

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

I am writing to you as a **concerned member of the Moss Park Arena Board**, urging you to vote against **Motion MM26.10**, which seeks to rescind the appointments of all current board members, except two, **without justification or due process**. I write as an individual board member, not on behalf of the board itself.

This motion raises **serious concerns regarding governance, fairness, and ethics**, and I believe it sets a troubling precedent for how volunteer boards across the city are treated. I ask that you reject it for the following reasons:

1. Violation of the Public Appointments Policy

This motion **directly contravenes the [City of Toronto's Public Appointments Policy](#)**, which was designed to ensure fairness, transparency, and good governance in the appointment of board members. It violates multiple sections of the policy:

Section 1.6 (Arena Boards – Variations to Policy Only in “Unusual Circumstances”):

- The policy **explicitly states** that variations to the appointments process should occur **only in “unusual circumstances.”**
- **No such justification has been provided** for the removal of the current board. The absence of a valid reason makes this motion an **arbitrary and politically motivated decision** rather than a governance necessity.

Section 2.1 (Eligibility & Appointment Criteria):

- All current board members were **vett ed and approved** by the Public Appointments Office to ensure they met the required skills and experience for the role.
- The motion **seeks to remove qualified individuals with no justification** and replace them with appointees chosen **outside the City's established process**.

Section 4.2 (Term Lengths & Board Continuity):

- Each board member was appointed for a fixed term, with some **beginning their terms only two months ago**—appointments that the Councillor **himself supported**.
- The motion **ignores these term limits** and removes all members at once, eliminating institutional knowledge and disrupting board continuity.

Section 5.3 (Recruitment & Selection Methods):

- This section mandates that public board appointments be made through **a fair, transparent, and merit-based selection process**.
- Instead, the motion seeks to appoint individuals who have **personal ties to the Councillor (e.g., award recipients, co-volunteers, campaign donors)**—a **clear conflict of interest** and a direct violation of the city's commitment to open and fair recruitment.

Section 9.2 (Standards of Conduct for City Appointees):

- The motion undermines public confidence in the integrity of the City's board appointments by **politicizing the selection process** and disregarding governance best practices.

2. Addressing the Councillor's Claims About Board Oversight

The Councillor has argued that Moss Park Arena suffers from “**a significant lack of management oversight and effective administration**” and requires more “**strategic and financial expertise**” on the board.

This claim is **demonstrably false**. The existing board already has members with expertise in strategic planning, financial oversight, recreation, marketing and communications, data science, public policy, and community engagement.

Furthermore, the Councillor's assertion that the arena has **failed to address maintenance issues** is misleading. In fact, the arena has been constantly making repairs thanks to City-led delays in capital replacement funding and infrastructure challenges linked to promises of a new arena from the former Councillor that never materialized.

Instead of acknowledging these systemic challenges, the Councillor is unfairly **shifting blame** to a volunteer board that has **worked tirelessly** to keep the arena operational.

3. Moss Park's Financial Challenges Are Misrepresented

The motion implies that Moss Park Arena is mismanaged. This ignores the reality of our **unique role in the community**:

- **Moss Park provides the only free house league hockey program in Canada.** The cost of subsidizing this program is **\$90,000 annually**, a line item **no other volunteer-run arena takes on**.
- **Subsidized or free ice time is provided for schools, public skating, and community groups.** Many other arenas charge full rates, but Moss Park ensures access for:
 - **The Central Toronto Skating Club (CTSC)**, which runs Toronto's **only Special Olympics skating program**
 - **Learn-to-skate programs for local children** who would otherwise not have access to the sport
 - **Community and school groups** who rely on the arena for affordable programming
- The cost of providing free or subsidized ice time during the years of emergency funding was **approximately \$60,000 per year**.

4. The Reality Behind Moss Park's Emergency Funding Requests

In his verbal comments at Executive Committee in response to [motion EX20.5](#), the Councillor notes that Moss Park has applied for **emergency funding in two consecutive years** but **fails to acknowledge the reasons why**:

- **Post-COVID slow return**: Like many community spaces, it took time for users to return to pre-pandemic levels.
- **Metrolinx construction impact**: The new Ontario Line station **eliminated over half of our parking spaces**, making it difficult for teams, skaters, and families to access the arena.
- **Deferred capital repairs**: For years, City Councillors assured us a **new arena was coming**, so major capital replacements were postponed. When those plans fell through, we were left **maintaining failing infrastructure well past its life expectancy**.

- **Urgent safety repairs:** When the new Councillor took office, we met with him to stress the need for immediate repairs. These were not cosmetic improvements—they were **necessary to prevent health and safety violations**. Instead of supporting this work, the Councillor pushed for a brand-new arena while ignoring that **Moss Park would not survive that long without urgent repairs**.

This is not mismanagement—it is **survival**. Without adequate City support, we have been forced to make **piecemeal repairs**, driving up long-term costs.

5. The Fundraising Proposal – A Misrepresentation of Events

The Councillor argued at the Executive Committee that the board **rejected** his proposed fundraising plan. This is misleading. The truth is:

- The **Councillor proposed a ball hockey tournament in August**, assuming that Moss Park Arena **removes its ice in the summer**.
- **We do not remove the ice in the summer**, as we have summer ice rentals that generate revenue.
- Hosting the Councillor's event would have **required us to remove the ice at our expense, costing the arena lost rental revenue**.
- The board **never rejected the plan**—we simply pointed out these logistical issues and asked for adjustments.
- **At every board meeting he or his staff attended afterward, we asked for updates on his plan. No updates were ever provided.**

6. Abuse of Power & Circumventing Governance

It is my personal opinion that the Councillor believes his **vote should carry more weight than other board members**. The role of a board is to evaluate all ideas based on feasibility, cost, and impact. However, the Councillor has **visibly displayed aggravation** when his suggestions were questioned or refined.

Instead of respecting the democratic process, he is now **using his position on City Council to bypass board governance entirely and install a hand-picked board that will not challenge him**. This is a dangerous abuse of power.

A Call for Fair Governance

Moss Park Arena serves the community, and its board should be governed **transparently, ethically, and with respect for due process**. If changes to the board are needed, they should be made **through proper procedures—not through political interference**.

I urge you to **vote against Motion MM26.10** and uphold the principles of fairness, accountability, and good governance.

Sincerely,
Karin Fritzlar
Vice Chair, Moss Park Arena Board