



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

To: Mayor and Members of Council

Prepared by: Patti Funaro, Director of Culture and Recreation

Department: Culture and Recreation

Date of Report: July 3, 2024

Report Number: CR-2024-19

Subject: Request from LaSalle Pickleball Association

Recommendation

That the report of the Director of Culture and Recreation dated July 3, 2024 (Report CR-2024-19) regarding a request from the LaSalle Pickleball Association to change two of the four tennis courts at Front Road Park from tennis into dedicated pickleball courts be received;

And that the request from LaSalle Pickleball Association be denied;

And further that Council approve the alternative plan to convert two of the four tennis courts at Front Road into dual use courts at an approximate cost of \$10,000.00.

Report

The Town received a request from the LaSalle Pickleball Association for additional pickleball courts. The Association expressed concerns that there are insufficient pickleball facilities and long waiting times at existing courts. The Association proposed a solution that involves converting two tennis courts at Front Road into six pickleball courts. At that time, the group was advised that repurposing two of the four tennis courts would require further research from administration and that the information be brought to Council for consideration. In the interim, administration worked with the Association to provide privately rented space at the Event Centre for Association members to use in July and August.

An internal meeting was held to explore the Association's request, and to develop viable options for Council's consideration. At that meeting it was determined that in order to fulfill the Association's request the Town would need to resurface the courts entirely, as unfortunately the courts could not simply be repainted if the intent is to remove the

tennis lines to convert them to dedicated pickleball courts. Administration determined that if the Town were to agree to resurface the courts, which would include complete resurfacing of two tennis courts to create six pickleball courts, painting the courts, removing tennis nets, and adding permanent new pickleball nets with permanent posts the estimated cost would be \$75,000. At that meeting, Administration also considered three other important factors related to the Association's request. First, that the courts at Front Road are scheduled to be removed from the park within the next five years as part of the waterfront development. Second, that the Town is about to begin a Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan process and that the intention of this plan is to gather input from the public, stakeholders, and other key groups to recommend what upgrades, new developments, and repurposing opportunities exist to better support current and future residents. Third, that there is no current funding available in the operating budget for this request. Based on this information, administration believes that the Association's request to repurpose the Front Road tennis courts, including the required financial investment is not advisable at this time.

However, administration has developed a temporary alternative for Council's consideration. Two of the four tennis courts at Front Road could be altered to create dual/shared use courts by painting pickleball lines in a different colour than the current tennis lines. The tennis nets would always remain up and temporary pickleball nets would be available for participants to set up for pickleball play. Tennis and pickleball could not be played on the same court at the same time. This option would provide an additional 6 pickleball courts, without eliminating any tennis courts. The estimated cost to complete this work is \$10,000.00 and the courts would still be removed as planned in the future.

In addition, administration intends to explore including new pickleball courts at the Vollmer as a potential recommended enhancement in the 2025 budget.

This alternative approach aims to address immediate concerns while aligning future plans with broader community needs and fiscal realities.

Consultations

CAO

Deputy CAO

Director of Public Works

Manager of Roads and Parks

Manager of Culture and Recreation

Manager of Finance

Financial Implications

Approximately \$10,000 to be funded from the parks operating budget.

Prepared By:



Director of Culture & Recreation

Patti Funaro

Link to Strategic Goals

- 1. Enhancing organizational excellence - Not Applicable
- 2. Strengthen the community’s engagement with the Town - Not Applicable
- 3. Grow and diversify the local economy - Not Applicable
- 4. Build on our high-quality of life - Yes
- 5. Sustaining strong public services and infrastructure - Yes

Communications

n/a

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CR-2-24-19 Request from LaSalle Pickleball Association.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 8, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Milicia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" and last name "Milicia" clearly distinguishable.

Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia