

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – APRIL 20, 2010

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SOCCER FIELDS IN VAUGHAN – WARD 2

Recommendation

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

- 1) That the following report and the confidential memo (Attachment 1) be received for information; and
- 2) That staff will report to Council when further details have been determined.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan; Objective 4.1:

- 4.1.6 Provide more partnership opportunities for existing non-profit and volunteer groups to meet the community's social, cultural and recreational needs.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact resulting from Council receiving this information report.

Communications Plan

The Parks Operations and Forestry Department will continue to communicate and inform the Woodbridge Soccer Club as it relates to this matter.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to Council direction for a report.

Background - Analysis and Options

On March 23, 2010, Committee of the Whole requested that staff be directed to provide a report in response to the suggestions from Mr. Sal Infante, President, Woodbridge Soccer Club (refer to Attachment A). On April 13, 2010, Council directed that staff provide a report to the Committee of the Whole on April 20, 2010.

- 1) The feasibility of converting the former tennis court lands at the rear of Holy Cross Catholic Academy to a mini-soccer field; and
- 2) The potential conversion of vacant land owned by the Ontario Realty Corporation (situated in the southwest quadrant of the intersection of Regional Road 27 and Milani Boulevard) to an artificial or turf soccer field or fields; the potential timing of such conversion; and the funding and an other options available to the City in pursuing this development; and that
- 3) The requested report be provided to the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 20, 2010.

Staff has reviewed the matter and can provide the following information.

Holy Cross Catholic Academy

The tennis court facility was located on the Holy Cross Catholic Academy site, on the east side of Martingrove Road, south of Highway 7 (refer to Attachment B). The court facility has been previously removed and the area restored with topsoil and sod by the York District Catholic School Board. Staff have contacted the York Catholic District School Board and requested the parties look at options to partner to renovate this area and convert the space to a soccer field.

Board representatives have advised that they are in agreement with the City utilizing the land for a mini soccer field but would like to have the opportunity to comment on the style of goal posts that would be installed prior to the City purchasing them. The Board has also confirmed that they do not have any available funds to contribute to this project.

In order to implement a mini soccer field in this location, a set of soccer goals would be required at a cost of approximately \$5,500. Additionally, to bring the sodded area up to the City of Vaughan standards for natural turf soccer fields, cultural practices (core aerate, topdress, overseed and fertilize) would be required at a cost of approximately \$4,500. The total cost of this implementation is \$10,000.00 and if Council so wishes to go ahead with this initiative, staff would have to find a source of funding. Alternatively, staff will include this initiative in the 2011 budget for consideration.

Ontario Realty Corporation Land

There is a triangular parcel of land at the southwest corner of Highway 27 and Milani Blvd owned by ORC and subject to a Hydro easement to Hydro One Networks Inc. for transmission and distribution lines (Hydro Corridor). In order to use these lands for soccer fields, the City would have to obtain a park license from ORC with Hydro One's approval. As this matter deals with the acquisition of an interest in land, a confidential memo is being provided regarding Council's directions of May 26, 2008 and May 5, 2009.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the project will provide:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL**
Service Excellence – Providing service excellence to citizens
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**
Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery; and Enhance and Ensure Community Safety.
Health and Wellness – To deliver high quality services and to promote health and wellness through design and program.

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

Regional Implications

There are no regional implications.

Conclusion

Staff has proceeded pursuant to Council direction to review of the feasibility of locating the soccer fields at the two sites suggested and will report to Council when further details have been determined.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Confidential Memo (Members of Council Only)

Attachment A - Letter Dated February 26, 2010 from Sal Infante, President of Woodbridge Soccer

Attachment B - Site Map of Holy Cross Catholic Academy

Report Prepared By

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Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen

Commissioner of Community Services



February 26, 2010

Councillor Tony Carella
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
L6A 1T1

Dear Councillor Carella,

Further to my earlier letter on the continuing and pressing need for additional soccer fields to meet a demand that never stops growing, I would like to make two suggestions:

1. That the City consider the development of a mini-soccer field on what was formerly a tennis court or courts behind Holy Cross Catholic Academy. I am not certain whether these lands are under the control of the City or the York District Catholic School Board, but if the latter, then I would urge the City to enter into negotiations to convert this vacant space into a soccer field this season, or next year at the latest.
2. That the rumored development of an artificial turf field on the provincial lands at the intersection of Highway 27 and Milani Boulevard be pursued vigorously, so that such a premium field can be added to those the City currently permits.

Please give this your immediate attention, as the need is great and growing.

Yours truly,

Sal Infante

Sal Infante
President, Woodbridge Soccer Club

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