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Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 10:58 AM
To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>
Subject: Report on Parks & Recreation, Agenda Item 14.2, Pickle Ball Courts

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Good Morning

My name is Tony Pagnanelli. My wife and I are seniors and we live at 3 Pearson Avenue, Richmond Hill, L4C 7L6.

I would like to address the Key Findings of the above noted report, specifically the lack of any mention of Pickle Ball Courts.

My wife and I started playing pickle ball in June of 2021 and we were instantly taken to the sport. It is much less strenuous than tennis and for us it is a sport activity that is much more conducive to our athletic abilities at our age - there is a low barrier for entry into the game. I believe the Richmond Hill group which was started by Mike Bobcott was initially 25 people, but by the end of the summer it had grown to over 225 people playing pickle ball - incredibly awesome for a sport to grow that fast in an incredible short amount of time. This identifies the popularity of the sport which encourages active community involvement creating new friendships and social gatherings. A pickle ball family group was even created on WhatsApp to facilitate playing schedules and social get-togethers.

As the summer progressed, creating schedules to play began to get difficult with so many people and so few courts. From playing 3 times a week we were relegated to playing once a week. Too few courts - only 2 outdoor courts in Richmond Hill - and too many players. Any available pickle ball courts in Richmond Hill and in York Region are full mornings and evenings.

We also contacted our local Councilor to request adding pickle ball courts to the current tennis courts at Morgan Boyle Park - superimpose the pickle ball court lines on the existing tennis ball court lines such that both sports can be enjoyed. Alas, no action resulted other than an email being forwarded by the Councilor to the parks department. Parks has never responded and the courts at Morgan Boyle Park still do not have pickle ball.

Pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in North America; and in Florida it has surpassed tennis. Markham has an 8-court pickle ball facility at Cornell and is in the process of building another 8-court outdoor facility.

Given the above, it is very surprising and frustrating that the report has not identified the creation of pickle ball courts in Richmond Hill. This needs to occur for the health and well-being of our communities, especially the senior population. We need to feel that we are part of the community and that we, as seniors, are appreciated and listened to by our political appointees.

We strongly request that the sport of Pickle Ball be given priority in Richmond Hill and as such more courts must be created for the overall enjoyment of the community at large.

Thank you
Tony Pagnanelli