

Good Evening Mayor and Council,

In the interest of time we have merged our delegations together and will be sharing this delegation. We are Shannon Sinclair and Tara Hambly and we are players of BWRSL and also part the executive for Burlington Women's Recreational Soccer League.

We would like to thank you for this opportunity to delegate tonight with regards to the parks and recreation space allocation policy.

We/I am before you tonight because I have some concerns with regards to this new policy and framework that's been presented to counsel. This framework was only presented to the sports user groups on October 17, 2019 of this year. I was disappointed that this presentation was provided to us last minute; that our questions and concerns could not be addressed or answered during the presentation. That the presentation itself provided no specific details, no concrete examples and no defined reasons as to why this new framework was being presented in the first place. I believe that true engagement within our community would encompass and include such criteria as providing the user groups with advance notice that parks and rec were looking at changing their framework for allocation and provide a detailed explanation as to why. The process would also mandate that we were included from start to end, and that would mean more than one last minute meeting where parks and rec can claim they engaged with us and had us participate in the process. The Oct 17, 2019 User group meeting was used as merely an avenue to say user groups were included in the process when in fact we were not. Nothing we asked for or raised is included in this

frame work, and we left with more questions than answers, feeling like were our participation with this dept is irrelevant.

Furthermore, I would expect that there would have been a fulsome discussion as to why changes were being made, with information such as what works, what doesn't work, what worked well, what needs to be improved on, and what failed in regards to allocation, allocation policies and all the other policies that are tied to space allocation such as gender equity. I was really disappointed that after the user group meeting none of the user groups concerns, questions or remarks were addressed. Parks and rec failed to respond and provide us with any details. We were not provided with the minutes to the meeting or the frame work PowerPoint presentation until last week. That leaves us to believe that our engagement and our input and working with us is an afterthought and not a priority. The user groups are very important to this community, they are the stakeholders that provide the majority of the sports and recreational services in Burlington.

The city should be wanting to engage with us first and foremost because without us the city wouldn't have these opportunities for its citizens to participate in a variety of sports that not only lead to the development of youth and adults but the overall well-being of all Citizens in our community. It helps to attract others to our community because there is an opportunity to engage in sports. Sports helps provide a healthy community, and a healthy community attracts more people, more businesses, more tourism and visitors.

This new policy and framework could stifle growth because it will allow one user group to have preferential treatment over others under this new allocation policy. That in itself is problematic. All existing user groups should expect fair and equitable treatment and shouldn't have to be concerned about obtaining permits based on another user group who can provide a monopoly or attempt to provide a monopoly and not needing these

permits? The user group should not have to be concerned with its future programming and access to facilities because another user group is preferred by the city.

In addition, I would like to add that it is very important that adult opportunity in sports access is not shoved aside. Well I understand the importance of youth participation in sport, it is also paramount that adults engage in sport and have fair and reasonable access. The city of Burlington is made up primarily of adults, not youth. Well I see the importance of attracting more families with children to the city, reality is that the majority of the population is adult, over the age of 50 and we need to keep this population engaged in sport and a healthy lifestyle to ensure our community is a healthy vibrant city. Adults provide leadership to this community, they volunteer, they are the volunteers of these sport organizations that operate sport opportunities for everyone in the community youth and adult alike. We also set and lead the example of participating in sport for our youth. It is therefore important that this recreational framework does not put up barriers to our access.

Furthermore, before a new policy or framework is developed what is currently followed as allocation policies should be reviewed and adjustments made versus developing a whole new framework. I find it hard to believe that the current allocation policies and practises if followed properly are so flawed that you would have to start from scratch. I believe it's imperative that counsel direct staff to go back to the drawing board and engage the community in particular the user groups in determining what the next best steps are towards an allocation framework by not doing so that the principles of engagement and being inclusive or simply policies that can be ignored instead of embraced and followed.

We/ I want to thank you for your time and I hope that we can count on all of your support to

go back to city staff and either not approve this document in its entirety or to direct staff

to start over but also require them to actually engage with the user groups who these policies and framework are going to effect.

Shannon Sinclair

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BWRSL