



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 24-120**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Tony Gargaro, Manager, Recreation Services, Recreation & Leisure Services
Date of Meeting: April 2, 2024
Subject: 2024 Pickleball Canada Central Regional Championship

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 5. Drive Inclusive Economic Growth

Goal: 5.6 Consider opportunities to enhance sports tourism.

Executive Summary:

The 2024 Pickleball Canada Central Regional Championship (Regionals) were scheduled to be hosted by Quebec City July 18-21, 2024. For unforeseen circumstances, the host city is declining and Pickleball Canada is asking if the Kingston Pickleball Club and the City of Kingston would be interested in hosting the event again this year. Kingston was the host city in 2023.

Over the course of four days, more than 400 players of all ages from across Ontario and Quebec are expected to compete for the coveted title of the Central Region's best pickleball athletes. Competition categories include men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles.

The Kingston Pickleball Club is requesting from the City of Kingston the use of the Bayridge Outdoor Raquet Courts from July 16-21, 2024. Staff are requesting direction from Council to set aside section 3.20.1 of the [Sports Field Allocation Policy](#) that identifies that outdoor pickleball courts are available for casual use only and that staff be directed to permit the use of the Bayridge Outdoor Raquet Courts as the host location of the 2024 Pickleball Canada Central Regional Championship. This use would displace local casual court uses from July 16-21, 2024,

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and staff would work to communicate this disruption to local court users and pickleball user groups.

Recommendation:

That Council direct staff to set aside section 3.20.1 of the Sports Field Allocation Policy for the purpose of hosting the 2024 Pickleball Canada Central Regional Championship July 16-21, 2024; and

That Council direct staff to enter into a Facility Rental Agreement with Kingston Pickleball Club to authorize use of the Bayridge Outdoor Raquet Courts, to establish fees based on established outdoor space/field rental fees and to outline terms and conditions for use.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

Jennifer Campbell,
Commissioner, Community
Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

P.P. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services	Not required
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Major Projects & Strategic Initiatives	Not required
Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Transportation & Emergency Services	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	

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Options/Discussion:

The City of Kingston routinely supports special programs like tournaments and special events. These programs provide revenue generating and community engagement opportunities to both the program organizers and the City, as well as provide an economic spin-off to the community at large. Generally, tournaments and special events are competitions hosted by recognized City Partner Groups and Seasonal User Groups. They may include events of regional, provincial or national significance.

Kingston was the host city in 2023 for the Pickleball Canada Central Regional Championship (Regionals). Over the course of four days, more than 400 players of all ages from across Ontario and Quebec, attended to compete for the coveted title of the Central Region's best pickleball athletes.

The terms describing the use of outdoor courts maintained and operated by the City are defined in the [Sports Field Allocation Policy](#). Section 3.20.1 of the policy details that no permit is required to use outdoor courts and that only casual use is allowed. Through this report, staff are requesting direction from Council to set aside the provisions of section 3.20.1 of the [Sports Field Allocation Policy](#) and to permit the reservation and use of the Bayridge Outdoor Raquet Courts as the host location of the 2024 Pickleball Canada Central Regional Championship July 16-21. Staff would formalize this booking through a facility rental agreement with Kingston Pickleball Club and at rental rates drawn from the indoor court rates approved within City of Kingston By-Law Number 2024-146, A By-Law To Establish Fees and Charges. In all other matters related to the booking, the remaining conditions outlined in the [Sports Field Allocation Policy](#) would be adhered to.

It should be noted that staff did provide alternate options for hosting the tournament, including at the Kingston Raquet Club or at the INVISTA Centre. Tournament organizers felt strongly that the Bayridge Raquet Courts were the preferred location for a successful outdoor event. Staff are also aware that over the course of the tournament, the Grenadier Courts located at the Kingston East Community Centre will be under construction which will reduce the number of available outdoor courts available to the community for casual use. Should Council support the recommendations of this report, staff will work to communicate this disruption to local court users and pickleball user groups and ensure that they are aware of alternate opportunities for play over the duration of the tournament. Staff will also include consideration of the use of outdoor courts for tournaments/special events as part of the next scheduled review/update to the Sports Field Allocation Policy.

Analysis

Council direct staff to set aside section 3.20.1 of the [Sports Field Allocation Policy](#) for the purpose of hosting the 2024 Pickleball Canada Central Regional Championship July 16-21, 2024. This will permit the use of outdoor courts that only casual use is allowed.

Council direct staff to enter into a Facility Rental Agreement with Kingston Pickleball Club to authorize use of the Bayridge Outdoor Raquet Courts, and to establish fees as approved in City

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of Kingston By-Law Number 2024-146 'A By-Law To Establish Fees and Charges' and outline terms and conditions for use.

This will allow staff to fulfill goal 5.6 of the Council Strategic Priorities, consider opportunities to enhance sports tourism.

Staff will communicate and promote the available space at Kingston Raquet Centre as alternative space during the tournament.

Public Engagement

Should Council support the recommendations of this report, staff will work to communicate this disruption to local court users and pickleball user groups and ensure that they are aware of alternate opportunities for play over the duration of the tournament.

Information about the tournament has also been shared with the Board of Directors for Frontenac Condo Corp 39 otherwise known as Sexton Place, which backs onto the courts. Staff have asked that the board share the information with residents and that questions and feedback should be directed back to the Manager of Recreation Services both for consideration ahead of the tournament, as well as to inform any related updates to the Sports Field Allocation Policy as discussed earlier in this report.

Indigenization, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility (IIDEA) Considerations

A commitment of the City of Kingston Parks and Recreation Master Plan (updated January 2023) is to strive to eliminate physical, social, financial, cultural and other barriers to accessing recreational pursuits in Kingston, while additionally supporting a range of services, facilities and programs that reflect the diverse interests and cultures within the city. The hosting of the Regional Championship is inclusive of age, cultural background and gender and aligns with these intents.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Updated January 2023)

Sports Field Allocation Policy (Updated December 2023)

City of Kingston By-Law Number 2024-146 'A By-Law To Establish Fees and Charges'

Financial Considerations

With direction from Council, staff will develop and enter into a Facility Rental Agreement with Kingston Pickleball Club to authorize use of the Bayridge Outdoor Raquet Courts for the 2024 Pickleball Canada Central Regional Championship. This agreement will establish rental fees based on the existing outdoor space/field rental fees approved by Council as part of City of Kingston By-Law Number 2024-146 'A By-Law To Establish Fees and Charges'. This revenue

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will contribute to the projected fee revenues included in the 2024 operating budget of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department, as previously approved by Council.

Contacts:

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