



regarding Leash Free site preference Ward 2 (RCC-04-22) (SD-13-22)

Monday, April 18, 2022

To: Burlington City Council

Re: Leash Free Parc Ward 2 [RCC-04-22] [SV 13-22]

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Dear council members,

We are writing to you as Ace Tennis, the organization that has provided services, staffing, programming, and administrative and marketing support at Burlington Tennis Club for the last seven years. This relationship has made BTC a vibrant, financially stable club while serving the Burlington community.

Ace Tennis offers spring and summer programs for over 300 families. These programs usually contain a tennis and wellness component to provide a quality service to the community. They also provide an essential source of revenue through membership [children and their families]. The club and Ace access the grounds designated for the dog park to offer various health activities such as soccer, fitness training and regeneration. Unless an optional venue is provided to Ace, this will create a hardship for programs where registration has already occurred.

Ace Tennis also offers and operates over 20 OTA events during non-prime time. These tournaments service over 500 players and families during the summer period. The BTC board has already approved these tournaments and sanctioned them by the Ontario Tennis Association. Over \$10,000 in revenue is generated for the club and staff. These tournaments require space for parents and players waiting to play a match. With current protocols and the non-availability of the clubhouse, the proposed project would hinder the family's participation. We feel, of course, that if optional space behind the library were available, we could operate the youth programs. The tournaments would suffer from the lack of space.

We are sure that the recommendation considered that the new Drury Lane corner is already congested with the Bowling Pitch, the YMCA, The Arts Centre, The Arena and the library. Parking is already an issue and will be even more of a problem for the tennis members, campers and tournament players. Finally, the city prides itself on its green space from an esthetic standpoint. Will removing trees and building fences make our downtown better looking?

Finally, huge fields behind the arena and the library are seldom busy. Couldn't a more accessible [parking] location, one not requiring removal of trees, less of an eyesore, be a better option?

Sincerely,

Pierre Lamarche [30 year resident of downtown Burlington and dog owner]
CEO & CFO – ACSM

