



**WARD TWO  
DUFFERIN PARK  
TOWN HALL MEETING**

**MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018  
7:00 P.M.  
T.B. COSTAIN  
BRANTFORD, ONTARIO**

Present: Councillor Utley, Councillor Sless

Staff: Julia Sippel

Approximately 60 members of the public were also present.

**1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING FORMAT**

**1.1 Welcome and introductions by John Utley and John Sless, Councillors, Ward 2**

Councillors John Sless and John Utley introduced themselves and welcomed the constituents to the meeting. Councillor Sless explained the open format of the meeting.

**2. OPEN FORUM**

Councillor Sless informed the group that there will be no “development of the lands” in the sense that the land is to be redeveloped for recreation purposes only. There are no plans to sell and build any portion of Dufferin Park. Councillor Sless informed the group that Staff have not engaged consultants on this park so this is the first of a number of consultations where the public is going to have the opportunity to share their wants and needs for the park.

The Councillors handed the floor to Mike Lewis of the Dufferin Club to discuss their desires on the upgrades of the park.

Mr. Louis reviewed various areas of the park and made the following comments:

Parking lot and driveway needs to be repaved completely as there are numerous reoccurring pot holes which cause gravel to end up on the courts.

Bowling greens:

- Currently one is active and one is inactive due to lower registration.
- There is underground watering set up for the lawn bowling greens
- There have been discussions of moving lawn bowling to Northridge as there is space there and a clubhouse currently in place.

Clubhouse:

- Currently the clubhouse is a split level facility with washrooms in the basement.
- The clubhouse is not accessible and needs to be replaced as there have been numerous problems including leaking.
- The Club proposed a single level clubhouse with the same amenities
- No stairs within the facility and accessible washrooms are required
- The Club would like the size of the clubhouse to remain relatively the same and be located in approximately the same place.

Tennis Courts:

- Currently there are 6 tennis courts but they would like to expand this to 8
- The courts need to be fully replaced as there are major cracks in the ground and air pockets which make playing difficult
- The Club admits the courts are usable but not for much longer
- With the renovation of the park the courts need to be completely dug up, leveled and replaced by a proper tennis court company
- The Tennis Club is losing members due to the poor conditions of the courts.

Pickleball

- Pickleball has been permitted at the park recently and there is a growing club who would like to see courts put in at Dufferin Park
- Admittedly, pickleball is a noisy sport and most people would not want a court behind them who live in the neighbourhood.
- If pickleball courts are put in at the park, the further they can be located from people's houses the better.

Playground:

- There is currently a small playground in the back of the park
- The playground needs to be replaced and should be moved to the front of the park so people know it exists and so it can be seen.

Softball:

- There is a diamond at the Park that is used for softball games.
- The diamond is slated to be removed upon completion of the Southwest Sports Complex.
- When asked, of those in the room, 5 of the approximately 60 persons present wanted to see the diamond remain.

Overall, the park needs to be revamped completely and there should ideally be lighting and fencing as well.

The Councillors then opened the floor to persons at the meeting. The following comments and questions were received:

A member of the public stated that she does not feel the softball diamond was an issue until baseball began being booked on the field. A lot of money has been put into the diamond so if it stays, it should be specifically for softball.

A member of the public stated that the playground should be bigger to attract kids and families to use it.

Another member of the public stated that she would prefer the softball diamond be removed as the lights and the noise are obtrusive to the neighbourhood.

A member of the public suggested that staff look at Lions Park in Paris as a reference for Dufferin Park. He would like to see something similar which is considered a park with multiple-generation use. It will have attractive things for kids as well as the adults who bring the kids there.

Another woman mentioned that the Seniors and Kids Intergeneration Program (SKIP) has a budget and would love to contribute to a multigenerational park in Brantford.

Exercise equipment was suggested to be put in the park.

A member of the public suggested that if the baseball diamond stays, that the home run fence be removed and it be used for kids' pick-up games rather than booked fields.

Questions were asked about what will happen to the area that the baseball diamond is currently if it is removed. Mr. Horsnell suggested that the Tennis Courts be moved over there and that a bubble be installed for winter tennis. He also asked if the soccer field would remain a soccer field and who owns that land.

**NOTE: Parks and Recreation Staff have confirmed that the land where the soccer field is located is City owned.**

Another member of the public discussed the need for an indoor tennis court to grow the sport. Persons interested in tennis need to drive to other cities to develop and train their

youth. Having courts open three months of the year is recreational however having year round courts is a full program.

A woman living in the neighbourhood stated that a bubble in the park, amongst the neighbourhood is not appropriate. She further stated that pickleball courts in the middle of the neighbourhood are not appropriate either. The noise from the pickleball courts carries throughout the neighbourhood and is very disruptive. She further expressed concerns with the wording of the resolution of council to discuss alternative uses for the baseball diamond as she believes this includes potential infill.

Councillor Sless stated that it does not include potential infill, that redevelopment is for recreational purposes only.

**NOTE: Parks and Recreation Staff have confirmed that no portion of the park, including the area with the current baseball diamond will be sold or used for infill development.**

Some persons present suggested that a splashpad be located in the park for kids.

A member spoke in support of indoor tennis courts due to the rise in Canadian professional tennis which should result in the rise in popularity at the junior level. The City cannot cultivate a good junior tennis program without a facility that caters to people year round.

Another member of the public explained that merely having indoor tennis courts is not enough for the success of use, that what programs are run through the facility will determine the overall success.

Another member of the public stated that if pickleball is to be included in the park, a full study on noise impacts to the neighbourhood needs to be completed to understand how many courts can go in and where.

Councillor Sless informed persons present that a splash pad would need to be in the right area of the park and that the Police would consult on appropriate sitelines and safety of the park.

When discussing the potential cost there were questions pertaining to the scope of the project, that this park being discussed could cost millions. As such, there were questions if the full cost of the project is \$400,000 or if that is only the design cost. Staff will be asked to follow up. Councillors Sless and Utley informed the group that the \$400,000 does not include the cost of construction and that funding will have to be discussed during estimates in December.

**NOTE: Parks and Recreation Staff have since clarified that at this time a total of \$400,000 has been allocated to this redevelopment; \$25,000 for design and \$375,000 for park development. It is anticipated that additional funds will be required and part of the design process will include provision of a budget estimate based on the revised site plan and features included in the plan.**

Another member of the public expressed the need to value the green space and open ended play areas to promote creativity and proper play rather than filling the park with courts and fields.

A member of the Dufferin Club spoke and informed neighbours that if they have concerns regarding noise or anything in the park that they should reach out to them to have this addressed.

It was asked how long this project would take. Staff will follow up and provide a timeline.

**NOTE:** Parks and Recreation Staff have followed up stating that the design will take approximately 6-8 months and the development timeline is unknown as this will depend on priorities, scope of the works and budget availability.

Anyone interested in the Holmedale Neighbourhood Association are encouraged to visit their Facebook page.

Is it possible to put sound deadening devices around the court? Councillor Sless informed anything is possible but it comes with a cost.

<b>3. ADJOURNMENT</b>
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Councillor Utley thanked everyone for attending and providing their valuable input. The meeting notes will be summarized and distributed to everyone who attended as well as shared with Staff and the consultant for the re-design of Dufferin Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.