

December 2, 2019

Report to Committee of the Whole

Framework for Community Recreation

Good Evening Madame Mayor and Councillors

My name is Kathy Parker and I am the Program Manager for Soccer Club Organization of Burlington Youth or better known as Scooby. Our club has completed 11 successful years in the city of Burlington.

I am here tonight to speak to you regarding the Framework for Community Recreation which was presented to you this morning. I am opposed to the proposal for a variety of reasons. The report states that they “undertook a series of user meetings (ice, sport fields, gyms, pools, arts) to get feedback on the draft framework. We were not asked to participate and in fact were not even notified that work was being done on allocation until the October 17th Field User meeting. Not one person attending that meeting spoke up in favour of this framework and many had questions which were unanswered.

The frame work does not allow for equitable and fair access, but will favour one user over others, ensure that the rest of the user groups are not competitive and able to provide for their members.

Current users will find that there won't be continued fair allocation based on historical use, and based on proving your Burlington residence membership #s and needs. Fields sit unused while others hold those permits because the City has not made allocation a priority. Furthermore, policies that work are not being followed- space allocation, gender equity etc.

The first I heard of the Framework for Community Recreation was at the Field User Meeting on October 17th. We were presented with a sheet of paper with a triangle on it which was sectioned bottom to top representing different levels which we expect will be priority in allocating space. There was no real support for this at the Oct 17 user group meeting- all users had questions.

Elite Football had concerns that they would be taking a backseat to beginners and reduce playing for the elite group

Men's Slo-Pitch asked if there was a goal on managing budget

BASL was hoping for some sense of plan for alignment and expressed concern that overflow in one category would get permitted on space designated for other use (ie. Youth houseleague on adult fields

Burlington Oldtimers Slo Pitch concerned that their community investment/recognition for charitable contributions is missing

Oldtimers Soccer Club – will be delegating so I won't speak for them.

BWRSL – had concerns as to why this was being presented, what was the new focus. Presenting a change that has the feel it will favour one group over the rest

Would like some sort of metric/measurement included to show a dashboard of use and numbers upfront before supporting the framework

The city staff had no answers and it wasn't until Thursday November 28 in the morning that I saw an email that the “framework” was being presented on Monday Dec 2nd, This did not allow much time to put anything together to present to council. It made it appear that it was deliberate in affording us no

time to prepare. We were still waiting for answers to our questions of October 17th. The email was actually sent after 7pm Wednesday, advising we must have material and register by noon Friday.

For soccer in Burlington, the “proposed” new allocation policy will allow one club to flourish and others to not be able to continue to operate, creating unfairness, a monopoly, and in the end less users and less choice for the community. Our club has approximately 1500 players in our summer program and those families CHOOSE to play with our club for a variety of reasons. If we can't obtain our fields based on historical criteria it makes it extremely difficult for planning and advertising.

While less users makes life easy for Parks and Rec staff, it is an unfair practice to attempt to prevent the existing user groups to continue to operate and provide services to Burlington residents. These groups are mostly volunteers. Furthermore, competition and choice are a good thing. It prevents complacency and means the best opportunities are there for all of Burlington to enjoy and choose from.

Playfield User Group Meeting


Date: Thursday, October 17, 2019

Time: 6:30pm – 8:45pm

Location: Tansley Woods Community Rm 1 & 2

Attendance: COB: Kathleen Durocher, Jennifer Spence, Halina Parker, Melissa Skippen, Teresa Campbell, Marion Rabeau, Nadia Blackburn, Gary Glenn, Amy Hampo (minutes)

Organizations: Jenn Parker (PCCA Softball), Natalie Poupart & Pat Lamont (Halton Field Hockey Club), Brian McLaughlin (Burlington Oldtimers Soccer Club), Mike Marshall (Burlington Men’s Slo-Pitch), Sarah Merritt Kellogg & Diana Wey (BWRSL), Vicki DiCiccio (BMSPL), Natasha Obal (B.L.S.L.), Jamie Paquin, Carl Camilleri & Scott St. Clair (B.O.S.L.), Roletta & Dave Dixon (BMFA), Caroline Rowe (Burlington Soccer Club), Rob Narejko (BIMFA), Bob Hooper (Fieldhouse), Lesley Lawson & Samantha Palmer (Burlington Ladies Soccer), Joe Celi (BASL), Barry Goldberg (Centaurus Rugby), Kathy Parker (Scooby Soccer)

Agenda item	Discussion	Action/Outcome
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees were invited to introduce themselves and the organization they are representing No additional agenda items 	
<p>Recreation Framework: Teresa/Melissa</p>  <p>Framework Presentation.pdf</p>	<p>Staff presented the draft of the Recreation Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework shows a clear picture on why we are in business. The how and what will come later In 2020 more information will be communicated regarding space allocation aligning with our principles and values Framework will go to council for approval in December Target goal is to have in place for Summer 2021; will not affect upcoming allocations <p>Framework Feedback from Organizations:</p> <p>Sarah Merritt-Kellogg (BWRSL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City is not offering programs, user groups are, and framework is offensive in setting rules user groups must follow on how to access tax payers’ facilities Why is this being presented? What’s the new focus? If City took some time to provide better services and reduce prices so the user groups didn’t have to do the work - there would be more users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be an opportunity to delegate to council – supporting the framework or sharing concerns - December

- Presenting a change and feels like in January will present a space allocation that will favour one user group over the rest
- Historically City generally has a hidden agenda that's not being provided to the user groups
- Rules changing – user groups will be affected
- Requesting benchmarking numbers for measurement purposes. Can't effectively change policy, programming and fundamental rights without first knowing why there are gaps in usage
- City has not done a great job with realignment
- As part of the framework, requesting some sort of metric/measurement included to show dashboard of use and numbers upfront before she can support framework

BMFA

- Framework will result in more fields being open to those who are lower skilled and just learning
- Elite football shouldn't take a backseat to players just learning
- Reduce chances of playing for the elite group

Field House Baseball

- If goal is to fill up space and not have empty fields, why close fields early and open them late

Burlington Men's Slo-Pitch



- Is there a goal on how to optimize or manage budget?

B.A.S.L.

- How will the framework align with the work already completed on field levels and the way fields are set up?
- Hopes to see some sense of plan for alignment!
- Is there an expectation to start seeing an overflow of basic users? Concern that the overflow in one category would get permitted on space designated for other specific use. (i.e. youth house league on adult fields)


Burlington Oldtimers Slo Pitch

- Framework missing community investment/recognition for charitable contributions from leagues

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<p>Sport Field Projects: Marion</p> <p>Slide Presentation:</p>  2020 Field Impacts.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be factored in under partnerships Proud of what they donate – doesn't get recognition <p>Burlington Oldtimers Soccer Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agrees with a lot of what's being said Great ideas but needs to be supported with financials Is framework achievable? Functional? Good ideas but "how" are they going to come to fruition as a meaningful change Lights on Catholic Board artificial turf are solely looked after through that board Aging drainage and irrigation replacements on the radar <p><u>City View Park engagement spring/fall 2020</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next phase consists of 2 ball diamonds; one will be lit Decision to be made collectively no later than spring 2020 on the type of facility; soft ball or hard ball More parking, driveways and 2 other phases on east side 	<p>City View Park engagement spring/fall 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport User Organizations will be invited to attend
<p>RPF Updates & Cultural Practices: Nadia</p> <p>Slide Presentation:</p>  Sport Turf Program-2019 ver 1.p	<p>Burlington Men's Slo Pitch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grooming on some of the diamonds done way too early in the day causing safety concerns – people being hit in the face with balls bouncing, etc. Doug Wright and Sherwood Forest are the worse <p>BWRSL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norton Park filthy all year; pics submitted – no solution Orchard washrooms locked all the time Norton goal posts misaligned all summer – reported no response <p>BASL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider having an option for a grooming program for leagues running tournaments entire day – possibly charge a fee <p>Burlington Mixed Slo-pitch League</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sprinklers at Brant Hills soccer fields on an entire weekend; nobody on site - called after hours – no answer Light box never worked. Unsafe – lights don't come on <p>Burlington Oldtimers Soccer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requesting communication re: schedule of work to be done on fields. Would like to offer feedback if schedule works or not <p>Halton Field Hockey Club</p>	<p>Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to contracts for emergency contact info Email rpf@burlington.ca for better response time for field issues -Mailbox checked daily (Mon-Fri) No response – escalate to your contact - Teresa or Melissa Catholic School Turf issues – contact Melissa - Check your contracts for school board after hours contacts Sarah (BWRSL) to email list of locations with issues to Melissa <p>P&R and RPF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discuss staffing/grooming during tournaments

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking to find out if school boards can be more consistent in unlocking gates and turning on lights to access fields <p>RPF Mailbox feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow ups not consistent, bigger issues/concerns not actioned, RPF didn't communicate back to the groups 	<p>RPF to investigate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After hours lack of response to be investigated Suggesting another option for non-emergency contact – someone pageable
<p>Customer Service Update: Halina Parker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputting tournaments – booking reports will be out soon In few weeks – starting to book summer regular season – booking reports late November early December - All allocation to be completed by end of January Billing cycle 1st of previous month and billed by usage - EFT not yet available but moving towards corporate point of sale - encouraging credit card to be on file FT staff is now assigned to rentals mailbox to look after last minute bookings Playfield last minute booking (weekday) – same day must be received prior to 12 p.m. Weekend deadline is by 3 p.m. Friday. Calling may speed up request as it could be sitting in a cue. Customer Service hours at some facilities have been adjusted according to business needs - CS hours: www.burlington.ca/en/live-and-play/customer-service.asp 	
<p>Sport Team Updates New Staff Model: Jen Spence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport team expanded to include neighborhood development Teresa is working with Ice, Floor, Diamond & Cricket Organizations Melissa is working with Gym and Field Organizations Kathleen's relationship is with the school board and supporting space allocation to ensure everyone is accommodated Council has passed a By-law prohibiting air horns at all venues <p>Some concerns/suggestions were brought up;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air horns are used as a warning for emergency purposes such as lightening warning, currently used on the golf course. Used to start races or shot gun golf tournaments Tournaments at multi diamond parks – signal start or end of games 	
<p>New for 2020 – Air Horn By-Law: Teresa</p>	<p>** Reminder to all groups that the use of a P.A. system does require approval. Send requests to your relationship manager – Melissa or Teresa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jen will bring concerns/suggestions forward for discussion More details will be shared early in the new year

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<p>Rates & Fees: Kathleen</p>  <p>2020 Proposed Rates Sport Fields Diamond</p> <p>Allocation: Melissa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed rates only – not yet approved Sarah Merritt-Kellogg (BWRSL) questioning why artificial turf increases every year – increased 2% in 2019 now again in 2020 - currently not being maintained BOTSP questioned why charges are being for use of pavilion at Sherwood 	<p>Approved in September</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on sending booking tournaments to customer service Summer allocations will be next Exact contacts will be shared in the first booking reports that are sent Missing address signage at fields for 9-1-1 – issue at both diamonds and fields No access point for ambulance – can City provide to 911 dispatchers? Sherwood Forest has 2 different addresses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will work with team to determine a consistent spot to post signs to determine exact addresses of the parks in the short term, check permit for the address and have info available (i.e. screenshot)