



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator

Meeting Date: September 18, 2018

Subject: Report APRAC18-020
Challenger Baseball – Field of Dreams Proposal

Purpose

A report to inform of a proposal to establish a no-barriers baseball diamond on City-owned land, through a presentation by Bernie Daynes, President of Peterborough Challenger Baseball.

Recommendations

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC18-020 dated September 18, 2018, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That a presentation by Peterborough Challenger Baseball be received for information; and
- b) That Staff be requested to continue discussions with Peterborough Challenger Baseball on their proposal to establish a barrier-free baseball diamond on City-owned land.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of Report APRAC18-020. Challenger Baseball is not requesting any financial contribution from the City.

Background

Challenger Baseball operates a no barriers baseball league providing opportunity for children with special needs to enjoy participation in baseball at a level structured to their abilities. The league has approached the City with a proposal to establish a fully accessible field on City-owned land, conducive to the requirements of children with special needs. They are referring to the project as the Field of Dreams. Challenger Baseball is not asking the City to assist with the cost of establishing the diamond, but rather to provide the land on which to construct it. The league's preferred location is within Kiwanis Park, fronting on Middlefield Road.

Currently, the Challenger Baseball League plays at the community ball diamonds located at Turner Park and Brinton Carpet Park, which are not designed to meet the specific accessibility needs of the Challenger Baseball League participants. To meet the accessibility needs of the participants, the surface of the entire infield must provide appropriate cushioning to absorb impact as well as the hardness required for wheelchairs, while still providing traction for all players. This is accomplished through the use of an artificial turf product. A similar diamond was developed in Moncton NB in 2016. For reference, a photo of that field is attached as Appendix "A."

Staff has invited Bernie Daynes, President of Peterborough Challenger Baseball to make a presentation to the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee at its meeting of September 18, 2018, on the league's Field of Dreams proposal.

Submitted by,

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Recreation Division Coordinator

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Photo of the Field of Dreams in Moncton NB

Appendix A

Field of Dreams Located in Moncton NB

