



POSTPONED MOTIONS: ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

NUMBER: PM 19-001

REQUESTED BY:	Councillor Sheena Hughes
ORIGIN OF REQUEST:	Email
DATE OF REQUEST:	May 30, 2018

AUTHOR:	Diane Enger
DEPARTMENT:	Recreation & Parks
DATE RESPONSE DUE:	June 30, 2018

MOTION:

That \$25,000 is allocated from the capital reserve to modify current facilities for additional pickleball courts.

RESPONSE (one page max.):

Administration's Understanding of Intent Motion:

To use funds allocated to modify existing tarmac surfaces and/or tennis courts to be able to add to the inventory of pickleball courts in the community. The courts created would be dual purpose courts. For instance, the courts could be used for both pickleball and tennis use.

Operational or Organizational Impacts if Motion is Approved:

If the motion is approved, additional courts would have to be maintained by Public Works (more nets and line markings, additional chain link). As well, public engagement would be needed for coordination and understanding of displacement impacts to the other users of existing courts and surfaces.

Financial Implications of Motions:

The budget would require capital costs for improvements. May require additional operational funds, as the placement of four pickleball courts in place of one tennis court.

Stakeholder Consultations:

Need to consult with pickleball, tennis, and impacted public users to determine need, impact, and viability.

Background:

Pickleball is a growing and emerging sport in St. Albert and the Capital Region, particularly among the senior population. Since its inception in 2010, the local Pickleball Club has grown to over 300 members. This group is active in securing space to grow the sport of pickleball in the community. Pickleball has also seen incredible growth throughout Alberta.

In 2013, four pickleball courts were created at Larose Park through the repurposing of two existing tennis courts. The asphalt court surface and the permanent net structures were installed, and the courts were lined, resulting in a basic court construction that fit the need of the small and emerging group and sport at the time.

In 2016, City Council funded \$20,000 to add two additional permanent courts and four temporary courts to the inventory at Larose Park. The temporary courts were lined over an existing tennis court, with the intent to use temporary nets when the courts were required. This helped as a short-term solution to ease the pressure of the groups growth and ensure while waiting for additional court development that space was available for play in the community.

In December 2017, Council approved a charter to repurpose a tennis court and an asphalt pad to twelve pickleball courts at Alpine Park. Much consultation took place with stakeholders including pickleball, tennis, and the local school before the decision was made to repurpose those spaces.

While it is possible to line courts at another tennis court, Administration suggests waiting until the existing project at Alpine is complete and understanding the usage and future needs better before adding additional courts. Additional work is also required with impacted stakeholders before creating more spaces to determine the need and the impact prior to realigning space uses.

Administration will, upon the completion of the Alpine Court, work with stakeholders and continue to gain understanding of existing court usage patterns to plan for the next pickleball court development in St. Albert. Once this work is completed, and if additional court development is required, then Administration commits to bringing a charter forward for Council consideration during the 2020/21 budget process.