

Board should reconsider costly pickleball court expansion near the Event Center

By **Janet Seldon**

District B candidate

The GRF Board of Directors must reassess the escalating costs of the proposed pickleball courts. Initially approved at around \$2 million, the project has now ballooned to \$4 million-plus – staggering increase (almost half of the capital Trust Estate budget) that demands a closer look at other options and at our community's financial priorities.

While pickleball is a popular and growing sport, this significant price hike raises serious concerns about fiscal responsibility. At double the original estimate, the project competes with more pressing needs that impact a greater number of residents. Instead of allocating such a large sum to one recreational project, GRF should prioritize critical infrastructure upgrades such as replacing failing water pipes, restoring full bus service and renovating the Stanley Dollar Clubhouse, which is in poor shape and doesn't comply with ADA requirements. This clubhouse remains a central gathering place for events and meetings in our community, and it is

in very poor condition.

Our aging infrastructure requires ongoing maintenance, improvements and Firewise renovations to ensure safety and functionality. Putting off these needs in favor of an expensive recreational facility could lead to higher repair costs in the future. Moreover, restoring a fully functioning bus service is important to residents with limited mobility who depend on this promised service to get them to doctor's appointments, shopping and social activities.

When elected, I will encourage the GRF Board to take a step back and reevaluate whether doubling the pickleball court budget is the best use of community funds. I realize how hard it is to back out of something already underway, but given the doubling of the costs, and more pressing needs, it's time to reconsider our priorities and ensure that financial decisions benefit the greatest number of residents.

Editor's note: Candidates running for the GRF Board are permitted to submit up to four articles (maximum of 300 words each) about issues pertaining to Rossmoor and its residents. Janet Seldon is running for director in District A.