

APPENDIX C: NOTES FROM SPORTS CONGRESS

Vaughan Sports Congress

7pm, October 24, 2012 (Vaughan Civic Centre)

- **Aquatics**
 - Would like a facility in Block 11 with **two 50-metre pools and a diving tank** with towers that could accommodate swim team, masters' swim team, triathlon training, diving, water polo, synchro, municipal programs (lessons, aquafit, lane swim, recreational swims, lifesaving courses), etc.
 - Would allow the city to host provincial, national, and international competitions that bring in revenue through hotels, restaurants, gas, etc., as well as awareness of the city – 1,000 to 1,500 participants plus their families
 - Facility could replace the construction of multiple future facilities, saving construction and operational costs
 - New facilities coming to Etobicoke and Markham for Pan American Games

- **Soccer**
 - **11,000 soccer players** in Vaughan – 5-10% growth each year
 - Quality and quantity of mini fields
 - Quality and quantity of **9v9 fields**
 - Pressures of growth because of popularity of soccer
 - Flexibility of design of fields for different ages
 - Maintenance of fields – Aging infrastructure
 - More **lights** needed on senior fields to allow for more games
 - Addition of **irrigation** to fields would prolong field life
 - Security may need to be increased to protect premium fields
 - A master **indoor facility** to be shared by all four clubs; they spend \$1 million in rentals and are still turning kids away; only one full indoor field in the City – OSA
 - CSA requirements for including teams in age groups; Add change rooms to one senior field per club (as per LTPD league); Need 4 changerooms and artificial turf and 1 officials room so you can host all age group clubs
 - Closer communication between City and soccer governing bodies
 - In neighbouring communities, adults are getting more active in soccer with a spike in their mid 30s

- **Arena Users**
 - Figure skating needs **summer ice** – at their community centre, their pad is taken out in May and the other pad in April; Go outside to Markham and Richmond Hill, which is expensive
 - Could partner with 4 x 4, power skating, Skate Canada competitive figure skating, instructional house league, etc.
 - Hockey needs more ice
 - Figure skating needs more ice – Skate Canada had to give up ice when their numbers dropped in the past, but demand is back up now and it is hard to get ice back

- Cost of ice for figure skaters is very high as they are limited to 12 skaters on the ice per time slot (plus paying for coaches) – \$3,000 per year for ice alone per skater
- Humidity and temperature in the arena is not ideal for figure skating
- Figure skating needs good sound systems in arenas
- **Office space and a shared boardroom** would be ideal within a community centre, perhaps with a shared receptionist – Newmarket is a good example
- Regular maintenance of changerooms (floor, paint, sinks, etc.)
- Activities for groups
- Would like discounts on other activities

- **Basketball**
 - Lack of awareness of basketball as a sport in general in the Vaughan area
 - Lack of appropriate facilities for the sport with proper lines and court size
 - International tournaments cannot be held here due to a lack of facilities and no space for spectators
 - Need for a **multi-court facility** and stadium venue for basketball to encourage the growth of the sport in Canada
 - Basketball provides the opportunity to integrate all abilities, including wheelchair basketball
 - Potential for revenue generation through tournaments
 - Difficult to get high school gymnasiums because they are in high demand; poor lines as well, not enough spectator space
 - Growing interest in basketball, particularly amongst certain ethnic groups

- **Rugby, Football, and Cricket**
 - Want dedicated **fields with lights** – Example of Brantford given, where football has one dedicated game field and one dedicated practice field
 - Want multi-use facilities with lights
 - Need promotion and support from the City
 - **Football club** is new to Vaughan (2010)
 - Include these sports in the 2013 Active Together Master Plan
 - **Storage space and office space** (Brampton)
 - Build **multi-use turf field with uprights**
 - Access to community centre facilities and showers
 - Cricket – there are many players locally, but they play in Brampton, etc.

- **Softball**
 - Recognize **'softball'** as a user
 - Softball users far outnumber baseball users – Need more input from that group
 - Field allocation policy – Adult groups are pushed to weekends; need to monitor and police users; Allocation should be age and skill appropriate
 - All **senior diamonds need to have lights and outfield fences**
 - Infield materials should be consistent from diamond to diamond
 - Lack of parks staff to maintain diamonds, particularly as new diamonds are added
 - Large **softball complex** (4 fields, like Richmond Green in Richmond Hill) to host large tournaments and national/provincial events, with stadium style on one main diamond
 - There is no incentive for youth teams to turn back time if they don't need it
 - Adding new fields, but not maintaining upkeep with sufficient staff

- **Tennis**
 - Issue is **quality** – courts are used by other sports (ball hockey), therefore they can't grow sport
 - Demand is high in **Thornhill** but quality is poor