

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 16, 2003

DISCOVERY PARK – BASKETBALL FACILITY

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Director of Buildings, Facilities and Parks recommends:

That the following status report regarding the basketball facility at Discovery Park be received; and,

That Council approve the immediate removal of the basketball standards and nets at Discovery Park.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the Discovery Park Basketball Facility and to seek approval for the immediate removal of the basketball standards and nets.

Background - Analysis and Options

On July 19, 1999, a community meeting was held at the Maple Community Centre to discuss the conceptual design for Discovery Park. At this meeting, the residents requested that the tennis courts shown in the conceptual design be revised to show a basketball court. The basketball court was implemented as part of the park construction.

At the September 9, 2002 Committee of the Whole meeting, Mr. Franco Liguori provided a deputation and petition recommending that the existing basketball facility be relocated to another location within the park due to excessive noise, foul language and littering by people utilizing the basketball courts (Committee of the Whole Report No. 58, Item 36).

Parks Development undertook several detailed site inspections to determine the feasibility of relocating the basketball court within the park and determined that this was not a cost effective solution to the residents' concerns. Subsequently, a meeting was convened with Mr. Liguori and Ms. Diane Rembacz, President of the North Maple Ratepayers' Association to discuss possible alternatives. The alternative that was proposed recommended that a full size basketball court be implemented at Mast Park and that following its implementation the standards and nets at Discovery Park would be removed in the fall of 2003 (Committee of the Whole Report Item 3, Report No. 26). This alternative had to be approved through a public consultation process. The design for Mast Park was vetted through the public consultation process at the community meeting held May 28, 2003. Given the perceived problems attributed to the basketball courts in Discovery Park, the community members in attendance overwhelmingly rejected basketball courts for Mast Park.

Despite increased surveillance of the basketball courts in Discovery Park by York Region Police, By-law Enforcement, and Parks Patrol, physical violence, excessive noise, foul language and littering by people utilizing the basketball courts has continued to be problematic.

Costs associated with the removal of the basketball standards and nets at Discovery Park will be from the 2003 Operating Budget.

Conclusion

That Council approve the immediate removal of the existing basketball standards and nets at Discovery Park.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Community Services