

From: Gloria Boxen

Sent: Tuesday, July 4, 2023 11:54 AM

To: Clerks Richmondhill [clerks@richmondhill.ca](mailto:clerks@richmondhill.ca)

Subject: Re: 1.3 SRPI.23.063 - Request for Direction: Community Pickleball Hub Planning

Re: 1.3 SRPI.23.063 - Request for Direction: Community Pickleball Hub Planning

Dear Members of Richmond Hill Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to add my voice.

I have comments in regards to Pickleball facilities generally, and plans for the Panhandle specifically.

c) That \$280,200 from the Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Reserve Fund be allocated to a capital account to facilitate seasonal operation of the ten (10) pickleball courts at Richmond Green and pickleball planning to 2026;

d) That the Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory Park community pickleball hub be paused to allow time to monitor the impact of the outdoor pickleball facility improvements being made between 2022 and 2024, and to facilitate further detailed analysis of the City's combined tennis and pickleball needs through the preparation of the Tennis and Pickleball Strategy directed by the 2022 Parks Plan.

My comments and suggestions

1. In the context of the climate change crisis and the increasingly severe weather events, all development has to be made with its negative and positive impacts on the environment and greenhouse gas emissions reviewed. We have to mitigate flood risks, wind damage, and increase rather than decrease uptake of CO2 and other greenhouse gases. Health, social, and economic impacts of course must also to be considered.

2. Consequently we have to conserve and renaturalize greenspaces. Increase the amount of permeable surfaces.

3. Richmond Hill has assets that can increase its sense of place and identity if their full potential is realized. The DDO and Park is one of them.

4. With those factors in mind, I strongly recommend that any new pickleball facilities should be located on a site already covered with a hard surface, whether intended for outdoor and/or indoor pickleball use.

5. The Panhandle should be reflective of the unique history and important contributions of the David Dunlap Observatory and Park and reflect what visitors will encounter on the heritage site above. The DDO Park is unique in Canada and can become a magnet for visitors world wide.

6. Nature is part of the DDO and Park's legacy.

In conclusion, a pause for the Panhandle site is not enough. The Pickleball hub has to be relocated to a more suitable site. All new recreational facilities that require a hard surface should be placed on ones already impermeable.

Sincerely,

Gloria Boxen