

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 18, 2006

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SHARED FIELD AGREEMENT

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services in consultation with the Director of Parks and Forestry Operations and the Director of Legal Services recommends:

1. That Council approve the revised Joint Shared Use Agreement between the Corporation of the City of Vaughan and the York Region District School Board, and;
2. That a by-law be enacted authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the necessary documents.

Economic Impact

There is minimal economic impact as the existing service standards are included in the Parks 2006 operating budget.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorization to execute a revised legal agreement between the York Region District School Board and the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan Recreation Department permits fields owned by the various school boards and in exchange for this, Parks and Forestry Operations, provides maintenance to the fields as specified in the existing agreement.

The present agreement for shared fields between the City of Vaughan and the York Region District School Board has been in existence since 1996. The agreement has not been updated since that time, however annual meetings and site visits with the YRDSB have taken place over the years to address new fields.

In schedule A, B and C of the 1996 Shared-Use Agreement, sites and responsibilities of each party are listed. The sites listed include the school, park and sports fields. The chart also includes the maintenance responsibility for; mowing, fertilization, aeration, weed control, overseeding, trimming, garbage pick-up, lining and dragging for each site.

The Agreement as written did not allow for flexibility for additional sites and with the turnover of YRDSB staff, annual site meetings were necessary to confirm the split of responsibilities for existing sites. Furthermore, the YRDSB's frequency of grass cutting is not at the COV approved frequency or level, therefore COV staff often cut the sites instead or in addition to the YRDSB staff.

In February 2006, the YRDSB requested the COV and all Municipalities in York Region enter into a new one-year pilot agreement prior to the issuance of the 2006 sports field permits. The board further advised that if the municipalities did not sign the agreement, they would proceed to permit the fields directly with the various user sport groups. The 1996 shared use agreement have been revised to include the following changes:

- Municipalities cut and maintain their own sites, while the school board maintains their site.

- The York Region School Board will be responsible for capital projects including irrigation if funds are available for their sites.
- The York Region School Board will close the fields in consultation with the COV.
- The list of fields requested for permit be supplied 4 months earlier from the municipality to the YRDSB.
- Forty-eight hours notice is required for fertilization.

Although the budget impact is not significant, the timing of the new agreement left little time for negotiating with the board. So far, one municipality have signed and the others are in the process of reviewing the agreement with internal staff.

Staff in the Legal, Recreation and Parks and Forestry Operations Departments has discussed the agreement and the YRDSB have answered our questions. Parks staff will monitor the effectiveness of the agreement including expenditures for review with the YRDSB in the fall of 2006 to determine if the agreement as written should be extended or revised.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

In keeping with Vaughan Vision, the shared use agreement with the York Region District School Board will provide service excellence to Vaughan citizens through efficiencies and partnerships.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

The execution of the agreement for one year between the Corporation of the City of Vaughan and the York Region District School Board will allow Vaughan's Sports Groups to continue to permit sports fields. The continued positive relationships established with our School Boards and Sports Field User Groups is important for the health and well being of our residents. The Parks and Forestry Operations Department recognizes that this is a pilot agreement for one year and will evaluate the effectiveness of the agreement prior to extending the agreement.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

Marjie Fraser, Director of Parks & Forestry Operations, Ext. 6137

Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services