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Communication
FAA - June 19/17
Item #7

THE SCARBOROUGH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
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Sunday, June-18-17

Dear Mr. Carella,

I am writing in support of the York Region Soccer Association which has taken a position against the proposed amalgamation of the Ontario Soccer Centre with the Ontario Soccer Association. The City of Vaughan has been most generous and supportive of the game of soccer in the province of Ontario. As president of the Scarborough Soccer Association (13,000 members from 12 clubs) I can express the thanks of our Association for the leading role you have played in enabling the Ontario Soccer Centre to be built on land leased to the Provincial Association at no cost. We fully appreciate your generous lease agreement as Scarborough has a similar arrangement with the City of Toronto as it pertains to the Scarborough Soccer Centre. We have been tenants for 18 years and work closely with the City in making the Centre available to various community groups as well as in the maintenance and upkeep of the facility.

There has been no discussion or debate of this present proposal you are being asked to consider with the collective Board of Ontario Soccer. There has been no due diligence exerted in this matter and as a Board member of the OSA I have no idea as to whether or not this is or is not a good plan moving forward. We have been told that we are looking at twenty million dollars in expenses in the next ten years just in regular maintenance fees and age related repairs to the facility. This is only one liability the provincial body faces as it struggles financially. I would think that the City of Vaughan would want to continue to have a decisive say in the future of this facility and how it is run. The City currently has this as well as a provision that the Centre be made available to local clubs at a reduced rate. This requirement makes perfect sense not only to the citizens of Vaughan but also to soccer interests around the province. This is a facility located in the City of Vaughan and which currently has members of the City serving on its Board, and a facility that happens to sit on land leased to it by the City.

While the report that you are privy to may state that the risk factors to the City, as far as its partnership in this venture is concerned, are no greater in either scenario, I sense that your present position on the current board of the Centre (which operates as an entity outside of the OSA) would end. I don't think this would sit well with the tax base in Vaughan which would lose its voice at the table and perhaps its current access to the facility.

I humbly suggest that you defer this decision until more information is provided on all aspects of the amalgamation and until the OSA Board has been given sufficient time to examine the proposal and discuss it freely and fully. There is no rush for a decision as the Centre has operated under the current Board for many years and will continue to do so. A vote to defer would enable both sides to fully examine the benefits of the new proposal as opposed to those that currently exist with the present model.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. Have a great week. God bless.

Jim Barnes, President of the Scarborough Soccer Association.