

**PROPOSAL FOR:
NAMING THE HAL JENSEN
RECREATION CENTER TENNIS
COURTS FOR RON HREN**

“THE RON HREN MEMORIAL TENNIS COURTS”



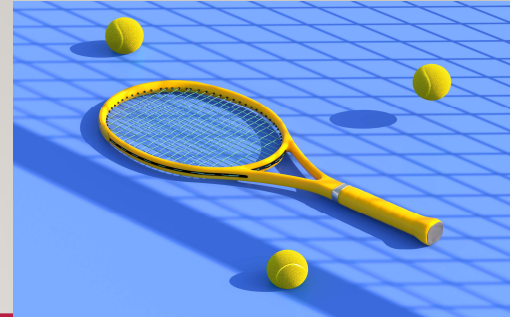
BACKGROUND

- Ron Hren was a longstanding citizen of Flagstaff, known and loved by many
- Ron CHOSE to retire in Flagstaff and give back to this great community
- He PROVIDED the tennis outlet for not only local players, but ALL new players in Flagstaff who had yet to make a connection.
- Ron was very active in community activities giving much of his time and financial support
 - Arts Council
 - Hiking Groups
 - Tennis Groups



Walk for Cancer, August
18th, 2012

THE TENNIS CONNECTION



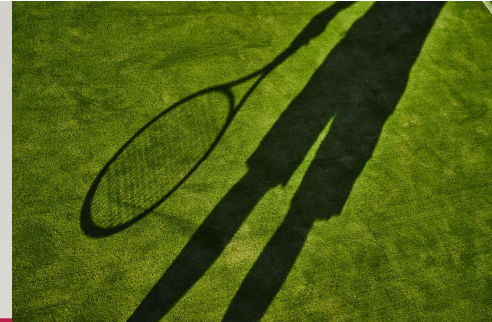
- Ron was an avid tennis player who participated in many league and city events
- A frequent contributor to the Flagstaff Tennis Association (FTA)
 - Volunteered to organize, run, and referee the annual Flagstaff City Tournament
 - Gave Financial contributions for youth tennis scholarships
 - Volunteered to coach and run youth tennis clinics with local professionals
- Ron's biggest contribution was organizing and running the thrice weekly Flagstaff Drop-In Doubles Tennis group for 20 years
 - An outlet for city players of all skill levels to enjoy organized tennis outside of a USTA league
 - Ron designed rotation sheets to mix players and provide a social/fun setting for everyone
 - Ron gave two hours of his time every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to organize and run this activity
 - There are close to 100 people who have used and continue to use this activity periodically during the year. 15 to 20 players show up every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to play and have fun.

The fact that he did all of this without needing to be compensated - as a true labor of love – deserves to be recognized!



FTA Tennis Tournament 2018 and Birthday Celebration

WHY NAME THE COURTS FOR RON?



- Most people in Flagstaff called the MWF drop-in tennis at the Hal Jensen courts “The Ron Hren Drop-in Tennis Activity”.
- Ron passed in July of 2020 and was still running the tennis group and playing two weeks before he passed
- Many people use this tennis group as a social outlet providing a positive experience for aging players/disabled who cannot compete in the competitive USTA leagues
- Many of the tennis group members, members of the community at large, high school coaches, and local professionals felt the deep loss of Ron.
- Many people asked if Ron could be remembered for his contributions and friendship to so many in the community
- We have a Ron Hren Memorial award given out yearly (with the exception of COVID years) based on our respect for Ron and the honorees
 - 2022 John Williams 2021 Gordon Medford
- We are requesting the courts at Coconino High School be named for Ron Hren.

Ron Hren had a significant and enduring impact on the Flagstaff Community for 20 years

PROVISIONS IN RESOLUTION NO. 2001-73/2020-72

- The Flagstaff City Council has established a policy for naming or changing the name of city facilities
 - The resolutions sections (16) are detailed and have been addressed in detail.
 - For the respect of the Council, and time, the presentation has been summarized and the detailed resolutions hidden but available upon requested.



SUMMARIZATION OF THE 16 PART RESOLUTIONS

- Informal polling suggested the tennis courts be named The Ron Hren Memorial Tennis Courts.
- The courts are currently unnamed making this easier
- Ron Hren did not buy the land but did run his Monday, Wednesday, Friday tennis groups at the facility to promote community tennis.
- Ron was a local contributor who made many lives better through tennis and community involvement. Ron passed in July of 2020 therefore the two-year criteria has been met.
- Ron spent countless hours putting up wind screens, shoveling snow, cleaning, sweeping, and repairing nets to allow continued play.
- His real contribution was providing a unique opportunity for community members to enjoy a sport they loved in a social setting.
- He convinced many members to contribute their time and resources towards youth tennis as a means to help youth in the community.
- **No** was not in his vocabulary



FTA Tournament 2019 volunteers

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM FRIENDS

- “Always welcoming, those players are now returning the favor to others”
- “The friendships in this group are amazing! There is a strong group behind this proposal to fund-raise in an effort to continually improve these courts in Ron’s name”



FROM RICK GOLDWASSER FLAGSTAFF TENNIS PROFESSIONAL

- It is not unusual that the sense of community and the idea of playing for the simple joy of playing takes a backseat to who's ranked higher and too much emphasis on winning.
- The fact that Ron's group has met for this long (20 years), without losing sight of what's important is a testament to ideals that he instilled from the beginning of this group's formation.
- The fact that he did all of this without needing to be compensated - as a true labor of love - deserves to be recognized! If you ask me, it would just be wrong for those courts to be called anything but "The Ron Hren Memorial Courts"!

CONCLUSION

- While you can find many communities where you can play drop-in tennis, we believe that Ron provided the residents of Flagstaff a unique, social, and community minded forum for community involvement through sport. In collaboration with the Flagstaff Tennis Association (FTA), Ron created a very special portal to help many people in our community. That Flagstaff as a city can offer this to its residents reflects great honor and commitment by Ron, FTA, and the city.
- Thank you for your consideration in naming the courts for Ron.

CONCLUSION

- Ron Hren selflessly arranged, coordinated, and operated a significant community activity for Flagstaff for over 20 years.
- Ron provided the residents and visitors to Flagstaff a welcoming unique social and community focused activity for community involvement in sport.
- In collaboration with the Flagstaff Tennis Association (FTA), Ron created a very special portal to help many people in our community get involved in civic activities. That Flagstaff as a city can offer this to its residents reflects great honor and commitment by Ron, FTA, and the city.

Thank you for your consideration in naming the courts for Ron.