



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

From: **Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator**
Phil Jacobs, Parks and Forestry Supervisor

Meeting Date: **June 17, 2014**

Subject: **Report APRAC14-029**
Converting Knights of Columbus Tennis Court to a Pickleball Court

Purpose

A report to provide information on the current use and condition of the tennis court at Knights of Columbus Park, and to seek approval in principle to rejuvenate the facility by repurposing it as a Pickleball court.

Recommendations

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC14-029 dated June 17, 2014, of the Recreation Division Coordinator and the Parks and Forestry Supervisor, as follows:

- a) That repurposing the tennis court located within Knights of Columbus Park for use as a Pickleball court be approved in principle;
- b) That Staff be directed to work with the local Pickleball group to determine the most appropriate method and estimated cost to repurpose the facility, and to report back to the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in September 2014; and

- c) That the Pickleball court project be approved in principle as a Community Assistance project, pending the outcome of the actions identified in recommendation (b) of this report.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no immediate budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendations of this report.

Background

Condition of the Knights of Columbus Tennis Court

There is a single Tennis court situated in the south west corner of Knights of Columbus Park. Due to vandalism of the tennis net, there has been no net installed there for the past three years. No complaints have been received about the net not being there, indicating there is a lack of interest in tennis activity at that location. Due to its lack of use, the condition of the court is declining. Photos showing the court's present condition are attached as Appendix "A".

Interest from Pickleball to Revitalize the Court

City Staff have been approached by the local Pickleball group, inquiring about the possibility of revitalizing the tennis court in Knights of Columbus Park, by repurposing it as an outdoor Pickleball court. The facility could be used for league play, as well as casual use by the general public. The playing area of the tennis court at Knights of Columbus Park is large enough to accommodate four Pickleball games at one time, with four players participating in each game. The Pickleball group has provided Staff with a petition signed by 34 individuals wishing to play organized outdoor Pickleball, on an ongoing basis.

Outdoor Pickleball is currently being played at Legacy Bowl in Knights of Columbus Park on weekday mornings. This is the first year organized outdoor Pickleball has been played in Peterborough. An indoor league plays at the Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre throughout the fall, winter and spring. Interest has grown to a point where the league is looking for additional indoor space for the 2014/15 season.

Pickleball is similar to tennis, which makes the tennis court facility a better fit for Pickleball than the Legacy Bowl, which is designed for such sports as Lacrosse and Ball Hockey. As interest continues to grow, it is anticipated there will be demand for a facility to accommodate others, who are only able to participate in the evenings and on weekends.

To gain a better understanding of the game of Pickleball, a short video can be viewed by clicking on the following web link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOR37c_NVQQ

Required Court Modifications

Since the two sports are similar, there would be minimal alterations required to modify the Tennis court to a Pickleball court, as follows:

- With the court not being utilized for tennis over the past three years, overgrowth of vegetation has occurred along the inner and outer fence lines of the court. (Please refer to Appendix “A”). This vegetation would have to be removed.
- The paved surface would need to be coated with a product that smoothes and seals the pavement, which minimizes the risk of players slipping and balls bouncing in odd directions. A photo depicting an example of this type of finish is attached as Appendix “B”.
- The existing two posts for the tennis net would have to be removed. The four Pickleball courts would be set up cross-court.
- Installation of wind screening on the perimeter fencing would be required. The balls used for Pickleball are light plastic and are easily blown by wind. The wind screening would attach directly to the chain link fence surrounding the court and would be left in place for the entire season. Wind Screening does allow people inside or outside the court to see through it. A photo is attached as Appendix “C” depicting an example of wind screening.

The Pickleball group uses their own portable nets at the Legacy Bowl, and would continue that practice if they were to move their activity to the tennis court location.

Community Assistance Program

Community Assistance funding provides partnership support to enable voluntary community agencies or groups, including sport groups, to improve municipal parks and/or school playgrounds, serving a community need at a relatively low cost for the City. The community agency/group is required to contribute a minimum of 15% of the estimated total project cost. The City then considers the balance of the expenses for funding under the Community Assistance fund.

Staff is recommending that the repurposing of the tennis court be approved in principle as a Community Assistance Program project. Staff would be pleased to work with the Pickleball group over the summer months to determine the most appropriate means and estimated cost to repurpose the tennis court to a Pickleball court. Staff will report back to APRAC in September 2014.

Submitted by,

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Phil Jacobs
Parks & Forestry Supervisor

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Attachments:
Appendix A – Photos of Knights of Columbus Tennis Court
Appendix B – Sample Photo of Pavement Treatment
Appendix C – Sample Photo of Wind Screening