

From: Craig MacPherson
To: [PublicOnlyCouncilEmail](#)
Subject: Funding for Pickleball
Date: May 1, 2024 12:08:42 PM

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To: West Hants Municipal Council

From: Craig MacPherson, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: May 1, 2024

As many of you would know, the sport of Pickleball is growing rapidly. The main reason for its popularity is that it is a sport for all ages and abilities which promotes an active, healthy lifestyle. Local involvement is on the rise, with indoor drop-in sites at various schools, Windsor Community Center, West Hants Sports Complex and the newest site being the GFL Centre in Newport, along with 2 outdoor sites. Membership in the local Avon River Pickleball Club continues to grow. Pickleball is gaining such popularity in our province that Nova Scotia has been awarded the opportunity to host both the Provincial as well as National Championships in Bedford in May and August respectively.

As it gains popularity, court availability is starting to become an issue. School locations will soon become inaccessible as summer maintenance begins and both of the aforementioned arenas will have limited availability as the ice goes back into the Sportsplex in early July, and back into GFL Centre in the middle of August. We have outdoor locations with a court at Eldridge Road and the Hantsport site, which has already received substantial funding for upgrades. While these sites are fantastic, they are not close for those living in this end of the Municipality. A frequent comment heard is that everything is happening in Windsor and nothing in the outlying areas of the Municipality. I see this as a perfect opportunity to create a recreation site that is closer to home for all residents of Districts 1, 2 and 3.

The benefits of Pickleball include but not limited to:

- Muscular and cardiovascular endurance
- The promotion of Active Living
- Mental health; reduction of stress, depression and anxiety
- Social connections: maintaining existing connections while creating new ones
- Low cost to participate

Vision:

We have a large space in Brooklyn that would be an ideal site for a Pickleball facility. It is my hope to bring outdoor Pickleball to the former tennis courts located on the property of Brooklyn District Elementary School. Over the years the surface began to crumble making it unsafe for activity. The net posts came out of the ground and the nets were worn away by age and weather and the space eventually became non functional. Recently, patch work was done in an effort to improve the safety of the surface. This work has been an improvement but more is needed to make it a properly accessible facility. It is a large space that can once again be put to great use if the proper upgrades are applied.

Grant Application:

A grant application has been submitted seeking the maximum \$5000 to assist with the purchase of Pickleball nets and the paint and supplies needed to create 6 courts. The cost breakdown is as follows:

6 nets, \$659.99 each, for a total of \$3960
Paint and supplies to line the courts \$1100
Paddles, balls for startup and replenishment, \$1000

After talking with several council members it was suggested that while this grant is a great start in taking care of the supplies, it might be best to look at the bigger picture of what is needed to create a proper site and to do it correctly the first time. In a perfect world this site would receive upgrades that include but not limited to:

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- Resurfacing to remove the low spots where water gathers
- Proper accessibility for all, with a properly paved walkway leading from the parking lot to the courts
- Gates repaired for security against vandalism
- A shed or similar to safely store equipment
- Lighting for evening use

With this new idea of 'do it right the first time' I am requesting any additional funding that may be available in order to create a facility from which West Hants residents would benefit. I thank you for your time and consideration of this project and look forward to your response.

Regards,
Craig MacPherson

