

July 11, 2023

To the elected officials in Richmond Hill;

Re: July 12th Meeting, agenda item 15.2.3- Community Pickleball Hub Planning

I am writing to you today to express my concern about your possible decision to either delay or cancel the proposed Pickleball Hub at the David Duncan Observatory Park.

Both me and my wife started to play Pickleball in December of 2023. As seniors we were thrilled to find an activity that can allow us to continue to be active and promote both our physical and mental health. As you likely know, Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in all of North America, due to its low cost, and the fact that it can be played by **all** people regardless of age or current fitness levels.

The re-lined tennis courts and the pop up courts at Richmond Green that Richmond Hill counts on to address the burgeoning need for Pickleball players are simply not sufficient. Tennis nets are very different than Pickleball nets, and the pop-ups don't even provide nets. Richmond Hill needs to be forward thinking and have facilities available to not only take care of current needs of residents who play Pickleball, but also to factor in the growing needs for the future.

There is also a strong need to provide space and facilities for indoor Pickleball ball for months when outdoor play is not available and to address the needs of residents that still work. The current time allocated to Pickleball in local community centres is not sufficient to address the need and this also needs to be considered.

I strongly support moving forward with the Pickleball Hub at David Duncan Observatory and hope that you vote to support its completion.

Dr. Mark Potashner

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