

To: Chief Administrative Officer **Date:** November 6, 2023
From: Jason Horton, Manager of Parks and Facilities
Subject: **Pickle Ball - Wren Park - Public Engagement**

Recommendation(s)

1. That the proposed addition of pickleball courts to the existing tennis court at Wren Park does not go ahead;
2. That the proposed dog park at Wren Park does not go ahead; and
3. That the capital funding for Wren Park be added to the Centennial Park Lacrosse Box Cover project and pickleball courts be added to this project.

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to update Council on the Wren Park public engagement that took place in August and to propose an alternative location for the outdoor pickleball courts.

Background

At the April 19, 2022, Council Meeting the Mission Pickleball Club provided a presentation on the growth of pickleball in Mission and requested Council support to upgrade one of three proposed sites; Hillside Park, Heritage Park or Hatzic Middle School. Concerns were raised with the three proposed sites and, in September 2022, Parks, Recreation & Culture staff proposed three other sites located at; 33649 Prentis Avenue, 32286 Cherry Avenue and Shaw Pit. Wren Park was proposed as an alternative site.

At the June 5, 2023 Council meeting, a budget of \$90,000 was approved to develop pickleball courts at Wren Park and that public engagement would be completed by staff.

On July 31, 2023, a public engagement survey was made available to the public to add six pickleball courts to the existing multi-sport court at Wren Park, as well as other park improvements such as the addition of a small dog park. Wren Park is located at 30435 Silverhill Avenue.

A summary of the results of the public engagement was completed by the Manager of Communications and Public Engagement and is attached as part of this report (Attachment A). Support for the pickle ball courts was 58% in favour and 38% were opposed. Support for the dog park was 65% in favour and 25% were opposed.

Although the Wren Park Improvement Summary did show support for both the pickleball courts and the dog park, several letters expressing concern over the noise associated with the sport of pickleball, the remote location of the park and that proposed park improvements will bring in more traffic to the neighbourhood were also received and considered.

Discussion and Analysis

Due to the concerns from the neighbors from Wren Park, staff reached out to Mission Pickleball Club with a proposal to add pickleball courts to the upcoming Centennial Park Lacrosse Box Cover project. Due to the current use and location of the existing lacrosse box staff propose pickleball lines be added as part of this project and the capital funding for Wren Park be transferred to the Centennial Park Lacrosse Box Cover project. It is recognized that the two main uses of pickleball and lacrosse as well as ancillary ones for the lacrosse box would need to be controlled through scheduling by the department. The department would prioritize lacrosse use over pickleball but anticipates that the conflict would be minimal because of the different age groups that are involved with each sport.

The addition of pickleball to Centennial Park would also be consistent with the development of an Activity Hub corridor from Centennial Park to the Mission Leisure Centre.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Communication

No communications actions are required.

Summary and Conclusion

The purpose of the report is to update council on the Wren Park public engagement that took place in August and to propose an alternative location for the outdoor pickleball courts at the Centennial Park lacrosse box.

Report Prepared by: Jason Horton, Manager of Parks and Facilities

Reviewed by: Louis Dauphin, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

Approved for Inclusion: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment(s)

Attachment A: Wren Park Engagement-Report-Pickleball