



Staff Report

Report To: Council
Meeting Date: February 23, 2021
Prepared By: Phil Wood, Director of Operations
Report Number: SR2021-29
Subject: Brockville Pickleball Club Proposal

Recommendation

THAT Council receives report SR2021-29 Brockville Pickleball Club proposal;
and

THAT Council requests the Brockville Pickleball Club and YMCA of Eastern Ontario/Brockville YMCA have discussions to see if a partnership is possible and, if so, the City contribute \$16,000 which was set aside in the 2020 budget for the capital retrofit of the YMCA's courts; and

THAT Council direct staff to consider how a future pickleball court could be included in the overall concept for Memorial Centre.

Background

The Brockville Pickleball Club organization and membership proposed to City Council in 2019 and again in 2020 projects to convert underused tennis courts in Strowger Park to Pickleball courts. Brockville City Council approved the projects in both 2019 and the second phase in 2020 through Capital budget.

In 2020 a budget of \$24,000 was approved for project materials of which approximately \$8,000 was contributed by the Pickleball Club in donations from their members. The Pickleball Court paint and surfacing materials were purchased and remain in storage at the GWMC currently.

In spring of 2020, City staff began performing the same surface preparation in lieu of the approved second phase court conversion project. At this time there was a significant public objection to the conversion of the second tennis court to a pickleball court.

As a result, City staff stopped work on the project and investigated the public objection, eventually holding an open invitation meeting of the Pickleball Club

and local residence at Strowger Park.

The root of the local residents' objections were complaints as a result of, increased traffic to an otherwise quiet and underutilized public park, noise caused by the pickleball rackets, and parking congestion due to the pickleball players driving to the existing pickleball court that was converted in 2019.

As a result, staff stopped work on Phase 2 of the Strowger Tennis Court conversion project and the Pickleball Club was requested to make a presentation to Council for a change in venue and project scope.

Analysis

The Pickleball Club has requested a new location within existing City park lands where a new eight (8) court layout can be installed. Ideally this new site would also include provisions for parking, access to public washrooms for the players, and be in a location where residual noise from the game would not disturb any local residents or other sensitive noise receptors.

An eight (8) court pickleball layout was proposed by the Pickleball Club that measures 122 ft. x 146 ft. of painted asphalt surface that includes eight (8) dividing nets, 6 ft. perimeter chain link fence and 4 ft. interior dividing chain link fence.

Staff recommend a more detailed analysis and project scope be conducted before approving the project. This aligns with the recommendations in the July 2018 KPMG report findings.

The Brockville Pickleball Club project proposal identifies a location of City property that part of the Memorial Centre grounds. This property is currently vacant greenspace. In addition to the suitability criteria identified in the Club's proposal, additional assessment is needed for both the additional amenities required to accommodate a new sport installation as well as how a new sport installation will fit within the long-term plan of the Memorial Centre grounds. Amenities currently not in place at the proposed locations include walking paths, lighting, drainage plan etc.

Currently the Memorial Centre grounds include, the Memorial Centre Arena, Community Hall, three (3) softball diamonds, a skateboard park, and sections of the Brock Trail. To date there has not been a comprehensive plan created for the future development the grounds.

Still pending is the location of a future arena facility which will be brought forward in March as promised. Indications are that the proposed location of a new arena facility with ice pad is likely most suitable to be installed adjacent to the existing Memorial Centre Arena/Community Hall complex. Currently assessment has not been done to propose what if any existing sport installation

would need to be displaced and what immediate proximity vacant greenspace would be needed to accommodate displacement of existing sports installation such as softball diamonds. These would all be next steps following the March report and Council's discussions.

Staff feel it is premature to install a pickleball court in the back of the Memorial Centre grounds until the Arena Advisory Committee and city staff bring forward their work and Council makes decisions with respect to next steps.

Alternatives

At the February 16, 2021 Community Partners budget presentations, Council heard an interest from the YMCA of Eastern Ontario/Brockville YMCA about how their tennis courts could possibly be used as an alternative pickleball court. There is a possible partnership which could be mutually beneficial for both parties if they worked collaboratively. The City could contribute the 2020 funding if a partnership is reached.

In addition, City staff canvassed other venues that either currently or potentially have pickleball courts. The results from that canvassing are summarized below:

<u>Location:</u>	<u># of Courts:</u>	<u>Indoor/Outdoor:</u>
Brockville Squash Club/Stingers	4	Indoor
Centennial Rd. Church	3	Indoor
Wall St. Church	2	Indoor
Brockville YMCA	1	Indoor
City of Brockville, Strowger Park Courts	4	Outdoor

During discussion with the owner of the Brockville Shopping Centre, there was interest expressed for future pickleball courts located at the Shopping Centre and a potential partnership with the Brockville Pickleball Club. This opportunity may also be explored as an alternative option for the Pickleball Club.

Financial Implications

Council approved in the 2020 budget \$16,000 towards the Strowger Park Phase 2 to be funded from Fiscal Policy.

As part of the Phase 2 project, the Brockville Pickleball Club committed to \$8,000.

The City received a cheque for \$7,926.11 from the Club and the City spent \$8,956.11 in supplies.

Should Council wish, at a later date and once more detailed analysis and planning work is completed; to fund the development of a pickleball court on city lands, federal gas tax funds can be utilized.

Policy Alignment

The City's Procurement Policy and Budget Control Policy would need to be adhered to.

Staff would need to update the City's asset management plan and 10 year capital plan as there is no reference to building a pickleball court in either document.

Conclusion

On February 16, the Brockville Pickleball Club proposed an eight (8) court pickleball layout that measures 122 ft. x 146 ft. of painted asphalt surface that includes eight (8) dividing nets, 6' perimeter chain link fence and 4' interior dividing chain link fence.

It is premature to install a pickleball court on Memorial Centre grounds until the Arena Advisory Committee and city staff bring forward their work and Council makes decisions with respect to next steps.

It is recommended a more detailed analysis and project scope be conducted before approving the project.

Approved by:

Phil Wood, Director of Operations

Lynda Ferguson, Director of Finance & IT
Services

Janette Loveys, City Manager

Status:

Approved - 19 Feb 2021

Approved - 19 Feb 2021

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