

From: Sarah Shulman

Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 10:15 AM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

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Subject: Re July 12,2023 meeting, item 15.2.3 (Community Pickleball Hub Planning): Please add this to the public record

Sarah Shulman
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Please add this letter to the public record:

Re City Council meeting on Wednesday, July 12, 10am-12pm, item 15.2.3: Community Pickleball Hub Planning

To the City Council,

I am writing in support of the City Council developing the David Dunlop Observatory Park Pickleball (DDOP) hub.

I was first bitten by the Pickleball bug after my first lesson on a court adjacent to Thornlea Secondary School last August. During that lesson, my instructor spoke about a "world-class Pickleball facility that was planned for Richmond Hill". I was very excited to hear this.

Around the same time, I joined the Global Pickleball Network and connected to the Richmond Hill community there. I knew that I wanted to explore this fun, accessible game, but had a difficult time finding places to play. This became even more of a challenge when the weather changed. It seemed that if I was willing and able to spend a lot of money to join a private club, I could play Pickleball. I have been driving all over Vaughan and the GTA to find places to play ever since.

Here is what I have learned about Pickleball, which I hope compels this City Council to follow through on the plans to develop the DDOP hub:

Pickleball provides the community with a very unique opportunity in that it is a sport that is very accessible, connecting, and healthy. It is accessible because as long as there is a court available at a reasonable cost, the equipment is very reasonable as well. It is accessible because, by design, it can be played by young and old together, and all genders. This is not a game exclusively for the very athletic, or for the wealthy. It does not require thousands of dollars in lessons and coaching to play well. It is a sport in

which community members can come together, make friends, and get some exercise. I have met so many people through playing Pickleball, and my one worry is where I will find a places to play after the summer. Although there are wonderful groups via Global Pickleball Network and others that are organizing events, the demand far outstrips the supply, and court space is the limiting factor.

While I see empty tennis courts in parks all around my neighbourhood in Vaughan, it is rare to see an empty Pickleball court. The community wants to play, needs access to the game and the community, and has been excitedly anticipating the world-class Pickleball hub that was planned for Richmond Hill. I hope that this City Council will follow through on these plans so the huge (and growing) population who need a place to play (winter and summer) will have that place.

Sincerely,

Sarah Shulman

Sarah Shulman

NUMINOUS (adj.) describing an experience that makes you fearful yet fascinated, awed yet attracted - the powerful, personal feeling of being overwhelmed and inspired **pronunciation | 'nU-mi-nus**