

From: R Charles Allen
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 12:06 PM
To: Office-Mayor Richmondhill <officemayor@richmondhill.ca>
Subject: Construction of 16 dedicated pickleball courts at DDO Park

Dear Mr. Mayor,

As you are aware, last year, the City of Richmond Hill approved the construction of 16 dedicated pickleball courts at DDO Park. However, I've just learned about a staff motion to be brought to the council today to "pause" or halt the project and conduct further analysis. This sounds very much like this motion will jeopardize a much-needed multi-court facility in our community.

Please know that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America and already lack of facilities in RH has meant that many of our league games are being played in Vaughan because they have facilities. More and more facilities are required and many tennis players are abandoning tennis to play pickleball.

Please appreciate that Richmond Hill's current infrastructure and available parkland simply is unable to keep up with the need for both indoor and outdoor pickleball facilities. We all know how difficult it is to find courts. The dedicated 16-court facility at DDO will relieve the pressure and provide the much-needed outdoor and potential indoor courts we desperately need to meet the ever-increasing demand.

There is an urgent need for these facilities and I urge you and your fellow councillors to move this DDO park project with speed and dispatch so that the large group of PB players in the Richmond Hill area are able to stay and play within the city of Richmond Hill. I want you to be aware of the strong support within the PB community for the construction of dedicated pickleball courts in the Richmond Hill community.

Pickleball has had an incredible positive impact on my (and my wife's) life - and it's something that allows us to play a sport together and apart and to make new friendship and there is an importance for a central hub where PB players can gather and enjoy the game within Richmond Hill.

Thank you.

Cheers,

chuck

Chuck Allen

From: R Charles Allen
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 4:32 PM
To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>
Subject: Re: Construction of 16 dedicated pickleball courts at DDO Park

Stephanie,

My address is 3 Caliber Court, Nobleton, ON L0G 1N0

And for the record, my wife and I belong to the RH PBA because of how well organized it is - much better than most throughout the GTA - and i can't begin to tell you how many people we've met, the competition and camaraderie that we enjoy and how much we look forward to seeing each other every week. Right now, we have to play outside the city of RH - and that's a shame.

The courts to be constructed would be a place of gathering for the growing number of PB enthusiasts - to have fun, to meet others, to gather and get exercise - people that will purchase gas and snacks and eat meals in the RH area.

And while these are American numbers, these are numbers that can NOT and should NOT be ignored:

Yes, more than 23.6 million people played tennis in the United States in 2022.

But..... that is still about 12.9 million less than the number of people who played pickleball, some 36.5 million, according to the Association of Pickleball Professionals.Feb 9, 2023

And let me also point out that in every respect, the decision of pickleball vs. tennis courts is a very simple real estate calculation. You can fit four pickleball courts onto the space required for one tennis court, and four pickleball players [each] versus two tennis players. That's an 8-to-1 ratio in the same space. More people playing in less space and just about the same cost as building the single tennis courts - not many wins like that.

Build the courts please!

Cheers,

chuck

Chuck Allen