

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

DEPUTATION – MR. JOE SICOLI WITH RESPECT TO THE CITY OF VAUGHAN BOCCE POLICY

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture, recommends:

- 1) That the report on Public/Private Partnerships to deliver senior programs including Bocce to minimize the impact to other clubs and users of the existing facilities be approved;
- 2) That a further report be provided to Council outlining the Public/Private Partnership Model, lease and operation costs; and
- 3) That the free Recreational Bocce play for Older Adults established by Council in March 2007 be replaced with a new Recreational Membership fee of \$15.00/year for older adults 60 years of age and older.

Economic Impact

The financial impact is not known at this time for the public private partnership and will require a future report to Council. Changes in the proposed new Recreational Membership Fee of \$15.00/year for older adults 60 years of age and older will result in a reduction of revenue of 75% from \$10,000 to \$2,500 in the 2007- 2008 Recreation and Culture operating budget.

Communications Plan

Letters were sent to bocce club presidents and notices were posted in the bocce areas at Father Ermanno Bulfon C.C., Chancellor C.C., Maple C.C. and Dufferin Clark C.C. during the week of August 20, 2007 notifying the residents of the September 4, 2007 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to identify the opportunities such as Public/Private Partnerships to deliver senior programs including bocce, while minimizing the impact to other clubs and users of the existing facilities.

Background - Analysis and Options

On June 25, 2007, Council directed that a report be provided to the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 4, 2007, on opportunities such as Public/Private Partnership to deliver senior programs including bocce, while minimizing the impact to other clubs and users of the existing facilities; and that all affected clubs be so notified in writing and notices posted in appropriate community centres.

The City of Vaughan staff met with representatives of Trinistar Corporation to discuss a commercial business plaza at Tigi Court Units 15-16 which has leased space for a bocce facility. The existing bocce facility includes four bocce courts, a fully equipped kitchen, seating/eating area, office, washrooms and a 2nd floor mezzanine with additional gathering space.

The opportunity exists for the City of Vaughan in partnership with various service providers to utilize the facility for bocce play, social functions, community and city use. The facility is located centrally in Vaughan with good access to the unit via vehicular or public transit.

Further details and renovations will have to be undertaken by Trinistar Corporation which include: elevator access to the 2nd floor mezzanine, adequate parking, handicap access, kitchen equipment, and upgrades of the bocce courts to meet city standards.

Operation of the facility could be done in collaboration with S.A.V.I. (Seniors Association of Vaughan Inc.), a volunteer based organization which represents all City of Vaughan older adult clubs. Undertaking a community development model of program delivery, the City of Vaughan would work with this organization as a lead group to administer activities and social programming at the facility with an emphasis of day time programs and bocce use. The City of Vaughan Recreation and Culture Department would work with the organization to establish a framework for the delivery of programs and services. In addition, the department could also permit the space and use the location to deliver programs during the evenings and weekends based on community needs.

Operation of the kitchen/eating area could be managed by the City of Vaughan's Vending and Concession Services provider, Fontana Gardens Express.

The introduction of a new location for bocce, social and meeting space would allow for additional recreational and permitted bocce times for older adults, adults and clubs. Additionally, clubs could host tournaments in a facility that also provides a restaurant and liquor license. S.A.V.I. would also benefit from the opportunity with the establishment of an office and meeting location for the organization.

To further explore these opportunities staff recommend that meetings take place with S.A.V.I. and Fontana Gardens along with Trinistar Corporation to further explore partnership opportunities.

Administration of the Free Older Adult Bocce Memberships

On March 26, 2007 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council approved a report that recommended changes to the existing program by providing free recreational bocce for older adults, Monday to Friday from 12noon to 5:00p.m. The introduction of free Older Adult Bocce play will certainly benefit a number of older adults. However, during staff's public consultation with bocce members and clubs, reaction and support to change the program was mixed.

Not paying anything for bocce will cause significant issues between the "paying" and "non paying" bocce players not to mention the challenge for staff in monitoring and dealing with potential bocce distributes.

Overcrowding - Expanded Recreational Bocce Schedule

Concerns about overcrowding are primarily at Father Ermanno C.C. Providing additional time in the bocce schedule could alleviate this problem. Currently, recreational bocce is offered from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. The weekday schedule could be expanded from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. adding two additional hours of playing time per weekday. Traditionally, older adults have shown a preference to play in the afternoons. Expanding the schedule may encourage more players to take advantage of additional times and reduce the pressure in afternoon play.

Proposed New Recreational Bocce Membership Fee (Older Adults Only)

On April 19, 2004 Council approved the new Recreational Bocce Program which included the approval of an older adult recreational bocce fee of \$55.00+ tax. The Recreational Bocce

Program has been operating well over the last three years. One concern for some older adults has been the bocce fee as the previous City's senior's policy included free bocce use for the older adults. The introduction of a new \$15.00 Recreational Bocce Membership fee for older adults provides bocce equitably (everyone pays) and at a very reasonable fee (comparable to the City of Toronto).

The financial impact of doing this would be to reduce revenue by 75% from \$10,000 to \$2,500. This also reduces the likelihood of disputes created by having to monitor two types of memberships. If this fee is approved, the current 15% discount to club members who are also recreational members should be discontinued.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved; and is consistent with A.1 - To pursue excellence in the delivery of core services.

Conclusion

Staff will continue to review the potential of Public/Private Partnerships to deliver senior programs including Bocce to minimize the impact to other clubs and users of the existing facilities. A future report will be prepared for Council outlining the public private partnership with S.A.V.I. and other partners along with the lease and operating costs associated with the bocce facility. In addition, staff recommends that the free Recreational Bocce play for Older Adults established by Council in March 2007 be replaced with a new Recreational Membership fee of \$15.00/year for older adults 60 years of age and older.

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

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