



**REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE**

*For City Council – December 13, 2021*

*Additional Item*

**From:** Office of the City Clerk

**Date:** Monday, December 13, 2021

**Title:** Pickleball Court Infrastructure

**Description:**

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Council-in-Committee, at its session held on December 13, 2021 reviewed an administrative report from the Recreation Officer which requested Council consider a request from the Fredericton Pickleball Club to partner with the City of Fredericton for the construction of six pickleball courts to be located on City owned land.

Pickleball is a sport that combines elements of tennis and table tennis played on a badminton sized court with a paddle and a wiffle ball. It is the fastest growing sport in the world and is a very social sport in that individuals of all ages including families, youth, seniors and young adults can play. Although some take part in singles games, most pickleball games are played in doubles (4 people), and typically last 10 minutes.

The City of Fredericton currently has three dedicated outdoor pickleball courts located at Queen Square Park and four courts under construction at the Nashwaaksis Middle School. Leads Drive and Nashwaaksis Middle School Tennis Courts each have lines added to enable play, and players bring their own nets to enable pickleball play.

At the Livable Community Committee meeting held September 16, 2021 the Committee provided direction to staff to proceed with an administrative report regarding a possible partnership with the Fredericton Pickleball Club where the club would fund the capital costs associated with the construction of six pickleball courts, while the City would provide access to the required City land.

The Fredericton Pickleball Club is a not-for-profit membership-based organization that was established in 2015. Currently the club has 200 members and has identified the lack of dedicated outdoor pickleball courts as restricting their membership growth.

The Fredericton Pickleball Club is currently in the process of undertaking a fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$288,800.00 to build six pickleball courts. The first stage of the fund-raising efforts focused on a Family Campaign which has raised \$80,000.00 and now the Foundations, Grants, Corporate and Business Campaigns are about to launch. The Fredericton Pickleball Club requires that the land for this project be secured prior to approaching prospective funders.

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The City of Fredericton Recreation Master Plan supports the development of recreational facilities located within a “community hub”, such as Willie O’Ree Place. The many benefits to community hubs are that they are accessible by all travel modes, serve as geographic community hubs and are multi-generational in nature and are accessible to all persons. The Willie O’Ree Hub is an ideal location for this project as there are no residential housing areas in close proximity that could be impacted by pickleball being played.

Canadian British Consulting Limited (CBCL) has provided a Capital cost estimate of \$288,779.30 to construct six pickleball courts to be located adjacent to Willie O’Ree Place.

The service life of the asphalt courts is 10 to 15 years, annual maintenance including garbage pickup, spraying and sweeping, filling asphalt cracks, and fence repair would cost \$2500.00. To cover on-going annual maintenance of the new pickleball facility, the City of Fredericton Parks and Tress Division will be required to budget an additional \$2500.00 per annum operationally and every five years \$30 000.00 for resurfacing and \$2100.00 for new nets for a total of \$32,100.00 in capital cost.

The City of Fredericton has not budgeted or allocated funding to build pickleball courts located adjacent to Willie O’Ree Place in 2022. The City will not undertake the development or construction of the facility until all the Fredericton Pickleball Club Inc. has provided all required funding to the City of Fredericton to cover all construction costs. The City of Fredericton will be the absolute owner of the facility upon completion of the project and no scheduling rights will be granted to the Fredericton Pickleball Club.

The Committee directed that the following resolution be forwarded to City Council for consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED that that the Council of the City of Fredericton hereby agrees “in principle” with the proposal from the Fredericton Pickleball Club Inc. whereby the City would construct up to six (6) pickleball courts on City owned lands located at Willie O’Ree Place, conditional upon receipt of the full funding for the estimated construction costs from the Fredericton Pickleball Club Inc.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Fredericton directs the Legal Division to draft an agreement between the City of Fredericton and the Fredericton Pickleball Club Inc. regarding the construction of the pickleball courts on City owned land for the consideration and approval of City Council at a future meeting.

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