

Community group wants do-over of tennis proposal

The Aurora Community Tennis Club (ACTC) is finding the process for establishing a tennis facility somewhat confusing.

Note, the Town has released a schematic of the footprint where a facility would be built.

The dimension of 54.75 meters by 36.00 meters is approximately 180 by 120 feet which is only 21,600 square feet. Please note that the attachment from Tennis Canada (Finding the Sweet Spot ? a step by step guide community tennis development Appendix pg. 24) that says developing a six court structure requires a footprint of 42,000 square feet. Another reference from ?SportMasters Inc., a large international tennis court construction company says the same thing (approximately).

Secondly, we note the use of the word ?Bubble? on the aerial map supplied by the Town in the Expression of Interest. ACTC has always proposed a structure that has open sides or raisable sidewalls to allow the free flow of air.

Few people are interested in playing in a bubble in the warm summer months. We object to the term ?bubble? or ?dome? being used in the RFP and recommend that a neutral word like ?structure? or ?enclosure? be used instead.

ACTC would be very interested in renting proper indoor courts for some of our activities because it would alleviate the aggravating re-scheduling that occurs because of rain-outs for our house leagues and inter-county competitive events. But we are not interested in playing in a dome or bubble in warm weather.

According to Mr. Downey the scope in the Expression of Interest will be transposed to the wording of the RFP. We are concerned that there is a miscalculation of the appropriate square footage for the facility. An accurate new Expression of Interest should be considered for all types of proposals.

Therefore we suggest a reconsideration of this process should be undertaken and the scope should be broadened ?to include all sides of an issue, to get a full understanding of the various perspectives, and make decisions based on this dynamic as it yields the best results.?

That is a quote from Mayor Dawe's column of September 25, 2013 in The Auroran. The ACTC has met with all three interested vendors personally and has provided research materials and offers of ongoing support to each and every developer.

Brent MacKinnon
Board Member, ACTC