

From: Mindy Berchansky

Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:24 PM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

Subject: July 12 Meeting Agenda Item 15.2.3 Community Pickleball Hub Planning

To whom it may concern,

I am a semi retired adult who has never played a sport in my life. Until about 2 years ago.

I discovered pickleball – a sport that keeps me active and healthy and one that I can play and continually improve in. I can play with older people and younger people. I can play with my family. I can play with the community.

Since playing in Richmond Hill almost two years, I have made new friends and met fabulous people from all walks of life.

I also have an incredible medical story. I have full blown osteoporosis. For many years, my bone density has been going down, down, down. I had a bone density test in 2021 and I just had another one in May of 2023. When I saw the doctor, he told me that the technician had to take the scan twice because she thought there was something wrong with the first one. There wasn't. My bone density improved so much in the two years that I had been playing pickleball. It is the only thing that changed drastically in my life.

Pickleball is the drug that is keeping me healthy.

I was so excited to know that Richmond Hill was building 15 new dedicated pickleball courts. Now I hear that this project may be paused. It makes no sense. Pickleball is an amazing game for anyone, and we need as many courts as we can get – indoor and outdoor. Where else do you see 70 – 80-year-olds playing sports. This is so important. The pickleball community is tired of playing on tennis courts that have been re-lined. Sometimes it gets very confusing. We want proper courts so people don't get hurt.

I know I speak for the rest of the community as I ask you to please make this a high priority and make sure these courts go ahead as planned. This sport has improved so many people's lives and it is only going to grow. Eventually you will need more than you are currently planning for.

Thank you for your time.

Mindy Berchansky

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