



Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to speak to you and the Committee.

My name is Mathieu Koevoets and I am the President of the Ancaster Tennis Club and we are here to ask you for help in establishing a winter tennis facility on the existing Ancaster club site.

We are confident that once up and running the Winter facility will be self funding. We are mainly looking for some help to get started.

I will not only be speaking on behalf of our members, but also for tennis players living across the whole western portion of the City, including Flamborough, Dundas, Waterdown, Greenville and not just Ward 12.

The Ancaster Tennis Club has been in operation since the early 1930's and it was incorporated 6 years ago. We had a membership last year of 630 of which 32% are Juniors (18 and under).

Our goal is to have an air-supported structure (Dome/Bubble) installed over the 5 existing tennis courts in Village Green Park behind the Ancaster Library. Just to confirm to you the Dome will only be installed during the winter months.

As tennis grows in Canada, the use of Domes/Bubbles over Municipally owned lands makes all the economic sense as the need for exercise and the need to develop our junior players are there 12 month a year requirements, and we must provide the most economical means possible to fill the need locally.

While, as you will hear in the balance of my remarks, we are in agreement with most of the Public Works report it does make reference to the Recreation Department's Outdoor Study (2011) and indicates some staff concerns on the actual level of demand for winter tennis in the area. Unfortunately, this concern was not raised at any of our joint meetings, where we could have easily addressed it, by reviewing current situation in a little more detail. Please let me do that now.

There are only 6 indoor courts in the Greater Hamilton Area, 2 of which are at the Lada Tennis School in Ancaster (private) and 4 at the Rosedale Tennis Club in Gage Park. So, the Greater Hamilton Area with a population of 550,000 has 6 indoor tennis courts. In contrast to those numbers our neighbour, the City of Burlington with a population of 195,000, has we believe at least 18 indoor courts, (not the 11 as mentioned in the Public Works report.)

Before the closing of the 4 indoor courts at the Jewish Community Centre (JCC), there were 10 indoor courts in Hamilton. Since this closure there has been an increase in demand which has swamped the Rosedale Tennis Club. They have capped their winter membership at 325, and so



now have a waiting list for winter tennis memberships, similar to the long-term situation at Aldershot Tennis Club.

The two clubs closest to Ancaster now both have long waiting lists of people wanting to play winter tennis. So, this is the right time to install a Dome in Ancaster. We receive almost daily inquiries from Hamilton area citizens, who play at other summer clubs, asking when the Dome will be ready for playing tennis.

City staff retained a local Architect to submit a feasibility report and this report also indicates that the City lacks indoor tennis facilities.

Over the last 3 years we have seen a significant increase in our family memberships with a corresponding increase in our Junior category. Confirming our belief that we ought to provide a winter facility as soon as possible that adult players can use to stay active for 12 months of the year, and that will provide an opportunity for junior players to develop their skills year round.

Based on our in-club survey and response to our loan program we are confident that a winter facility at the Ancaster Tennis Club would have great starting base of at least 300 playing members, which is enough to make the club financially self sustaining. The new bubble will be a major draw to all tennis players in this area. It is estimated that we will grow, over the first 3 years to 500 winter members, which would essentially fill the club. Growth will come quickly from new tennis players, and existing players from other local summer clubs who will appreciate our “friendly” atmosphere, our pricing, new facilities and first-class lighting.

A detailed Business Plan for the Dome project was prepared by two of our members, a retired Business Professor and a Chartered Accountant. Councillor L. Ferguson as well as your staff have a copy of our Business Plan.

It was decided that our approach will likely be to lease the Dome for 10 years. Our work has estimated that our total start up project cost, including a 15% contingency, is \$587,650. This amount also includes Consulting fees and the payment for non-recoverable lease items.

Last Fall, we applied for an Ontario Trillium Grant in the amount of \$150,000, but we were not successful this time, but the Grant office asked us for more detailed information. We will reapply before the deadline for the next Capital Grant application date of August 25, 2018.

We initiated a Fundraiser/Temporary loan program, whereby a member or non-member can loan the Club \$2000. As incentive they will receive several free summer memberships and as of May 25 we received \$100,000 in post dated cheques.



We are here to ask you, not only for your support for this project in principal, but also for some financial assistance to help us get started (see PW's report) and make this winter tennis Dome project a reality sooner rather than later. We believe delaying is not an option, as is pointed out in the report if we hesitate and the City may miss the opportunity presented by the significant ATC financial contribution with strong pledges and Board support.

The City and ATC, have together an opportunity to make a major dent in the shortage of indoor tennis facilities that currently exists in the Greater Hamilton area.

On behalf of our members, I would like to thank Councillor Ferguson for his help and support and also mention Ms. Robyn Ellis, your Manager of Facilities for her hard work and professional advice, which has kept us pointing us in the right direction over the last 2 years

Thank you Mr. Chairman