

Indoor Racquet Sport Committee Update

Background:

In 2017 with the decommission of the Confederation College bubble, TBCTC representatives met with city administration to pursue the plan of building an indoor court facility as part of the Chapples Park Master Plan.

After several iterations, lobbying, rallies, presentation of feasibility studies and deputations to City Council, the City provided a conditional approval to allocate \$1.5 million in partnership with the Thunder Bay Pickleball Association towards the construction of a \$3.1 million six court air supported indoor facility

In Dec 2019 two grant applications for \$1 million each were submitted to FedNor and Northern Ontario Heritage Corporation—ultimately, the NOHC grant was successful, and a conditional approval was awarded in June 2021.

Both of our funding partner's conditional approval was based on TBCTC's submission of a 6-court air supported structure to be constructed on four existing courts (2-8) plus two new courts on the inline with these south courts.

In August 2020 an ad hoc Fund-Raising Committee was formed to look at a campaign to fund raise the approximately \$590 thousand as the TBCTC's contribution to the total budget costs. Fund raising categories included donations from members, naming sponsors, court sponsors and others.

A re-submission to Fednor for \$1 million was submitted July 2021. Currently this application is pending.

Next steps

1. Site options -

One challenge facing the TBCTC executive and Indoor Committee was the time constraints imposed by our funding partners and the need to move the project forward—the decision to present only the “south side” option in these applications has received significant objection from several members.

An alternative site, (North side Option) -- land immediately north of courts 1-9 is currently being explored with city administration. While there is flexibility on behalf of city administration to accept a revised project concept/location we will need to satisfy the city's due diligence (ie. Grading/drainage and the consideration of utilities as well as availability (multi-turf priority)).

2. Membership survey and Town Hall

A membership survey is currently being distributed to the TBCTC general membership to ascertain the interest and financial commitment and for project planning and budget purposes. A similar survey will be distributed to the pickle ball community and general membership. Once this data has been analyzed a Town Hall meeting will be held to review this data as well as discussing next steps including a second survey to focus on site location, size, and configuration.

Once we have a mandate to proceed based on the support of membership and general community as evidenced in the surveys the next series of steps relate to the due diligence requirements outlined in the conditional approval terms and conditions from our funding partners. These include the hiring of a project manager, revised capital and operating budgets, High Level Site Plans, public consultation, procurement of contractors and co-ordination with City Development Services.

