



COMMUNITY SERVICES – RECREATION & CULTURE
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**COMMUNITY SERVICES – Recreation & Culture
INFORMATION REPORT 2015 - 05**

TO: Committee of the Whole
SUBJECT: Artificial Turf Soccer Field
ORIGIN: Community Services – Recreation & Culture
Development and Infrastructure Services – Public Works Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Joint Community Services – Recreation & Culture, Development and Infrastructure Services – Planning Report 2015 - 05 dated March 6, 2015 regarding an Artificial Turf Soccer Field in the Town of Newmarket be received and the following recommendations be adopted:

- 1. THAT Council direct to staff to enter into formal discussions with York Region District School Board to develop a partnership agreement for the construction and ongoing operation of an Artificial Turf Soccer Field;**
- 2. AND THAT staff report back with a recommended capital and operating framework for discussion and consideration.**

COMMENTS

The Town of Newmarket currently provides no artificial turf soccer field for residents and sport organizations. By comparison, there are outdoor artificial turf fields available in Markham, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Aurora, Georgina and Whitchurch-Stouffville. In some cases these fields are owned and operated exclusively by the Municipality, while others are a joint operation with a school board or are run privately.

Sport user groups have been expressing a need for an artificial turf field for a number of years. Benefits cited include increased shoulder length season, ability to play in inclement weather, ability to play on a surface that remains of high quality for the entire season, regardless of use or weather. Sport user groups note that all surrounding municipalities of similar size or demographics have at least one artificial turf soccer field available to user groups.

The Town of Newmarket commissioned a field study in 2010. In that study, the findings concluded that the quantity of fields located within Newmarket was sufficient to meet the needs of the User Groups. However,

the consultants recommended that the Town of Newmarket convert an existing field to an Artificial Turf Field in order to provide a longer season, meet the growing needs during the traditional shoulder seasons and ensure that quality of fields remains comparable to surrounding municipalities. To convert an existing field would cost in the range of \$1.0 Million to \$2.0 Million depending on grading, drainage, water table and the support amenities (ie. storage, clubhouse, lighting). In conducting their review for the Recreation Playbook, Monteith/Brown Planning Consultants reviewed the 2010 study and concurred that an Artificial Turf Field would be a strong addition to the inventory.

When the DC Study was updated in 2014, funding for up to \$1.0 Million was included for construction of an Artificial Turf Soccer Field. It should be noted that development charges can not be used when converting an existing field – development charges can only be used when adding a new asset as a result of growth.

The York Region Public District School Board (YRDSB) has expressed an interest in partnering with the Town of Newmarket to convert a high school field into an artificial turf field. Specifically, YRDSB has expressed a willingness to cover half of capital costs associated with construction of a turf field and support facility (small building with changerooms and storage). Should the Town enter into such a partnership, this would add an additional field to the inventory of the Town of Newmarket. This would enable the Town to utilize development charges to fund 90% of the capital contribution.

Staff are seeking approval from Council to continue discussions with YRDSB to negotiate a capital contribution of up to \$1 Million and no more than 50% of the capital costs for construction of an artificial turf field and small building for change rooms and storage. Staff are also seeking approval from Council to develop a draft operating agreement for a new turf field. The draft operating agreement and capital contribution would be brought back to Council for discussion and approval prior to execution of a formal agreement.

CONSULTATION

Preliminary discussions with YRDSB have included Public Works Services.

User Groups have expressed a need for an artificial turf field on a variety of occasions. This includes all User Groups who utilize a rectangular field: soccer, football, lacrosse and ultimate frisbee.

BUSINESS PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN LINKAGES

Well-balanced

- Striving for cultural harmony and ethnic diversity
- Events that help shape identity and contribute to community spirit

Well-equipped & managed

- Small town feel with city amenities
- Clear vision of the future and aligned corporate/business plans

Well-respected

- Being well thought of and valued for our judgment and insight
- Discovering innovative and creative solutions for future well-being
- Being a champion for co-operation and collaboration
- Being tradition-based and forward-looking

BUDGET IMPACT

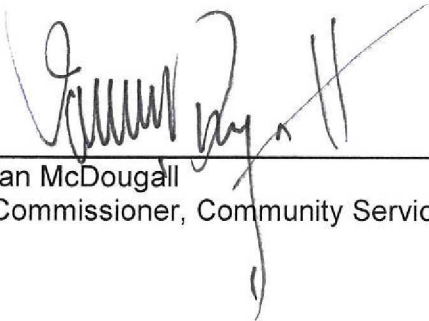
As stated previously, \$900,000 was included in the updated Development Charges Study. The 2015 Capital Budget has included an additional \$100,000 for a total of \$1 Million towards the capital project. A partnership where the Town extends funding to YRDSB will be subject to development of a mutually beneficial capital and operating agreement to be reviewed and approved by Council.

CONTACT

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