to sacrifice the public good for the interests of Tulane University, who has failed to provide courts for their tennis team on campus. The removal of 4 clay courts is reprehensible, and shows that The Audubon Institute is interested in sacrificing the public good for private interests.

18:20:52 From Julie Oreck to Hosts and panelists:

So those playing on the clay courts are those at risk of having a base ball hit them in the head

18:22:37 From Julie Oreck to Hosts and panelists:

ARE YOU KIDDING RE THE PARKING?

18:41:34 From Sandy Rosenthal to Hosts and panelists:

Will the powerpoint shown today be made available publicly?

18:42:01 From Caitrin Gladow to Hosts and panelists:

I am in support of the Audubon Tennis Courts - Caitrin Gladow, Audubon member

18:42:29 From Nicole Williamson to Hosts and panelists:

I hope our attendance is being noted

18:42:47 From David Crane to Everyone:

This plan sounds really good. Life long player at Audubon. My father was head pro of Audubon for 25 years. Any plans ever designed that kept more of the clay courts? Also, will the courts be closed during construction?

18:42:59 From Nicole Williamson to Hosts and panelists:

This is an issue that is of importance to a lot of people. I am concerned that the proposed plan doesn't have enough parking or clay courts.

18:43:03 From Keith Williams to Hosts and panelists:

Hello, my name is Keith Williams> My concern with hard courts is the long term injuries they bring about for players.

18:43:52 From Peter Wenstrup to Hosts and panelists:

Could we have more information about Tulane's planned, seasonal use of the facility? How many hours a day do the teams practice on courts? How many courts will they use at once? Do they anticipate 4-7 or earlier in the day?

18:44:23 From Michael Finkelstein to Hosts and panelists:

How about routing traffic and improving pedestrian walkways on what is currently the one way street that will be the new main entrance?

18:44:28 From Bernard Robertson to Hosts and panelists:

As a native, former Tulane student athlete who went to the pros (tennis was my 1st sport) who knows what Tulane does within the community I wholeheartedly support the plan to add lights to extend the playing day and adding mixed courts. This is a win win for the city, neighborhood and competitive tennis in area. Public private partnerships are not only common, in most areas where older universities are nestled in neighborhoods they're almost 100% of the way they are maintained.

18:45:11 From Tiki McIntyre to Everyone:

Great meeting, too bad online. In person would be nice next time. Lighting will be good...I am VERY INTERESTED in 7 days a week ... (Stern also should be open more days) Closing the center not good. THANK you for increasing youth programing. As & Aces is an amazing program!

18:45:11 From Julie Oreck to Hosts and panelists:

My comment re the balls is that the baseballs from the baseballs come onto the tennis courts.

18:45:29 From Siera Shoemaker to Everyone:

I'd like to start by commending the Audubon Commission for supporting and endorsing this project to include more community and youth involvement.

I am a lifelong tennis player thanks to community programs available to me as a child. My family couldn't afford private lessons or a private club membership, so my dad enrolled me in city sponsored youth programs during summers in middle school. I played five days a week, five hours a day, each summer. Conditioning, drills and match play. The program taught me discipline, respect for the sport, and improved my skills enough to make the Junior and then Varsity tennis teams in high school. Cheers to Audubon for making this an opportunity for others who may not have the resources available to them!

18:45:47 From Julie Oreck to Hosts and panelists:

AND, please address the times and days the facility will be open

18:46:38 From Louis Shepard to Everyone:

Plan shown has removed half of the parking, with no clear plan for replacing it.

18:47:31 From Lee Isaacson to Hosts and panelists:

My. Thoughts too. How many parking spots will there be vs. now?

18:49:03 From Julie Oreck to Hosts and panelists:

When there are baseball games, there is NO place to park!! Including the gravel lot

18:50:18 From Wayne Ducote to Hosts and panelists:

my name is Wayne ducote. I have lived in New Orleans for all of my 77 years. I think this is a great proposal and I wholeheartedly support the plan. I have been playing at audubon tennis for about 10 years and see the definite need for improvements. the proposed improvements satisfies all of those needs. the viewing stands provide opportunity for spectators to watch competitive play

18:50:35 From Tiki McIntyre to Everyone:

20 hours/week doesn't seem like enough for a college athlete. is that NCAA ruling? What about tournament play? League play?

18:50:55 From Peter Wenstrup to Everyone:

Thank you for the clarification, Kyle. Helpful to know that, aside from tournaments and exceptions they will mostly be off the courts after 4:00pm

18:51:02 From Nicole Williamson to Hosts and panelists:

As an immediate neighbor and a tennis player, most of what I've heard today is more, more, more. More courts, more people, more lights, more activities, more programming. I am in full support of improving the facility, adding lights, etc. - it's long overdue - and for expanding tennis to more New Orleanians. But this neighborhood cannot handle any more development. We are already buckling from the CH expansion and the move of all Carrollton activities to the Fly and Avenger Field. Our drainage has greatly deteriorated and the pollution is out of control. Traffic is gridlock. A shuttle is great in theory but plenty of people will still drive themselves and park in the neighborhood. It's already happening every day. Please know how this impacts us and speak to the neighbors.

18:51:07 From Julie Oreck to Hosts and panelists:

USTA leagues are mostly Monday and Tuesday. And there has been NO availability for USTA league play

18:51:37 From Daniel LaGrone to Hosts and panelists:

When and how often will collegiate tournaments be held?

18:52:40 From Caitrin Gladow to Everyone:

FWIW, holding this event via Zoom makes it super accessible, and I appreciate how thoughtfully you've planned it. Thank you.

18:53:19 From Wayne Ducote to Hosts and panelists:

the 6 clay courts will satisfy the existing demand. 6 additional hard courts will provide additional playing time. students residents and younger players will have more opportunity for play.

nord outreach and other community efforts will develop more tennis players. I fully support this program

18:53:22 From Sandy Rosenthal to Hosts and panelists:

My concern is the reduction in the number of public clay courts. There are currently not enough public clay courts. What arrangements will be made for peak play hours for clay courts which is weekend mornings from 8-12 and also weekday mornings from 9-11?

18:53:55 From Louis Shepard to Everyone:

Will Tulane students and faculty be given access to Audubon tennis via their student fees or Reilly Rec Center membership

18:55:20 From Louis Shepard to Everyone:

If baseball field could be rotated 180 degrees, baseballs over the fence would not be a problem

18:56:16 From James Derbes to Everyone:

It is unclear to me if rooftop viewing area is entirely covered - in my opinion, it should be. It gets really hot in the summer sun.

18:56:17 From Tiki McIntyre to Everyone:

Rotating that Avenger field is a no brainer. Safer for EVERYONE! One person hit with a ball seems like a terrible liability.

18:56:36 From Tiki McIntyre to Everyone:

What about SHARING that bathroom for Avenger & Tennis center

18:57:55 From David Crane to Everyone:

Need to run. Thank you all for this thoughtful planning.

18:59:14 From Tiki McIntyre to Everyone:

It was mentioned that CHNOLA would have access for kids etc. Could that parking be used for Aud Tennis?? Seems as if there is a gate for CHNOLA it would help AT

19:00:02 From Nicole Williamson to Everyone:

I actually posted a much longer message about issues as it relates to the neighborhood. I hope Audubon will consider it instead of the summary read aloud.

19:02:04 From LeMoine ROBINSON to Everyone:

I think its in the best interest of all to have it open to everyone.

19:02:53 From Larry Barabino, Jr. to Hosts and panelists:

Chimene, I am going to have to get off early. I have to pickup my grandkid

19:04:37 From James Derbes to Everyone:

I am a life-long tennis player.. I think the overall plan is excellent, and I am in favor. I live Uptown and play regularly each week at Atkinson-Stern and also Audubon. I think the re-allocation of the existing rubico courts into 6 rubico and 6 hard surface, should be viewed in combination with the recent resurfacing of all Atkinson-Stern courts. Together the two facilities have ample clay courts in those like me who play on them.

19:05:53 From Keith Williams to Hosts and panelists:

Is there a possibility for conversations on supporting students moving onto playing on the collegiate level, fundraising?

19:07:32 From Julie Oreck to Hosts and panelists:

My question re USTA play and being open on M/T, was not addresssed

19:10:08 From Nicole Williamson to Hosts and panelists:

You already read it, thanks

19:10:34 From Lee Isaacson to Hosts and panelists:

Unlike the zoo aquarium and insectarium,the tennis courts need only one staff person to accommodate 48 players per hour. Expanding times from 7 am to 9 pm would be a revenue generator. Why not expand hours?

19:11:17 From Tiki McIntyre to Everyone:

right now it is hard to access tennis lessons for children because the closing of the center at 4pm and not open all 7 days. This is really important. Staffing for tennis seems to be a low load.

19:12:13 From Daniel Weiner to Everyone:

are 6 hard courts necessary for Tulane or would 4 work?

19:13:06 From Lee Isaacson to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you!!!

19:13:08 From Tiki McIntyre to Everyone:

what about a BACK BOARD?

19:13:20 From Louis Shepard to Everyone:

an easy improvement would be to move the very annoying batting cages away from tennis

19:13:26 From Tiki McIntyre to Everyone:

aka WALL to hit against

19:14:10 From Marcy Planer to Hosts and panelists:

What prevents all these community programs now with 10 clay courts.

19:14:22 From Bitsy Metcalf to Hosts and panelists:

A backboard would be a really great addition to the courts in order to practice outside of games

19:15:21 From Michael to Hosts and panelists:

The present way Avenger field is utilized makes a nightmarish neighbor for the sport of tennis. Not only regarding the possibility of being hit with a fly ball, there is the cacophony that occurs when numerous games of young children simultaneously occur complete with cheers and whistles on weekend mornings. I had proposed the possibility of converting Avenger field to a Tulane tennis facility, which would allow for an increase in the number of Rubico courts to 12, making a total of 18 courts, which would satisfy all those concerned.

19:15:22 From Nicole Williamson to Hosts and panelists:

It would be helpful if public meeting is more amenable to the workday, a bit later. Thank you.

19:16:49 From Caryn Rodgers-Battiste to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you Chimene

19:17:03 From Terrian Mobley to Hosts and panelists:

I commend Audubon Nature Institute for entertaining this partnership with Tulane. The opportunity to expose tennis to the community will only help to diversify the sport.