

**From:** Larry James

**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 3:21 PM

**To:** Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

**Subject:** Wed, July 12 RH Council Meeting: Agenda Item 15.2.3 (Dunlop Pickleball Facility Proposal)

Hello,

I am writing with regards to the upcoming Wednesday, July 12 Council Meeting, specifically the planned discussion around Agenda Item 15.2.3 (Dunlop Observatory Pickleball Proposal).

As someone who first took up the sport of Pickleball in July, 2022, I have witnessed the surge in popularity that this sport has seen in just one year. I can attest to the many benefits it has provided me in that time period. Getting a chance to experience a fun social activity that provides great exercise, good sportsmanship and offers new friendships is what has encouraged me to play as often as possible. I am sure these same attributes are what also has attracted so many people to this great sport.

Unfortunately there is a severe lack of outdoor facilities in Richmond Hill for people to play during the spring and summer fall months. Though the fall and winter months have many community centers offering Pickleball drop-ins and league play, most people wish to enjoy the outdoor fresh air and sunshine during the brief spring and summer season. There are currently very few outdoor tennis courts that have been lined to allow for Pickleball play. Consequently there is high demand for limited court space outdoors.

The proposed plan for building the Dunlop Pickleball outdoor facility would be a true game changer, in terms of offering 16 courts to Richmond Hill Pickleball players. I am very confident that this facility would become extremely popular and would be used at near or full capacity during the spring and summer months. Any long term plans for installing a roof and offering winter Pickleball would be an added bonus, but for now, we need to draw attention to the dire need for outdoor Pickleball facilities in our city.

I trust that the City of Richmond Hill will recognize the growing popularity of Pickleball and the high demand for outdoor facilities to accommodate the many people who wish to continue playing this great sport.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimonial to this wonderful sport.

Best Regards,

Larry James

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