

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2015

Item 35, Report No. 17, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on April 21, 2015, as follows:

By approving the recommendation in Communication C21 from the Commissioner of Public Works, dated April 21, 2015, as follows:

That the Parks Extended Hours Pilot Project be approved at the following three parks; Tudor District Park, LeParc Park and Concord Thornhill Regional Park from 11:00 pm until 12:00 am on every Thursday, Friday and Sunday of the calendar year.

35

MEETING RECREATION FACILITY DEMAND

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution submitted by Councillor Carella, dated April 14, 2015:

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Councillor Tony Carella.

Whereas, accommodating the needs of community groups looking to use municipal recreational facilities is a perennial issue, given the growth in Vaughan's population and, concurrently, in the demand for such facilities; and

Whereas, answers to this problem range from the expensive---building more such facilities, to the non-responsive---doing nothing while the demand continues to grow; and

Whereas, increasing the operating hours of such facilities may provide a solution that is both efficient and cost-effective;

It is therefore recommended:

That appropriate staff be directed to prepare and recommend for consideration by Council at its meeting of April 21, 2015, a plan for a pilot test to run during the current calendar year, said test respecting the extension of the operating hours of selected outdoor fields identified as suitable by staff, with the intent of determining the impact of the extension of such hours on the demand and operating implications for such facilities.

That staff have regard to the following considerations as they proceed:

1. The proximity of such outdoor facilities to existing or future residential areas.
2. The general age-range of user groups likely to use such facilities, if available at other than current operational hours; and
3. Any permits issued to the community groups using the parks provide for the use to extend to the approved time.



memorandum

DATE: APRIL 21, 2015

TO: HONOURABLE MAYOR BEVILACQUA AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: PAUL JANKOWSKI, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS

RE: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 14, 2015
ITEM 35, REPORT 17
MEETING RECREATION FACILITY DEMAND

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Public Works, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture, Director of Parks Development, Director of By-Law Compliance, Director of Building and Facilities and the Interim Commissioner of Legal Services/Legal Services Director recommends;

1. THAT the Parks Extended Hours Pilot Project be approved at the following three parks; Tudor District Park, LeParc Park and Concord Thornhill Regional Park from 11:00pm until 12:00am on every Thursday, Friday and Sunday of the calendar year.

Purpose

The purpose of this communication is to recommend a Parks Extended Hours Pilot Project during this calendar year in consideration to Council's request from the April 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole, Item 35, Report 17.

Economic Impact

There will be minimal impact on operating budgets as the additional rental contract revenue collected will offset most of the additional identified costs such as additional security hours to close gates (estimated cost of \$1750.00 per calendar year). Maintenance and hydro costs have not been identified but will be reported once the pilot project is complete.

Communications Plan

The Recreation and Culture Department will ensure all user groups are notified of the extended park hours prior to the start of the Parks Extended Hours Pilot Project.

Background

The City of Vaughan currently permits and maintains over 59 baseball fields and 125 soccer fields. With Vaughan's population growth and the increasing need to provide recreational facilities for user groups, the City of Vaughan is looking for new and innovative ways to provide additional services to its residents, while continuing to provide the required level of service for sports fields.

Currently, the City of Vaughan permits sports fields between the hours of 7:00am to 11:00pm, which conforms to the current Parks Bylaw #134-95. In order to provide services after these hours, a special provision and rental contract can be issued to allow the use of its facilities after the 11:00pm park closure. While allowing the use of sports fields after hours is possible, several factors need to be taken into consideration when determining extended use of sport fields. Some factors to be taken into consideration include:

- the proximity of the sports field to residential properties,
- noise and lighting disturbance affecting surrounding residential properties,
- additional costs associated with extending park permit patrol/security services,
- added operating costs associated with lighting (increased power consumption and reduced life span on light fixtures) and additional maintenance to the fields, including damage to turf and debris cleanup,
- general age range of user groups that would use such facilities during the extended hours will be primarily the adult community, and,
- field allocations for the 2015 season are already complete and most groups that could not be accommodated due to lack of facilities have made alternative arrangements, therefore the demand for the additional hours is unknown.

It is with consideration to the above noted factors that staff has developed the following principles of the 2015 Parks Extended Hours Pilot Project;

- Only sports fields located within industrial areas, that are approximately 250 meters or more away from any residential dwellings be included in the project.
- The provision of rental contracts outline the use of sports fields until 12:00am on every Thursday, Friday and Sunday of the calendar year.
- Three pilot park locations that meet the criteria of the Parks Extended Hours Pilot Project are as follows:
 - Tudor District Park - three senior baseball diamonds
 - LeParc Park – one senior soccer field, one tennis court
 - Concord / Thornhill Regional Park - four senior baseball diamonds, two senior soccer fields and one senior soccer artificial field
- The sports fields identified as part of the pilot project be inspected every seven days to ensure field standards are being maintained throughout the allocated period. Staff will monitor any added concerns or complaints related to the extension of hours at these fields.
- An increase in the Park Permit Patrol hours from 12:00am to 12:30am in order to protect park assets by ensuring gates are closed in a timely manner.
- The increase in hydro and maintenance costs be monitored.
- No additional maintenance to sports fields be made during evening and extended operating hours.
- All current by-laws and policies will apply and contraventions will be investigated by the By-Law and Compliance Department.
- The Director of By-Law Compliance or any person duly authorized on his behalf may revoke any extended hours rental contracts that are found to be adversely affecting the surrounding area.
- Staff provide a report to Council in Q1 2016 detailing identified costs, necessary budget amendments for continuance of such a program, concerns, by-law amendments, solutions and recommendations associated with extending park hours of operation for sports fields.

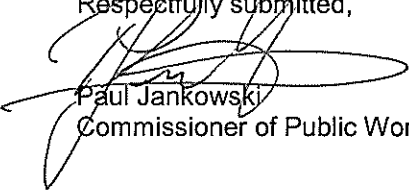
Conclusion


Staff recommends that Council approves the Parks Extended Hours Pilot Project at Tudor District Park, LeParc Park and Concord / Thornhill Regional Park until 12:00am on every Thursday, Friday and Sunday of the calendar year.

Report prepared by

Zoran Postic, Director of Transportation Services and Parks and Forestry Operations, Ext. 6137
Robert Leonardis, Acting Horticulture Supervisor, Ext. 6172

Respectfully submitted,


Paul Jankowski
Commissioner of Public Works


Zoran Postic
Director Transportation Services and Parks and Forestry Operations

Magnifico, Rose

Subject: Facility Demand

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Communication
cw: April 14/15
Item: 35

From: Frank Crudo [mailto:frank@crudocanada.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 12:33 PM

To: Carella, Tony

Cc: Postic, Zoran; Reali, Mary; 'Taso Fabrikis'; Cosentino, Terri; Tavares, Martin; Morris, Melanie

Subject: Facility Demand

Hi Mr. Carella,

I have read your Member's Resolution for the extension of the park closure time and extension of lighting requirements, which will be presented next week at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Vaughan Slo-Pitch is a not-for-profit Adult League, which has recently applied for CSO Status with the Recreation Department. We have been in existence for 17 years, and now have 58 teams representing over 900 players in Vaughan.

What started off as a league of parents and volunteer coaches from the Vaughan minor baseball and softball groups, has now evolved into an organization where the youth who have grown up playing baseball in Vaughan are looking to continue to play as adults. Also, as you are aware, there has been a boom in the adult sector; all trying to have and live a more "active lifestyle" in playing more recreational sports. This group as we see it, are in their 30's, married, and have young families all settled down and looking to continue in recreational sports. This aspect has worked hand in hand with Vaughan's Active Together Plan and Goals.

We have seen a 100% growth in just the past 3 years, and have had to stop taking more teams due to the limited availability of baseball diamonds. We do not foresee this slowing down.

Hence, WE would like to fully support your motion, as it would solve many problems we have had in servicing the needs of the residents of Vaughan.

I have been involved with both Vaughan Slo-Pitch and Vaughan Baseball for the past 18 years, and have sat through many meetings, committees, and planning of events; therefore I fully understand how difficult it may be to have changes made which may impact the residents near some of these facilities. I would like to suggest that all parks which have been designated as "District Parks" be considered for the extension of hours and lighting.

Those parks would include:

- Vaughan Grove Sports Complex
- Concord Regional (Diamonds 3+4 Only)
- Tudor Park
- Sonoma Heights

All of the parks above have ample parking, lighting and do not impact the local residents directly. If there is anything else we can do to help, please feel free to call me.

Frank Crudo

VP

Vaughan Slo-Pitch League

www.vaughanslopitch.ca



MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date:	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 14, 2015
Title:	MEETING RECREATION FACILITY DEMAND
Submitted by:	Councillor Tony Carella

Whereas, accommodating the needs of community groups looking to use municipal recreational facilities is a perennial issue, given the growth in Vaughan's population and, concurrently, in the demand for such facilities; and

Whereas, answers to this problem range from the expensive---building more such facilities, to the non-responsive---doing nothing while the demand continues to grow; and

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2. The general age-range of user groups likely to use such facilities, if available at other than current operational hours; and
3. Any permits issued to the community groups using the parks provide for the use to extend to the approved time.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella, FRSA
Councillor, Ward 2 / Woodbridge West