

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 18, 2005

### RECREATIONAL BOCCE PROGRAM

#### Recommendation

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

1. That this report be received for information.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the impact of the new bocce policy.

#### Background - Analysis and Options

On April 19, 2004, Council approved a new City of Vaughan Recreational Bocce Membership Program (see attachment), and asked staff to conduct a review of the bocce policy after 6 months and provide a report on the impact of the new bocce policy.

Implementation of the program began on May 1, 2004 at all City of Vaughan indoor bocce facilities with the exception of the Maple Community Centre, which was opened in November 2004.

Over the last year staff have been monitoring and meeting with various bocce club members, seniors clubs and permit users to ensure the program has been operating smoothly. Father Ermanno Bulfon, Maple, Dufferin Clark and Chancellor Community Centre locations implemented a fall and winter schedule. Generally, bocce users are satisfied with one consistent program at all city-operated bocce facilities.

When the program was first introduced, the price of the membership fee was an expressed concern for some senior bocce players. The present fee for seniors is \$55 per year, which includes access to bocce courts for five afternoons and three evenings Monday to Friday (two nights are permitted out to bocce clubs) and two playing sessions over the weekend. Cost for adults is \$65 per year.

All membership Rules & Regulations, Code of Conduct and Scheduling information are posted at each location in English and Italian languages.

Listed below are the current membership statistics that includes categories and usage. The total citywide Recreational Bocce memberships as of March 17, 2005 are 351.

#### **Current memberships as of March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Adult Vaughan</b>	<b>Adult Non Vaughan</b>	<b>Senior Vaughan</b>	<b>Senior Non Vaughan</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
FEBCC	28	3	91	11	<b>133</b>
Chancellor CC	17	0	91	2	<b>110</b>
Dufferin Clark CC	0	0	28	1	<b>29</b>
Maple CC (1)	6	1	66	6	<b>79</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>351</b>

Notes:

(1) Maple CC – Bocce program started in November 2004 with the introduction of new bocce courts.

**Current Membership fee:**

Vaughan Senior	\$55.00 annually (Afternoons M-F, 3 evenings M-F, 2 sessions on the weekend)
Vaughan Adult	\$65.00 annually (same times as above)
Non-Vaughan Senior	\$70.00 annually
Non-Vaughan Adult	\$80.00 annually

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the Vaughan Vision 2007, as it provides effective and efficient delivery of services.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources are in place.

**Conclusion**

The goal of delivering a recreational bocce membership program is to ensure that Vaughan adults and seniors are provided with a fair, equitable and consistent policy with respect to bocce services throughout the City of Vaughan.

On April 19, 2004, Council approved a new City of Vaughan Recreational Bocce Membership Program at four locations: Maple, Chancellor, Father Ermanno Bulfon, and Dufferin Clark Community Centres. Staff have been monitoring the program and meeting with bocce users to ensure a smooth implementation.

The program has been operating well and no further changes are required at this time. Staff will meet with bocce clubs and users on an annual basis prior to the start of the fall schedule to plan the upcoming season, review the schedules and identify opportunities for improvement.

**Attachments**

1. Existing City of Vaughan Bocce Policy

**Report Prepared By**

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Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen  
Commissioner of Community Services

CITY OF VAUGHAN

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2004**

Item 5, Report No. 37, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 26, 2004.

**5 RECREATIONAL BOCCE PROGRAM**

(Referred from the Committee of the Whole Meeting (Working Session) of March 30, 2004)

**The Committee of the Whole recommends:**

- 1) **That Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4, of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Community Services, dated March 30, 2004, be approved;**
- 2) **That the following be approved in accordance with the memorandum of the Commissioner of Community Services, dated April 1, 2004:**
  - “1. **That effective May 1, 2004, proposed fees for non-prime time and prime time be replaced with one fee for Recreational Bocce Membership;**
  2. **That effective May 1, 2004, a fee of \$65.00 per year, per Vaughan adult member with no court fees, be implemented;**
  3. **That effective May 1, 2005, a fee of \$75.00 per year, per Vaughan adult member with no court fees be implemented;**
  4. **That effective May 1, 2004, a fee of \$55.00 per year, per Vaughan senior member (60 years of age and older) with no court fees be implemented; and**
  5. **That effective May 1, 2005, a fee of \$65.00 per year, per Vaughan senior member (60 years of age and older) with no court fees is implemented.”;**
- 3) **That staff conduct a review of the bocce policy in 6 months and provide a report on the impact.**

**Recommendation**

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) at its meeting of March 30, 2004 recommended:

- 1) That this matter be referred to the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 19, 2004 for a further report with final recommendations; and
- 2) That the following deputations be received:
  - a) Mr. Benito Di Biase, Rainbow Creek Bocciofila, 51 Squire Graham Lane, Woodbridge, L4L 7C6;
  - b) Mr. Joe Sicoli, 271 Triton Avenue, Woodbridge, L4L 6P8; and
  - c) Mr. Domenico Demarinis, 106 Roxana Avenue, Woodbridge, L4L 3Y8.

**Report of the Commissioner of Community Services dated March 30, 2004**

The Commissioner of Community Services in consultation with the Director of Recreation & Culture and the Programs Manager recommends:

1. THAT the City of Vaughan discontinue the Agreement with the Rainbow Creek Bocce Club to manage and operate the bocce facilities at Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre;

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2. THAT the City of Vaughan make available permitted space at the Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre for the Rainbow Creek Bocce Club to operate;
3. THAT the City of Vaughan introduce during prime-time, a city-wide Recreational Bocce Membership Program;
4. THAT the City of Vaughan's goal is to recover direct operating program costs consistent with other programs, to administer the Recreational Bocce Membership Program;
5. THAT the Recreational Bocce Membership fee during prime-time for Vaughan adult residents be set at \$130.00 per member, to be phased in over a two (2) year period as follows:
  - a. effective May 1, 2004, a fee of \$80.00 per year, per adult member, and no court fees, be implemented; and
  - b. effective May 1, 2005, a fee of \$130.00 per year, per adult member, and no court fees, be implemented;
6. THAT effective May 1, 2004, seniors (60 years of age and older) receive a 15% discount on a Recreational Bocce Adult Membership during prime time (\$80.00 adult membership less 15% = \$68.00 per membership for seniors during prime time); and
7. THAT effective May 1, 2004, a non-prime time membership fee of \$15.00 per year, per Vaughan resident is introduced for all users during non-prime time at City of Vaughan bocce facilities.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council direction and approval on a method of delivering bocce services that provide Vaughan residents with a fair, equitable and consistent policy. In order to do this a new city wide Recreational Bocce Policy is required.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

At a June 16, 2003 Committee of the Whole – Working Session, staff presented Council with a report that provided background information about bocce users, facilities, services and fees at City of Vaughan bocce facilities. As a result of that meeting, staff was directed to make the following services available to bocce players in the community:

1. allow Bocce clubs to permit space as required;
2. make individual permits available; and
3. make pay-as-you-go bocce use available on a permit basis.

To ensure the Bocce players were aware of the Council directive, staff posted the information at Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre both in English and Italian. The Rainbow Creek Bocciofilia Club operates the bocce program at Father Ermanno Community Centre on behalf of the City of Vaughan. Staff reviewed the request with the Rainbow Creek Bocciofilia Club. Staff at the Centre were advised of the change and were available to process permits or pay-as-you-go requests from bocce players. The court was monitored and during the course of the last eight (8) months no individuals or groups permitted the court.

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#### **Location of Bocce Facilities**

At the present time, the City of Vaughan operates five (5) indoor bocce facilities located at Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre, four (4) at Dufferin/Clark Community Centre and Chancellor Community Centre. Upon completion of the Maple Community Centre expansion the City of Vaughan will operate 4 additional courts. Each club that uses the City bocce facilities offers a different mix of membership benefits from organized tournament/league play to extensive club social activities throughout the year.

In addition to indoor bocce facilities, the City of Vaughan provides five (5) unlit and twelve (12) lit outdoor bocce facilities at seventeen (17) park locations.

In addition to public indoor and outdoor bocce facilities, three (3) private clubs operate in Vaughan. The private clubs are Concord Bocce Club (4 courts), Ciocaro Club (4 courts) and the Friuli Seniors Residence (6 Courts).

#### **Hours of Operation of Bocce Facilities**

##### *Prime-time Bocce*

Prime time use of bocce facilities is during the evenings from 7 pm – 11 pm Monday to Fridays and weekends on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 pm – 5 pm and 7 pm – 11 pm.

##### *Non-Prime Time Bocce*

Monday to Friday from 12 pm – 5 p.m. at all bocce locations.

#### **Existing Recreational Bocce Membership Program at Chancellor Community Centre**

In July 2002, the City of Vaughan instituted a Recreational Bocce Membership Program at Chancellor Community Centre, which operates five (5) days per week (Mon, Tues, Fri 7-11 p.m. and Sat - Sun 12-5 p.m. & 7-11 p.m.). Recreation and Culture staff manages all scheduling, collection of fees, distribution of equipment, promotion and general maintenance. Users pay an annual membership fee of \$55.00, which includes use of the bocce courts during the operating times. The membership rate of \$55.00 (no additional court fees) covers approximately 20% of the direct operating cost of the program. Direct program costs include: staff wages and program supplies at an annual cost to the City of \$19,000. Revenues in 2003 were \$4,675 for 85 memberships. The programs net cost to the City of Vaughan is approximately \$15,000 annually. The Chancellor Community Centre model works well and offers a recreational membership program for people who do not want to join a club. It also provides the flexibility to provide bocce times for clubs to permit the space and operate their own program.

#### **Proposed New City Wide Recreational Bocce Program**

In moving forward, City staff recommends that greater involvement in overseeing the bocce facilities city-wide will improve the operation, communication, patron safety and working relationship with the various bocce users and bocce groups in the community. It will provide a consistent delivery of service and accommodate a variety of bocce player needs.

Staff recommends that the city-wide Recreational Bocce Program be introduced at Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre similar to the Chancellor Community Centre. At the present time clubs permit courts at Maple Community Centre and Dufferin Clark. Present demand does not warrant a City operated bocce program at these two locations. This will be monitored quarterly and introduced when demand is warranted.

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#### **The Recreation Bocce Membership program (Prime Time) would offer the following:**

- Five (5) playing times per week @ 4 hours per time during **prime time** (evenings and weekends);
- Some exceptions for holidays, facility closures and tournaments;
- Supervised by City staff;
- Membership Photo ID card provided;
- One Year Adult Prime Time Membership fee @ \$80.00/ Vaughan resident effective May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004;
- One Year Adult Prime Time Membership fee @ \$130.00/Vaughan resident effective May 1<sup>st</sup> 2005; and
- 15% discount to seniors on an Adult Prime Time Membership.

#### **Establishing Bocce User Fees for Recreational Membership Bocce**

The proposed new fees are in-line with the Town of Richmond Hill, which recently approved user fees during prime time of \$75.00 per adult member effective September 2004, and \$125.00 per adult member effective September 2005. They do not offer seniors a discount to use the courts during prime time. They currently charge seniors (60+) a yearly membership fee of \$25.00, with no court fees during non-prime time.

The City of Vaughan recommends that seniors who wish to play during prime-time hours can purchase an Adult Bocce (Prime-Time) Membership at a senior's discount of 15% off the regular adult membership fee. This equates to a cost of \$68.00 per year in 2004 for a senior to play bocce during prime time.

By adopting an Adult Recreational Membership fee of \$80.00 per year we would recover 50% of the direct programming costs. With an increase in the membership fee in 2005 to \$130.00 the City would recover 75% of the direct programming costs. The new membership fees would move the City closer to recovering 100% of the direct program costs, which is \$165.00/person based on a membership of 85 people. The direct operating costs of the membership program include part-time staff, equipment and supplies.

The City Bocce Membership Program would require a minimum number of memberships (85) per location to be sold in order for this to be financially viable. Fewer than 85 members would result in fewer playing times that would be available to members. In setting the Adult Bocce Membership fees staff reviewed and took into consideration the existing adult rates for similar membership programs for recreational swimming and fitness memberships. (See Appendix B)

The City also considered the cost of a private bocce club membership and estimated what the potential cost per club membership could cost an individual. For example, at Father Ermanno Bulfon Community Centre a resident could join the Rainbow Creek Bocce Club and pay \$35.00 for an annual membership. Court fees are set by the City at \$13.00 /court for a 2 hour period. Assuming 6 players are sharing the cost and the member plays weekly (50 wks/yr.), it could cost the member \$143.00 annually. If this member played three (3) times/week it could cost the member \$359.00 annually.

#### **Bocce Club Users**

Bocce Clubs in Vaughan continue to play an important mix in the allocation of court time at indoor bocce facilities. Court times will be available to various clubs to permit and provide playing time

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for their members. City staff will continue to permit space for club organizers and follow the City of Vaughan Facility Allocation Policy (see Appendix C). No further changes to the process or the permitting rental rate (2004 Rate - \$13.00/court for 2 hours) are required. Staff will continue to work with Bocce Clubs to ensure their needs are met.

**Recreational Bocce Program Non-Prime Time**

The present practice of allowing seniors to play Monday through Friday during non prime time would continue; however, seniors would be required to pay a nominal membership fee of \$15.00 per year for Vaughan residents. Photo identification cards would be issued. Courts would be open to users between 12 pm – 5 pm at all bocce locations

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report recommends a change from the priorities previously set by Council and some of the necessary resources have not been allocated. By providing a fair and consistent service and recovering more of the direct costs of the program, improvements can be made to customer satisfaction.

**Conclusion**

Council direction is being sought to approve a method of delivering bocce services with the goal of ensuring that Vaughan adults and seniors are provided with a fair, equitable and consistent policy with respect to bocce services in Vaughan.

**Attachments**

- Appendix A - Indoor & Outdoor Bocce Facilities in Vaughan
- Appendix B - Vaughan Rates for Adult Recreational Programs Comparison
- Appendix C - City of Vaughan Community Services Facility Allocation Policy
- Appendix D - Committee of the Whole Working Session, Item 1, Report 50 - Indoor Bocce usage at city-operated facilities, June 23, 2003

**Report prepared by:**

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(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

*Please also refer to item 1, Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report No. 35.*