

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 1, 2010

RFI TORONTO FC

Recommendation

Peter Meffe, Local Councillor for Ward 1 recommends:

1. That staff contact the representative from Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment prior to the deadline date of June 19th, 2010 and advise them of the City's interest to participate in the projects; and,
2. Obtain a copy of the Toronto FC proposal and qualification form and review the criteria for the purpose of submitting a proposal.

Contribution to Sustainability

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 6, Objective 6.1:

- To fully support the implementation of Green Directions at all levels of City operations.

Economic Impact

No economic impact associated with this report.

Communications Plan

Contact the Toronto FC and inform them of our interest to participate in this exciting project.

Purpose

Council approval for staff to obtain a copy of the RFI Toronto FC and review the criteria for the purpose of submitting a proposal.

Background – Analysis and Options

Since its inception, Toronto FC has been an exciting development for professional soccer in Canada. Toronto FC is Canada's soccer team and represents the tradition and diversity of the beautiful game.

They are seeking a potential partner in the development of a new home training ground for Toronto FC. As we envision it, Toronto FC Training Ground and Home for Toronto FC Academy will be a multiple field facility that showcases the best in Canadian Soccer from the professional game through to the grass roots of children playing in your community. We see this as a soccer development opportunity and a soccer business opportunity.

Vaughan is committed to providing access to quality soccer facilities to its residents and youth. Vaughan is a leader in York Region in youth registrations for soccer programs. The explosion of young people taking up the game coupled with the demographics of new Canadians moving into the region, this will further increase our demand.

Vaughan as a community partner will be able to use this facility and its resources to their full advantage from developing the game at a grass route level to bringing high profile events and international clubs into our community. This project has the potential to be the epicenter of soccer in Canada.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

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

- **STRATEGIC GOALS:**
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.

Regional Implications

N/A.

Conclusion

This is the largest, most ambitious training ground project ever undertaken by a Canadian soccer club. Not only will this facility be the home of Toronto FC's training program and the team's involvement in the game at all levels, it will be the premier venue for soccer development in North America. This means that this facility has the potential to play host to clubs from around the world as they will seek to use the facility for their training purposes while they are in town. From international teams playing friendly matches against Toronto FC to National teams travelling through Canada, this world class training facility will bring the soccer world to Vaughan. Vaughan is positioned and motivated to be the right community partner to help bring this vision to life for soccer players of all ages in our community.

Attachments

None.

Report Prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Peter Meffe
Councillor, Ward 1