

F. Gibbard, Arnott Avenue, stated:

- Not for profit partnerships are supported in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; Life program involvement will be possible.
- This is a revenue opportunity for Saanich and should be supported.

G. Solberg, Carey Road, stated:

- The proposal offers good value to the municipality with the Society paying over 90% of the costs; Saanich will retain the asset and the land.
- Such a world class tennis facility will attract athletes; also, it is well located for the entire Greater Victoria area.
- The proposal to build the Saanich Commonwealth Place facility was controversial at that time; Council should be encouraged to make this a legacy.

K. Riel, Hollis Road, stated:

- Many suggestions have been put forward for the best use of the baseball fields, reflecting a spectrum of values, all in support of a healthy quality of life.
- The tennis facility is worthy of support; outdoor art activities could be accommodated along with tennis.
- The existing baseball fields are in poor condition.

J. Cunnington, Elk Road, stated:

- Tennis is the fastest growing sport in Canada; juniors in Europe train on clay.
- This would be the only clay court facility on the Island.

L. Huff, Lochside Drive, stated:

- The courts will not negatively impact the chip trail but will add to its diversity.
- Space will remain for other uses.
- The proposed Agreement will ensure that the Clay Court Tennis Society upholds its commitments; through a minimal investment, Saanich will gain a recreational asset.

D. LeSeach, Wavecrest Place, stated:

- The clay surface is good for the body; this is an excellent opportunity to obtain a clay tennis facility and should be supported.

J. Weir, Whittier Avenue, stated:

- A clay surface is best for learning to play tennis.
- Clay is a simple sustainable surface and the applicant's proposal offers to enhance Bowker Creek.

D. Hale, Radiant Way, President of Langford Tennis Club, stated:

- Their club members currently use the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre tennis courts and support the proposal; the Greater Victoria tennis community is one community.
- There will be economic spinoffs of benefit to Saanich; the facility will attract tournaments.

M. Yung, Bonnie View Place, stated:

- Active families find the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre tennis courts heavily booked.
- An extra opportunity for play will be offered by the new facility and she supports it.

R. Wickenhauer, Mars Street, stated:

- The Society's proposal is a good one but not for this location.
- The financial contribution requested from Saanich could be better spent on other activities.
- There are existing drainage issues on the site; the proposed raingarden may not protect the environment from the harmful effects of materials used in or on the courts.
- The Park's open greenspace is precious and is well used.

K. McCaul, Persimmon Drive, stated, in opposition to the proposal:

- It is inappropriate to consider such a proposal without first conducting an environmental assessment, a cost analysis and a market survey with respect to the demand for such a facility.
- A Saanich survey indicated low demand for additional tennis courts.
- A formal Cedar Hill Park Plan is needed.

B. Shawn, Persimmon Drive, stated:

- The financial aspects of the proposal are a concern; it would not be financially feasible without the advantage of land from Saanich.
- The existing public/private partnerships undertaken by Saanich will have minimal impact on future uses of the lands.
- Alternative uses of the land which would benefit the greatest number of residents, should be developed.

A. Wilk, Megaw Place, stated:

- Neighbouring properties will be detrimentally affected by the facility as will local wildlife.
- The baseball fields should remain and their use encouraged.
- Keep the greenspace open to the public and vote against this proposal.

B. Chaplin, Persimmon Drive, stated:

- We are fortunate to have this greenspace gem for all to experience.
- The chemicals needed for maintenance of clay courts should not be used in this environmentally sensitive area.
- Saanich could reach out to the Special Olympics organization to encourage their use of the existing park facilities.

J. Moores, Ascot Drive, stated:

- He is a member of the volunteer team taking care of the environment in the Park.
- The existing baseball field provides for water retention; the clay court proposal will have a negative effect on the park.

R. Bettauer, Eastdowne Road, President of PISCES, stated:

- Tennis is a lifetime sport and is about to explode in popularity; clay is the most common playing surface in the world as it is easy on the body, inexpensive and the best surface for learning the game.
- It would be ideal to locate this outdoor facility next to an indoor one.
- Any outstanding questions about the impact of the clay materials can be resolved and the tennis society is prepared to work with the municipality and the community to bring this about.

P. Mann, Elliot Place, stated:

- There are positive benefits to clay-surfaced courts and they will enhance the existing facilities of the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, adding to the dynamism of municipality.

E. Cobley, Alpine Crescent, stated:

- As an active supporter of other local greenspace initiatives, she can support this clay court proposal.
- The clay courts are to replace a playing field without impacting any trees and will enhance Bowker Creek.

L. Fraser, Camrose Crescent, stated:

- The tennis court proposal has stimulated many new ideas for preserving the greenspace in the park; however, the land is mostly golf course with a trail and recreation centre.
- The soggy ball diamond is obsolete; the clay courts will be a perfect fit for the recreation centre.
- Tennis is a growing, affordable sport for kids; more indoor courts are needed if this outdoor facility is not supported.

Z. Lace, Lang Street, stated:

- Greenspace is gradually disappearing; this park is for everyone - not for a privileged few.
- There is an opportunity now to develop the park according to the community's wishes.

S. Hamilton, Oakmount Road, stated:

- The environmental degradation that may result from this project is a concern.
- We are the stewards of land for future generations and must protect and preserve the natural environment.
- Council might consider a separate public engagement process along with the services of an environmental expert, to properly evaluate this project.

S. Silverberg, Chandler Avenue, representing the Society for Kids at Tennis, stated:

- They provide disadvantaged children with the opportunity to learn tennis; the benefits to the community of this program go beyond physical activity.
- Lack of available tennis courts has been a problem and the Clay Court Tennis Society has indicated it will support their program.

S. Gerrity, Belmont Avenue, stated:

- The clay court proposal is good for Saanich and for Greater Victoria.
- The revenue from the additional courts will positively impact the bottom line for Cedar Hill Recreation Centre.

E. Higgs, Maywood Road, stated:

- As a professor of environmental studies, he supports the proposal and disagrees with the stated negative environmental impacts; the proposal offers an increased riparian area and will help restore Bowker Creek.

J. Rea, Kentwood Terrace, stated:

- The proposal from the Clay Courts Society takes into account the Bowker Creek plans and will not pollute .
- The funding request is not unusual as other sports organizations have been granted such arrangements; significant private funds have already been raised.
- Economic and human health benefits will result from this facility going ahead; little-used tennis courts elsewhere in Saanich could be converted to some other purpose.

K. Taber, Belmont Avenue, stated:

- He supports the proposal by the Clay Court Tennis Society; tennis memberships will be available to all.
- 1500 hours of playing time is to be donated to Saanich.
- This is an affordable sport not just for the elite; families can play together-it is a lifetime sport for all.

J. Clarke, Douglas Street, stated:

- The recent Saanich survey which found that the tennis supply was adequate was not a valid survey.
- It is important to survey the right people, meaning those who participate in the activity in question.

B. Knight, Tattersall Drive, stated:

- Council does not have the necessary information upon which to base a decision.
- Citizens should be surveyed as to the best use of the park.
- Either table the proposal until a park plan is in place or reject it as it does not fit the goals of the Master Plan.

A. Foy, Hawthorne Street, stated:

- This is the wrong proposal in the wrong location.
- Public land must be used for the benefit of the most citizens.
- The feasibility study was inadequate and the costd presented are not reliable.
- Indoor courts would be a better value.

J. Kroeker, Kentwood Lane, stated:

- This will be a high profile tennis facility and widely recognized - a good complement to Cedar Hill Recreation Centre.

- Non-Saanich residents are patrons of Saanich facilities and must be counted.
- The benefits will accrue to both Saanich and Greater Victoria residents.

M. Adams, Kerryview Drive, stated:

- The financial risks of the proposal have been raised as a concern; however, Saanich staff have the necessary expertise to deal with such agreements involving partnerships with not-for-profit groups.
- The development of the courts will require a long process, with key stages to be accomplished; there will be opportunities to further review the project.

D. Benkall, Superior Street, stated:

- As someone who works in the local tennis industry, he expects this facility will have a positive impact on business and he supports the proposal.

H. Pelly-Graham, Gibson Court, stated:

- This is the wrong place for tennis courts; first we need a master plan for Cedar Hill Park such as was developed for Gyro Park.
- Living greenspace could be lost forever; there is the possibility of pollution.
- It is inappropriate to place private tennis courts on public land.

C. Bowie, Cranbrook Place, stated:

- Saanich has lost the most tree canopy of area municipalities.
- If this land is up for development, other expressions of interest should have been sought.
- An independent feasibility study is needed; too many questions remain.

B. Furber, Arbutus Road, stated:

- It appears that the Tennis Society and Saanich residents are on opposite sides of this debate; parks are sacred to Saanich residents.
- We need more information before a decision can be made and Council should reject the proposal.
- Also, a strategy to address the disconnect between staff and residents would be helpful.

S. Henrich, Haultain Street, member of the Friends of Bowker Creek, stated:

- The land in question provides a natural way to manage excess water; the Tennis Society has not developed a detailed plan yet for this purpose and more studies are needed.
- Proper consultation and a detailed plan are required before a decision is taken.

C. Brachat, Faithwood Road, stated:

- Rain makes the hard-surfaced courts unusable.
- A clay surface will make it possible to play the game for longer.
- It is a superior surface for learning to play; perhaps his daughter will be able to do so at this affordable facility.

T. Braebrook, Doncaster Drive, stated:

- Tennis adds revenue to municipal recreation services, whose facilities normally don't make money.
- The small grant and loan requested by the Tennis Society will be made up quickly through tennis revenues.
- He is not aware of any new tennis facilities in the region and there is an increased demand for the sport.

B. Braebrook, Morley Street, stated:

- The local tennis community largely rejects the private club approach; this type of facility is preferred.
- It is designed to encourage public interaction, to fit into the park and will offer increased public access to tennis.
- The financial and recreational benefits to community are balanced.

S. Houle, Meadowvale Drive, stated:

- This proposal is consistent with the Saanich OCP and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan and encourages an activity and healthy lifestyle.
- The facility will positively impact the whole Island.

M. Houle, Meadowvale Drive, stated:

- This is a great opportunity for Saanich to gain a superior facility which will draw tennis players from afar; tennis is a growing sport for youth.

R. Donarovich, Rockland Avenue, stated:

- Tennis is a natural and healthy sport with social benefits and also affordable.
- The clay surface prevents injury to the body.

M. Olchowecki, Glacier Place, stated:

- The Parks Department has not offered true community engagement over this tennis project but appear to be working with the proponent.
- There was a problem with the whole process; vote against the proposal.

A. Whitlock, on behalf of E. Whitlock, James Heights, stated:

- As a user of the trail and fields for many years, she feels that the greenspace should remain for public use and is opposed to the tennis facility.

B. Adair, Jessica Place, Vice-President, Saanich Tennis Club, stated:

- Clay courts would open a new world for young players and old.
- Tennis travel within the international tennis community is a huge market.
- It makes sense to use Cedar Hill Recreation Centre to anchor the facility; the ball field is not well used and in poor condition.
- The proposal offers improvement of the site and long lasting benefit to the community.

T. Ferguson, Craigmillar Avenue, stated:

- Environmentally-friendly clay courts will enhance the services of the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre and its greenspace.
- The ball field could be put to a better use; he would encourage Council to support the proposal.

- B. Riddington, Queensbury Avenue, stated;
- There are more chip trail users than tennis players and their health and fitness should be considered.
 - The clay court project will negatively impact the trail and its users.

- J. Clark, Wicklow Street, stated:
- The proposed clay courts may impact the Bowker Creek ecosystem.
 - This is public parkland; the Arts Centre was meant to open onto greenspace and a gentle interface is preferable, such as a playground or a seniors walk.
 - Trends in sport come and go while greenspace would be lost forever.

- T. Bucher, Redcliffe Lane, on behalf of A. Teitel, South Island Tennis Association, stated:
- All 13 local municipalities are one community and their recreation facilities improve the quality of life for all; the right balance between greenspace and recreation amenities can improve quality of life.
 - For clay courts to succeed, they must be an integral part of the successful Cedar Hill Recreation Centre; the municipal contribution can be considered as an investment.
 - The tennis courts have been designed to protect the paths and the creek.

- S. Yee, Morris Drive, and a High School Tennis Coach, stated:
- Not only his students but other high school students would benefit from the option of using this clay court facility.

- P. Bishop, Doncaster Drive, stated:
- A passionate demonstration of support for Cedar Hill Park has been driven by this tennis proposal.
 - The only level grass playing field in the area would be removed and access to the chip trail would be affected.
 - The consultation process undertaken was unsatisfactory.
 - The Tennis Society could seek a more suitable location; Saanich should prepare a plan for the park in accordance with the Master Plan.

Mayor Leonard advised that no further speakers could be accommodated as the facility had to be vacated by 11:00 pm.

Mayor Leonard announced that with many persons still waiting an opportunity to speak, the meeting would adjourn and reconvene at a time and place to be announced.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 10:50 pm.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate

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MUNICIPAL CLERK