

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

### **ST. DAVID BLUES BASKETBALL**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Community Services and the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommend:

That this report be received for information.

#### **Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact related to this report as it is an information item.

#### **Purpose**

To provide Council with information on the costs associated with the St. David Blues Basketball Tournament, held at the Vellore Village Community Centre on the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

At the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 5, 2006, following the deputation of Mr. Mauro DiVito of the St. David Blues Basketball Organization, Council requested that staff provide a report regarding the costs and services related to their King of the Court Basketball Tournament held at the Vellore Village Community Centre on the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

The King of the Court Basketball Tournament held this past June was a highly successful event and expected to grow in the future. The event included 24 teams, 72 coaching staff and over 500 spectators resulting in many benefits to the community.

As part of the deputation, in addition to requesting Council's endorsement for this annual tournament, Mr. DiVito requested that the fees associated with the rental of the gyms and cafeteria at the Vellore Village Community Centre be waived and further that the group be allowed to sell concessions as part of their fundraising initiatives.

According to the package submitted by Mr. DiVito, the approximate expenses to host this tournament this past June were \$20,000 of which the facility rental fees accounted for \$2,613. Based on a discussion staff had with Mr. DiVito, he reported that revenues were approximately \$16,000, resulting in a net loss of \$4,000.

Recreation and Culture has sanctioned this group as a Community Service Organization (CSO), and they received the subsidized CSO rates approved by Council. On an ongoing basis numerous tournaments are hosted by other similarly sanctioned minor sports groups including soccer, baseball and hockey. In order to be fair and equitable, staff have consistently applied the Council approved rates.

Another option for reducing the rental rates is the grants program. Council could reduce permit fees by 50% through the City of Vaughan Council Grants Program. The following conditions would have to be met to qualify for this discount:

- 1) The event must be established as a fundraising event;
- 2) 50% of the reduced permits fees must be donated to a charity (preferably the Vaughan Health Care Centre);
- 3) Public acknowledgment of the discount must be made whenever possible.

Applying the above named grant program would translate to a savings of \$1,306.50 provided the organizers donate \$653.25 to a registered charity. The pre-discounted fees would be applied until the donation is validated by the charity through a receipt. This process would maintain the integrity of the rental rates approved by Council and all of the associated policies. Note: The dollar amounts stated above are based on the 2006 fees and are subject to change in 2007.

Although the St. David Blues Basketball group did not present this tournament as a fundraising event, staff did advise Mr. DiVito of the City of Vaughan Council Grants Program. Mr. DiVito advised that their board will review the particulars of this program and advise staff accordingly if they wish to pursue this option.

With respect to the selling of concessions, this past year the Vellore Village Community Centre concession stand was not in operation and as a result the St. David Blues Basketball group was allowed to have a barbeque on site. Since then the concession stand has been contracted out to a private operator and is now operational. Recognizing that the right of first refusal to sell at this site now rests with this operator, it is anticipated that the event organizers and operator will need to reach a mutual agreement so that both parties benefit.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated.

As identified in the Vaughan Vision 2007, it is a strategic priority to promote economic development and the Canadian King of the Court Bring It On In Vaughan tournament provides a positive impact to the city.

### **Conclusion**

The St. David's Basketball Tournament held this past June was a highly successful event that is expected to grow in the future. The event included 24 teams, 72 coaching staff and over 500 spectators resulting in many benefits to the local communities.

Staff will continue to work with the organizers to accommodate their requirements and to apply the approved rates unless otherwise directed by Council.

### **Attachments**

None.

### **Report Prepared By**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Community Services