

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY 6, 2002

CHANCELLOR COMMUNITY CENTRE BOCCE COMMITTEE

Recommendation

The Director of Recreation and Culture recommends:

That the current agreement with the Chancellor Community Centre Bocce Committee be terminated and

That a new structure for the delivery of recreational and competitive bocce be instituted at the Chancellor Community Centre and

That part/ time staff be hired to oversee the recreational bocce activities and

That the part / time staff salaries be funded through the annual bocce membership and permit fees.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's direction to terminate the current agreement with the Chancellor Community Centre Bocce Committee and institute a new operating method to deliver recreational bocce to the users of the Chancellor Community Centre. The recommended operating method is in accordance with the expressed wishes of the majority of bocce players.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Council meeting of July 6, 1998, a by-law was enacted to authorize the execution of an agreement between the City of Vaughan and the Chancellor Community Centre Bocce Committee. The role of the committee was to provide for the management, usage, maintenance and operations of the newly opened courts at the Chancellor Community Centre. In addition, the agreement provided for the payment of bocce court fees to the Chancellor Community Centre Bocce Committee in exchange for the committee assuming the responsibility for 15% of the court occupancy costs.

The original "partnership" was considered a pilot project, with re-confirmation pending evaluation.

Following two years of successful operation, on June 26, 2000, Council approved a five year renewal of the agreement with an option to renew for an additional five year term. In addition, Council agreed to amend the agreement to reflect a financial contribution of 15% of net revenue rather than a payment of 15% of occupancy costs.

In November 2001 discord set in amongst a segment of the Chancellor Community Centre bocce players and at a November 20, 2001 meeting, they expressed dissatisfaction with the current committee, and demanded change. The group was informed that another meeting would be scheduled for the early Spring in order to explore other operating options.

On March 19, 2002 another meeting was held with approximately 150 bocce players in attendance. At that time two potential options were presented for their consideration along with the status quo. Option I, included charging an annual membership fee of \$35.00 (to be split between the City and the club) eliminating the court fees, and electing a new committee to assume the responsibility of the day to day operations of the courts. In addition, at an annual general meeting, the members would determine how to use their revenue.

Option II was an annual membership fee of \$55.00 and the elimination of court fees. The total revenue would be dedicated to offsetting the expenses associated with the hiring of part-time staff to oversee the recreational bocce activities. In addition, the fee is comparable to that of the City of Toronto where there is a similar structure in place.. Option II eliminates the need for a volunteer committee.

A vote (secret ballot) was taken and the group voted overwhelmingly for Option II.

Further, recognizing that competitive bocce is also desired by a large segment of the community, it is recommended that time be made available for competitive clubs to permit the Chancellor Community Centre bocce courts for exclusive use. Clubs would permit use through the standard City of Vaughan permit process at the Council approved rates.

As per Council's policy, seniors would continue to play during the day at no charge.

Please note, this recommendation applies only to the Chancellor Community Centre. The Father Ermanno Bulfon Bocce Committee is operating as per the agreement of 2001.

Conclusion

As a result of the overwhelming support for Option II, whereby the Department of Recreation and Culture assumes responsibility for the Chancellor Community Centre bocce courts including the collection of all fees and overseeing the bocce court activities, it is recommended that the current agreement with the Chancellor Community Centre Bocce Committee be terminated and the method for the delivery of recreational bocce be revised to reflect the expressed wishes of the majority of players.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Joyce Epstein, Director of Recreation and Culture

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Epstein
Director of Recreation and Culture