



Basketball Net Pilot Project Update

To: Committee of the Whole

Date: 20 May, 2020

Report No.: 05-20-3889

Strategic Directions

- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. Basketball Nets remain up at all locations unless the location meets the approved criteria in recommendation 2.
2. Basketball Nets be removed nightly at locations where one of the following criteria is met:
 - The basketball court is located within 7.5 meters of an adjacent home.
 - There is lighting that the TDSB cannot control, which allows play after dusk.
 - The courts are designed for children and are being used by adults (not regulation height).
3. The Appeal Protocol contained in this report for reviewing school locations not captured in recommendation number 2, be approved.
4. The Nets complaint Email address be continued and communicated via the TDSB website.

Context

In January 2020, staff brought forward a report on the Basketball Net pilot project to update the Board on the outcome. This pilot project was in response to increased demand for Basketball facilities and was intended to ensure individuals, particularly younger children, across the city would have access to these important recreational spaces beyond 6 pm, and on weekends, when nets were often taken down. The pilot

project revealed both opposition and support for Basketball net removal. Noise complaints and after hours play were the primary concerns raised. These concerns were countered with positive comments from communities about the increased access to the nets evenings and weekends.

Trustees had several questions and requested a further update on the following issues:

- A list of schools which previously had nets removed (Appendix A)
- A list of schools that fall within the 7.5 meter rule and as a result would have the nets taken down daily (Appendix B).
- A list of schools that would have nets removed if we adopted a 30.5 meter rule (Appendix C).
- How Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) deals with these types of concerns at City run facilities.

Previously, nets were removed at a number of sites at the end of the school day based on a local school community decision and as a result many neighbourhoods had little to no access to nets after hours and over the weekend. The removal of nets meant that access was limited to before 6 pm on week days and not at all on weekends, at those locations.

In discussion with PRF, we learned that the issue of complaints is not as big an issue for them for several reasons. Unlike TDSB sites, most City Basketball Courts are located in park areas and homes are not close by. Where they are located close to homes, the City has staff that work over the weekend and can remove them nightly if there are concerns on weekends. Finally, PFR has access to City By-Law enforcement who can deal with concerns as they arise.

In order to deal with complaints at sites that do not meet the removal criteria, staff have developed an Appeal Protocol (Appendix D), that would permit concerned residents to have a thorough review of the concern.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

- Basketball nets remain up at all locations unless the site meets the eligibility for removals Monday to Friday until 6 pm or until dusk if caretaking staff are available until that time.
- Staff implement the Appeal process at schools being considered for daily net removal.

Resource Implications

N/A

Communications Considerations

Staff will work to develop a communications plan to be shared with school communities.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

N/A

Appendices

- Appendix A - Schools with Basketball Nets Removal prior to the pilot project (n=67)
- Appendix B - Schools with Basketball Nets located within 7.5 meters (n=59)
- Appendix C - Schools with Basketball Nets located within 30.5 meters (n=118)
- Appendix D - Basketball Net Removal Appeal Process

From

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