

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**CITY OF WHITE ROCK**  
CORPORATE REPORT



**DATE:** May 30, 2022

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Eric Stepura, Director, Recreation and Culture

**SUBJECT:** Relocation of Pre-Registered Programs from Centennial Park Tennis Courts

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**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council approve the use of \$2,500 from the City’s Pickleball Courts Asset Improvement Budget #75162 for the purchase and installation of a divider curtain for the tennis only courts at Centennial Park.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the May 9, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, Council received a delegation from members of the White Rock Pickleball Club (WRPC) requesting that the northeast court at Centennial Park be reallocated for pickleball use only.

Following the presentation, Council approved a motion to dedicate the northeast court at Centennial Park to pickleball use permanently and approved up to a maximum of \$2,500 to change the markings on the court to remove the tennis court markings.

Operational changes were necessary to facilitate the recent direction to dedicate the northeast court for pickleball only which includes permanent loss of northeast court access by the tennis players and the cancellation or relocation of a pre-registered children’s tennis camp to one of the tennis only courts at Centennial Park. Staff recommend facilitating the relocation of pre-registered programs. To achieve this, it is also recommended that the City purchase a divider curtain for installation between the tennis only courts to create an enclosed court area so that stray tennis balls from the lesson participants do not interfere with the users of the other two tennis courts.

Staff have received a quote of \$2,500 for a divider curtain. There are funds remaining in the City’s Pickleball Courts Asset Improvement Budget #75162 to purchase and install a divider curtain for the tennis only courts at Centennial Park. Staff seek Council’s approval to purchase and install a divider curtain on the tennis courts at Centennial Park.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

<b>Motion # &amp; Meeting Date</b>	<b>Motion Details</b>
#2022-196 May 9, 2022	THAT Council endorse and direct staff to dedicate the North East Court at Centennial Park for pickleball use permanently and the cost to paint the lines on the court, max of up to \$2,500. <p style="text-align:right"><u>Motion CARRIED</u></p>

## **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

At the Regular Council Meeting held June 28, 2021, Council approved a request from the WRPC to make the northwest court at Centennial Park dedicated for pickleball play only. Work has been underway to remove tennis net post, nets and line markings, plus add permanent pickleball nets and a practice wall onto one of the tennis only courts.

At the May 9, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, Council received a delegation from members of the WRPC requesting that the northeast court at Centennial Park also be reallocated for pickleball use only. Following the presentation, Council approved a motion to dedicate the northeast court at Centennial Park to pickleball use permanently and approved up to a maximum of \$2,500 to change the markings on the court to remove the tennis court markings.

It was noted at the meeting that the WRPC are wanting the line markings done in June along with the other lines that are being painted on the northwest court. This work is tentatively scheduled to be done by mid-June (weather dependent).

Operational changes were required to facilitate the additional direction, resulting in the permanent loss of northeast court access by the tennis players and the cancelling or relocation of pre-registered programming.

Staff are currently working on the relocation of the pre-registered programming, children's tennis camps that utilized this space on weekdays throughout the months of July through early September. The weeklong Tennis Day Camps run Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. starting July 4, ending September 3 in 2022.

Currently, there are 32 children registered in each of the nine weeks of Tennis Day Camps (16 in the morning and 16 in the afternoon). By locating the camps in the northeast court, it has in the past given tennis camp instructors the opportunity to provide exceptional service by having the children in a more controlled and contained environment. The instructors bring four (4) tennis nets and set up similar to how pickleball sets up to maximize the times each participant hits the ball.

By moving the children's day camps to the south tennis only courts, it will impact all 3 courts as the tennis balls are not contained, and stray balls would interrupt the other 2 courts of play.

Staff considered options to facilitate the operational impacts in designating the northeast court for pickleball use only, which included either:

- a) cancelling the children's tennis camps, which would result in the loss of tennis skill development for 288 registrants in the community, and a potential loss of program revenue of approximately \$40,000; or
- b) relocating the children's tennis camps to the tennis only courts which would reduce the amount of public playing time for local tennis players on weekdays throughout the summer months, especially if all three courts are closed during children's tennis camp lessons. However, by installing a divider curtain between two of the tennis only courts, the children's tennis camp lessons could be properly contained in an enclosed court, and tennis players could continue to use the other two remaining tennis only public courts while the tennis camps are being held.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If the purchase and installation of the divider curtain is approved, the source of funds would be to use of \$2,500 from the City's Pickleball Courts Asset Improvement Budget #75162. If the Children's tennis camps were cancelled, there would be a potential loss of program revenue of approximately \$40,000.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The City's Communication and Government Relations Department will help notify the public of the court use changes.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATION**

The City's Engineering and Municipal Operations Department would project manage the divider curtain installation work, and be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the curtain.

The City's Recreation and Culture Department will work with local tennis and pickleball players to arrange for any new signage, and notify the court users of any court use changes.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Provide safe, reliable and sustainable infrastructure for the community while minimizing impacts on the environment.

### **OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES**

The following alternate options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Relocate the children's tennis camps to the tennis only courts and close all three public tennis courts while the children's tennis camps are in progress.
2. Cancel the children's tennis camp lessons for 2022 and refund the 288 registrants.
3. Continue to host children's tennis camps on the northeast court at Centennial Park until the end of the current registered program set is finished on September 3, 2022.

**CONCLUSION**

At the May 9, 2022 Regular Council Meeting, Council received a delegation from members of the White Rock Pickleball Club (WRPC) requesting that the northeast court at Centennial Park be reallocated for pickleball use only.

Following the presentation, Council approved a motion to dedicate the northeast court at Centennial Park to pickleball use permanently.

Operational impacts included the permanent loss of northeast court access by the tennis players and the cancelling or relocation of pre-registered programming.

To reduce operational impacts, staff recommend relocating the children's tennis camp lessons to one of the tennis only courts and seek Council's support of the purchase and install a divider curtain between two of the courts at a cost of approximately \$2,500.

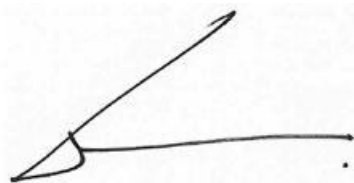
Respectfully submitted,



Eric Stepura  
Director, Recreation and Culture

**Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer**

I concur with the recommendation of this corporate report.



Guillermo Ferrero  
Chief Administrative Officer