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Date June 20, 2022 **Report No.** 2022-376

To Chair and Members
User Fee and Non-Resident Review Task Force

From Inderjit Hans, P. Eng.
General Manager of Public Works

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item ☐
Item For Consideration ☒

2.0 Topic **Gilkison Ball Diamond Update**

3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT Report 2022-376 – Gilkison Ball Diamond Update be received; and
- B. THAT staff investigate the feasibility and cost of improving the diamond adjacent to Dogford Park; and
- C. THAT a capital project be brought forward for consideration during the 2023 Capital Budget process.

4.0 Background

At the User Fee and Non-Resident Task Force meeting held on November 25, 2021 staff were directed to consult with the owners of the Gilkison Ball Diamond. Staff spoke with a representative of the church that owns the property to ascertain their intentions for the property.

5.0 Analysis

There is a need to increase ball diamond capacity in the City to meet the needs of user groups. Staff continue to explore options to identify viable sites for

additional diamonds and ways to increase capacity of existing diamonds to serve more users through site enhancements like lighting and enlarging the playing area. The small, privately-owned ball diamond adjacent to Dogford Park is a site that potentially could be developed as a full-size diamond. Staff were directed to consult with the owners of the site to see if there was any willingness on their part to explore the possibility. This consultation took place via web conference in May, 2022. The representative of the church indicated great willingness to partner with the City to improve the facility and consider a shared use arrangement of benefit to both organizations. There is not any desire by the owner to consider a sale of the property.

The site is a former brush dump and would require considerable improvements to be usable as part of the City's ball diamond portfolio. These improvements would include at minimum, significant groundworks to level off and establish turf on an area large enough for a full field and new fencing for the backstop, outfield and sidelines. There is space to create a small off-street parking area on City-owned lands.

This site would be close enough to the diamonds at the Steve Brown facility to be potentially useful for tournament play, as well as for regular league play.

6.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to this report. The cost for design and development of a ball field in this location would be brought forward for consideration and approval through the 2023 Capital Budget process.

7.0 Conclusion

As directed by the Task force, staff consulted with the owners of the Gilkison ball diamond. There is interest in investigating a partnership with the City to improve the diamond and enter into a shared use arrangement.



Inderjit Hans, P. Eng., PMP
General Manager, Public Works Commission

Prepared By:

Rick Cox, Director of Parks & Facilities Services

Attachments (if applicable)

Sketch of Gilkison diamond area showing potential expanded ballfield.

Copy to:

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required ☐ yes ☒ no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk ☐ yes ☒ no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? ☐ yes ☒ no