

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

I am writing to urge you to **vote against [Motion EX20.5](#)**, which proposes governance changes that would unfairly single out the **Moss Park Arena** Board of Management for stricter oversight, despite the arena's vital role in ensuring equitable access to sports and recreation in Toronto.

Despite Councillor Moise's allegations, the **Moss Park Arena Board of Management has not mismanaged funds**—it has been forced to absorb extraordinary costs that no other City-appointed volunteer arena board bears. The motion **misrepresents Moss Park's financial situation** and ignores the structural and external challenges that have led to its financial hardship.

If this motion is approved, it will establish **a concerning precedent** by permitting individual Councillors to **unilaterally alter the governance structure** of City-appointed volunteer boards at their discretion. This level of political involvement may introduce **instability across all City-appointed boards**, significantly hindering their ability to function efficiently. Should Councillors be able to override established frameworks as they see fit, no volunteer board within the city will have assurance in its role, membership, or **capacity to operate independently**.

### **Moss Park's Financial Challenges Are Misrepresented**

#### **1. Moss Park provides a level of community access that no other arena does.**

- It operates **Canada's only free house league hockey program**, ensuring that children from all economic backgrounds can play. This program alone costs **\$90,000 annually**, a cost no other volunteer-run arena board absorbs.
- Moss Park subsidizes or provides free ice time for **schools, public skating, and community groups**, unlike many other arenas that charge full rates. This includes the **Central Toronto Skating Club (CTSC)**, which runs Toronto's **only Special Olympics skating program** and provides affordable learn-to-skate programs for local children.
- The cost of free or subsidized ice time during the years of emergency funding was approximately **\$60,000 per year**—a direct investment in equitable access to sport.

#### **2. Deferred capital repairs have driven up costs.**

- Moss Park has been forced to **repeatedly repair aging infrastructure** rather than replace it, despite City responsibility for major capital replacements.
- This is not mismanagement—it is survival. Instead of receiving capital funding for necessary replacements, the arena has had to make **ongoing emergency repairs**, leading to a higher long-term financial burden.

### **Why Moss Park Applied for Emergency Funding**

While the motion points to **two consecutive years of emergency funding requests**, it fails to acknowledge the **unavoidable circumstances that led to this need**:

- **Post-COVID recovery challenges:** Like many community spaces, Moss Park experienced a slower return to full capacity after the pandemic.

- **Metrolinx construction disruptions:** Just as usage began to recover, construction on the new Ontario Line station eliminated more than half of the parking spaces shared with John Innes Community Centre, making it harder for teams, skaters, and families to access the facility.
- **Deferred repairs due to a promised new arena:** Under former City Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, the board was repeatedly told a new arena was planned. As a result, it deferred major capital replacements, expecting them to be unnecessary. When those plans fell through after years of delays, the board was left maintaining failing infrastructure well past its life expectancy.
- **Urgent repairs were necessary for safety and liability reasons:** When the new Councillor took office, the Board **immediately flagged urgent repairs** necessary to keep the facility safe and operational. These were not cosmetic improvements; they were **critical to avoiding health and safety violations**.
  - Instead of prioritizing these repairs, the Councillor focused solely on advocating for a brand-new arena, ignoring the reality that **without immediate intervention, there would soon be no arena left to replace**.
  - Since the arena is responsible for repairs under **\$50,000**, it has had to **make ongoing piecemeal repairs**, accumulating unsustainable costs.

### The Cost of These Ongoing Repairs

Item	Cost Per Repair	Status
Cooling Tower	\$1,500 - \$15,000	Has been failing for 5 years; needs full replacement, essential for ice quality.
Dehumidifiers	\$1,200 - \$5,000	Repaired multiple times, essential for maintaining safe ice conditions.
LED Lighting	\$1,500 - \$2,500	Replacing outdated system would save \$10,000 annually, but full system costs \$60,000.
Flooring	\$1,500 - \$5,000	Full floor replacement costs \$60,000, unaffordable for the Board.
Electrical & Plumbing	\$1,000 per repair	Full system upgrade exceeds \$100,000.

*Estimated annual cost of piecemeal repairs: \$26,000 - \$142,500 per year*

### Moss Park Bears Costs No Other Arena Board Does

Between **subsidized/free ice time (\$150,000 annually)** and the **financial burden of temporary infrastructure repairs (\$26,000 - \$142,500 annually)**, Moss Park absorbs an estimated **\$176,000 - \$292,000 per year** in costs **not borne by any other arena board**.

Instead of supporting the **urgent capital investment needed**, this motion **seeks to punish the Board** for its efforts to keep the arena operating in difficult circumstances.

### Governance Inconsistencies Created by This Motion

Beyond the mischaracterization of financial challenges, this motion also **creates an unequal governance structure** by applying rules to Moss Park Arena that falls outside of the [Relationship Framework for The City of Toronto and The Boards of Management](#)

for all board-run arenas and that **no other City-appointed volunteer board must follow, most concerningly responsibility for Capital Repairs:**

- The motion includes moving responsibility of the “arena’s revitalization” and “full reconstruction of the Moss Park Arena” from the City to the volunteer board.
- Other arenas in the City have received full support from their Councillor to revitalize and, in some cases, rebuild the entire arena by looking for Section 37 funds or bringing motions to have the cost borne by the City.
- Not Councillor Moise. He has said that walking through the arena feels like a [“Third World Country”](#) and refuses to advocate for capital repairs and instead wants the onus to be placed on a volunteer board.

If this motion passes, it will **set a dangerous precedent**—allowing individual Councillors to **unilaterally change the governance structure of City-appointed volunteer boards at will**. This level of political interference would create **instability across all City-appointed boards**, making it nearly impossible for them to function effectively. If Councillors can override long-standing frameworks whenever they see fit, no volunteer board in the city will have certainty in its role, membership, or ability to operate independently.

### **Vote Against Motion EX20.5**

Rather than penalizing the Moss Park Arena board for its commitment to community access and its efforts to operate under difficult circumstances in a unique neighbourhood, the City should be **supporting it with proper capital investment** and ensuring that **governance policies are applied fairly to all Arena Boards of Management**.

I urge you to **vote against Motion EX20.5** and instead advocate for a **comprehensive review of arena governance policies** to ensure fairness, consistency, and equity across all City arenas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Karin Fritzlar  
Vice Chair, Moss Park Arena Board