



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: July 10, 2023

Subject: SRREC 23.10 Tara Sport Field Changes

Report from: Carly Steinhoff, Park, Facilities and Recreation Manager

Appendices: Appendix A – Tara Ball and Soccer Current Configuration
Appendix B – Tara Ball and Soccer Proposed Reconfiguration

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Accepts the proposed reconfiguration of the Tara Soccer Field and directs staff to work with Tara Minor Soccer to turn the field and add topsoil and grass seed as required;
2. Direct staff to work with the Tara Agricultural Society to move and relocate the horse tie ups to a safer location on the grounds; and
3. That staff proceed with the purchase of a new set of soccer frames and nets from Sports-Inter at a cost of \$ 6,836.50, to be financed by Recreation Reserve #7250.

Report Summary

As minor sports continue to grow in Tara, proximity challenges are presented between the second ball diamond and the soccer field, which is creating safety issues when both ball and soccer occur at the same time. Staff are working with members of both organizations to develop a solution that is beneficial for all parties and will allow maximized participation on both the ball diamond and soccer field.

Background

The current configuration of the ball diamond and soccer field are shown as Appendix "A" to this report.

There is minimal space between ball diamond two outfield and the soccer goal on the north end. As soccer and ball practices and games often overlap, safety issues are presented when balls enter the playing surface of one or the other.

Staff became aware of this issue in 2022 and worked with both organizations to adjust the soccer field by shifting it to the direction of the proposal shown in Appendix B.

In spring 2023, staff were made aware of challenges of the reconfiguration presented by minor soccer. The organization indicated that the Agricultural Society's horse tie ups were in a hazardous location for players. Also indicated was the rough terrain and that topsoil and field levelling would be required to reduce the chance of injuries. Finally, last year's field location did not allow for corner kicks to be completed in a safe manner.

As the 2022 reconfiguration was on a trial basis, Minor Soccer moved the field back to its original location, which is presenting challenges to both organizations during games and practices.

Staff have met with both organizations to try and minimize scheduling conflicts; however this solution is temporary. Staff need to move the north soccer goal multiple times per week to allow both organizations to participate fully. The soccer goals are aging and this has been a challenge for all involved.

Analysis

In order to maximize recreational opportunities for everyone involved, staff and organization members feel that the best course of action is to shift the field as shown in Appendix "B". This configuration will allow for ball and soccer to safely take place at the same time with minimal interference for each sport. Staff will involve Minor Soccer to ensure that field measurements are adequate. Topsoil and grass seed will be added to the low points of the field following the 2023 season and plan to roll the field and address any other deficiencies in spring 2024. Staff will also work with members of the Tara Agricultural Society to determine the best location for the horse tie-ups.

Since soccer is the group that is required to move, staff are recommending purchasing a new set of goals for the field. As the goals have been moved several times and because they are between 10 to 15 years old, they are due for replacement and the organization has requested upgraded goals. Staff have sourced three (3) quotes for the new goals that are 8' x 24'.

Sports-Inter	\$ 6,836.50 including shipping and HST
Avanti Sports	\$ 7,689.15 including shipping and HST
Sport Systems Canada	\$ 7,812.82 including shipping and HST

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.5 Engaging People and Partnerships

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

Should the recommendations within the report be approved, there will be staff time to prepare the field and costs associated with topsoil, grass seed and rolling. These costs will be included within the 2024 Operating Budget.

In order to secure prices, staff are requesting to purchase a new set of soccer goals from Sports-Inter at a cost of \$ 6,836.50 inclusive of HST that will be financed from Recreation Reserve #7250.

Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer