

# TORONTO STAFF REPORT

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June 19, 2006

To: Economic Development and Parks Committee

From: Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Subject: Feasibility of Accessing Space Free of Charge at the New Soccer Stadium at Exhibition Place  
(Ward 19 - Trinity-Spadina)

Purpose:

To report on the feasibility of accessing space free of charge at the new soccer stadium at Exhibition Place.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Background:

City Council, at its meeting on December 5, 6 and 7, 2005, by resolution and By-law No. 1038-2005, declared the Stadium at Exhibition Place to be a municipal capital facility intended for municipal purposes and public use, including professional soccer and other cultural and recreational events.

The new soccer stadium will be owned by the City and operated under a management agreement between the City, the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place and Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Limited. In addition to the stadium being home for Canada's international soccer teams and playing host to other international soccer events, a substantial portion of the stadium's available operating days will be made available for community uses and events including high school, college, university, children's and youth games and tournaments.

On January 16, 2006, the Economic Development and Parks Committee received a report for information (December 22, 2005) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

entitled “Community Access to Soccer Stadium at Exhibition Place”. The Committee requested a further report from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation as soon as possible on the feasibility of accessing space free of charge at the new soccer stadium for the City’s 13 priority neighbourhoods.

Comments:

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have met with the General Manager, Exhibition Place to develop an overall plan for the utilization of community access hours for the new soccer stadium. This plan will form part of the facility usage agreement for the Toronto Soccer Stadium. The overall plan includes a protocol which provides Toronto residents, through Parks, Forestry and Recreation, priority in booking the allocated community space at the stadium at rates competitive with the hourly rates charged for playing fields of similar quality within the GTA. The plan also includes a protocol which provides the use of the Stadium by the City of Toronto, for the purposes of its neighbourhood parks and recreation programs, for 14 days each year free of charge. This free use will enable the City to provide equitable access to space at the new soccer stadium to the City’s 13 priority neighbourhoods, school groups and other underserved community groups, free of charge, while supporting the development of programs and facilities in these under serviced neighbourhoods. The City ensures that the recreation programs and services it offers at the stadium are delivered in a high quality, accessible, equitable and innovative manner and are reflective and responsive to diverse community needs.

Conclusions:

The public-private nature of the proposed soccer stadium at Exhibition Place will result in a soccer stadium owned by the City of Toronto and dedicated to municipal purposes and public use, including professional soccer and other cultural and recreation events. The City will receive free use of space at the new soccer stadium for 14 days each year at no cost to the City. The City of Toronto will ensure that all its recreation programs and services at the Stadium are reflective and responsive to diverse community needs and priorities and include opportunities for all its residents to witness and/or participate in all sporting activities.

Contact:

Don Boyle  
Director, Community Recreation  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation  
Tel: 416-392-7118  
Fax: 416-392-0845  
Email: [dboyle@toronto.ca](mailto:dboyle@toronto.ca)

Brenda Librecz  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation