

THE PETERBOROUGH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY



PETERBOROUGH EXHIBITION

Morrow Park

11 Roger Neilson Way

Peterborough, ON

K9J 0A4

705-742-5781

peterboroughag.ca

New Arena and Aquatic Complex Project at Morrow Park - Phase 1 Feedback

April 12, 2021

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to have this conversation towards the development of the grounds to which the Peterborough Agricultural Society has been a steward of for over 100 years.

In respect to asking for feedback following our meeting on April 8th, 2021, we find ourselves compiling this report to submit based on the information provided as to the impact the plans will have on the Agricultural Society and our concerns thus far.

The three most immediate concerns that come to light are the loss of Horse track space, the loss of one of the barn and the reduction in trailer / site parking space on Morrow Park.

- The Horse track at Morrow Park is what's left of it's past as a race track in Peterborough and is currently used by the Horse show to conduct it's shows. An adequately sized compacted gravel track is needed to ensure proper footing and allow animals to make a proper and safe turn during the show. Reducing this space in half will result in a reduction in the Agricultural Society and the Ontario Commercial Horse Association's ability to host this show at the Exhibition. This will result in a direct loss of competitors and overall reduction of events and attractions that the Exhibition will be able to offer to visitors.

-continued-

- With respect to the Multi-Use Barn on the South West corner, the Ag Society realizes that the barn isn't particularly suited to modern day uses as a horse/pony barn and is currently used as storage and for the poultry show. Rebuilding this barn to a more useful facility to the east of the current horse barn is a solution that is supported by the Agricultural Society and the Poultry Show volunteers, however it was not apparent whether the rebuilding of that barn was included in the overall plans of the project and that such a rebuild would occur should the project go through.

Given the lack of replacement of numerous facilities on the grounds i.e. Morrow Lounge, Manufacturer's Building and the Grandstands, the Agricultural Society would be reassured to see a plan in place for that replacement included in the plans for the complex. Such a rebuild and/or additional barns are included in the Agreement with the City of Peterborough under section 14 and 15.

- The parking space of the new facility also encompasses all of the space currently used for event parking as well as trailer parking for our exhibitors and midway operators. Offsite parking has a direct impact on our ability to conduct the Exhibition as well as an impact on visitor's ability to attend for the Exhibition or any other event on site. It also wasn't clear if use of the parking lot would be available to the Agricultural Society during events held by the Society on its allotted days.

- With the development of the ball diamonds to the west, the concern the Agricultural Society brings is to the condition such a ball field is meant to be maintained at. It is currently at more of a multi-use status and also used for trailer parking for events. Development of this field to a higher level facility might not allow the Agricultural Society to use this space for the Exhibition or any other event as it has in the past e.g. The RCMP Musical Ride. The ability to conduct those activities in that space was not apparent in the plan.

The Agricultural Society would positively receive the development of a community garden on site with this plan as well as the development of a Sand Ring/ Equestrian Facility in the plans. Such a space would take up as much space as one ice pad but can be built and operated at a fraction of the cost while creating economic development opportunities within the facility for agriculture and urban businesses and well as providing a unique opportunity to residents in the city to partake in a sport that has seen growth over the last ten years. This solution has also proven to be pandemic resilient and more resistant to be affected by such events when compared to pools and ice surfaces.

-continued-

In a high level review, the plan seems to leave out the City's own Morrow Park Master Plan as the Twin Pad is located on space that is reserved in the Agreement for use of the Agricultural Society for the Exhibition. This leaves the remainder of the space designated for a new Major use Arena which wipes out any greenspace or ability for the Agricultural Society to function.

Thank you to the staff at the City of Peterborough, Sheldon Laidman, Sue Warrington, Gillian Barnes and Councillor Dean Pappas for allowing us an opportunity to review and provide feedback towards the plan for a Twin Pad and Pool Complex at Morrow Park. We look forward to further discussions and engaging our membership and supporters during this consultation process.

Submitted by Viren D'souza on behalf of the Peterborough Agricultural Society