

Bisera, Leikha

Subject: FW: Deputation to Council December 10, 2019 re. winter tennis

From: Harry Eaglesham

Date: Monday, Dec 09, 2019, 9:01 PM

To: Mayor Frank Scarpitti – Markham, Deputy Mayor, Don Hamilton – Markham, Regional Councillor, Jack Heath - Markham, Regional Councillor, Jim Jones - Markham, Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham, [Alan Ho](#), Councillor, Reid McAlpine - Markham, Councillor, Karen Rea - Markham, Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham, Councillor, Amanda Collucci - Markham, Councillor, Khalid Usman - Markham, Councillor, Isa Lee - Markham, Kitteringham, Kimberley

Cc: Creighton, Mary, b.librecz, [rila.levine](#), dfross

Subject: Deputation to Council December 10, 2019 re. winter tennis

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Members of Council

I am providing you with advance copy of the deputation I plan to make at the Council meeting on December 10, 2019.

I am a Director and the Treasurer of the Unionville Tennis Club, a 9 court, non-profit, volunteer-run community tennis club which has been operating in partnership with the City in Carlton Park for almost 50 years. We are one of the largest and most successful community tennis clubs in Canada. With annual junior memberships costing \$40, adult memberships \$120 and no court fees we are truly a low cost sport option available to all the community. We offer free access to several public schools and have scheduled public hours. As the Mayor has often said “we are the face of Markham” with players of all calibres, interests, backgrounds and orientation. We have hosted the Ontario under 18 Championships the last 2 years. We have had an excellent relationship with City staff at all levels of the Recreation, Operations, Finance and Asset Management departments.

We read with interest the staff report related to a new winter tennis facility. **We are supportive of the broad concept of the addition of a winter tennis facility.** There are two points I wish to make with regard to the winter tennis proposal.

Firstly,

On the broader question of support for the proposal, because the staff report has only been just released we have not had the opportunity to get feedback from our members or our full Board on this specific proposal. However I am comfortable sharing the following:

- There is no question that Angus Glen is operating at greater than capacity
- In previous member surveys our members have expressed strong support for more local indoor tennis facilities
- Some of our Board members, with Board support, have urged the City to pursue additional winter tennis opportunities
- As a busy summer club, UTC would have been very challenged if it had been chosen as the site for a tennis bubble

So although we have not had the opportunity to solicit extensive input, I personally have no doubt that most (but not all) of our members and Board members would be enthusiastic about this increased opportunity to play winter tennis locally.

Secondly

The staff report is clear that the proponent will operate the Winter Club totally independent of the Markham Tennis Club. We have received further verbal assurances from staff as well that there will be no prejudice for any Markham summer club with the introduction of this new Winter Club. Examples of possible injury are as follows:

- the offering of discounts to only MTC members
- the offering of year round memberships at the site at a discount
- the proponent promoting the summer club through advertising, celebrity tennis matches, etc.(Note on page 7 of the staff report reference to **year-round** Exhibitions)

There may certainly be other examples.

We respectfully request that these reassurances form part of the lease agreement currently under negotiation with the proponent and that Council specifically direct staff as such in the proposed motions.

By copy to the City Clerk, I request that this message be included in Official Correspondence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Harry Eaglesham
Treasurer
Unionville Tennis Club