



SUBJECT: Provincial grant for a Burlington Pickleball Development Program

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Parks & Recreation Department

Report Number: PR-06-17

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 915-01

Date to Committee: June 26, 2017

Date to Council: July 10, 2017

Recommendation:

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign any required agreement for a provincial grant awarded to the City of Burlington for a Pickleball Development Program under the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund, subject to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of a grant received under the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund and to obtain approval to execute the necessary funding agreements. The grant awarded by the province supports the following strategic direction of the City Strategic Plan 2015-2040:

A Healthy and Greener City

- Healthy Lifestyles
 - Recreation and sports programs are widely available to all residents through both the City of Burlington and partners in the community.

In addition, the interest in the City's application for this particular grant is directly related to the work underway and the interests heard by the community as part of the Burlington Active Aging Plan (BAAP).

Background and Discussion:

The sport of pickleball is experiencing tremendous growth around the world and is appealing to all age groups. The sport is particularly attractive to older adults and seniors who want to continue to play sports but can not keep up with the speed and physical demands of traditional sports they use to play such as tennis, squash and racquet ball. Our research shows that pickleball is flourishing in many communities around us and is a great way of keeping older adults active. As a start here in Burlington, staff will look to accommodate the sport within existing recreational infrastructure such as tennis courts, gymnasiums and auditoriums (e.g. Mainway and Central) with minor adaptations and capital expenses. At the same time many of the City's current program participants have expressed an interest in learning how to play this fun sport.

Strategy/process

In order to respond to this trend and growing need Parks and Recreation staff applied for funding under the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund (Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Culture). Staff are pleased to inform Council that Burlington was awarded a \$46,727 grant for a 2-year Pickleball Development Program. The grant will allow the City to introduce instructional and skill development programs as well as more drop-in pickleball programs at various locations across the City. The grant will support wages for program instructors/leaders, operational staff, equipment and various minor facility modifications such as court lining. As participation increases over 2 years, Parks and Recreation staff will be seeking opportunities to create a community champion to establish a Pickleball Association that can continue with the delivery of programs and leagues in the community.

Financial Matters:

Staff do not expect any financial impact as a result of the pickleball programming. Affordable program fees will be applied to ensure that this is a net zero program. Funding received from this grant will be placed in an account and used over the two year period under the terms and conditions specified in the agreement.

Connections:

The Pickleball Development Program supports the recommendations of the BAAP to help keep older adults, healthy and engaged in their community. With the growing 55+ population here in Burlington, along with the increased demand in pickleball, more opportunities for people to participate will be well received and a notable quick win within the BAAP.

Public Engagement Matters:

As the province has announced successful grant applications for this particular opportunity, the City will now begin to more broadly communicate this good news story for Burlington residents. The new and expanded pickleball programs will be communicated widely to the community through the Live and Play guide, web site and newspaper ads. Once the grant agreement is signed between the City and Province, the expansion of programs will begin as early as this summer.

Conclusion:

Staff are pleased to inform Council that the City was awarded a \$46,727 grant through the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund. The grant will allow the City to establish a robust new pickleball development program for adults and seniors. This initiative aligns with the Burlington Active Aging Plan and the goal of providing more opportunities for life-long recreation and physical activity.

Respectfully submitted,

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Recreation Planner

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Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.