

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Cricket Reference Group (CRG)

Meeting 5 Summary

February 10, 2022

Alex Lavasidis, Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
Matt Bentley, Facilities Master Plan Project Manager
Susan Fall, Supervisor, System Planning



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Attendees

Community Reference Group Members

Brampton-Etobicoke and District Cricket League – Praim Persaud
Canadian Police Cricket Club League - Melvin John
CIMA – Ranil Mendis
Community Sport Collective – Heather Mitchell
Cricket Canada – Keith Deonaraine
Cricket Ontario – Shah Saleem Zafar
Global T20 Canada - Wendy Kane
Ontario Twilight Softball Cricket League – Azeem Khan
Scarborough Cricket Association – Shiv Persaud

Members not in attendance:

Bangla Warriors Cricket Club – Abu Rubaid Alam
Cricket Canada Masters Council – Akshay Pandya
Greater Toronto Cricket Club – Qhinathullah Mohammed
Ontario Softball Cricket League – Kumar Jaipersaud
Open Member (Scarborough League Player) - Kannan Rajagopal
Superstar Colts Coach – Abdool Mudassar Samad
Toronto & District Cricket Association – Mohammed Shaikh
Toronto Police Cricket Club – PC Amir Butt

City of Toronto

Alex Lavasidis – Senior Public Consultation Coordinator
Matt Bentley – Project Manager, Facilities Master Plan
Susan Fall – Supervisor, System Planning

These minutes are not intended to provide verbatim accounts of discussions. Rather, they summarize and document the key points made during the discussions, as well as the outcomes and actions arising from the CRG meeting.

Introduction

This document provides a summary of the virtual meeting of the Cricket Reference Group (CRG) held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

These meeting notes and the presentation, along with more information about the CRG and the development of the City's Cricket Strategy can be found on the project webpage at www.toronto.ca/CricketStrategy

Meeting Goals

Meeting goals included:

- Review the accomplishments of the CRG in 2021
- Review and confirm the revised CRG Terms of Reference
 - Discuss CRG membership and brainstorm additional cricket community members to invite to the CRG
- Share the 2022-2031 Staff Recommended Capital Budget and Plan
- Review the proposed CRG 2022 Work Plan
 - Gather suggestions for additional discussion topics

Discussion

The CRG discussion is summarised below, by meeting topic. Please reference the CRG Meeting 5 presentation posted to the [project webpage](#) for additional context and presentation slides.

Updates and Announcements

Program, park, and pitch updates were provided by staff and then CRG members.

- Cricket Strategy
 - The Cricket Strategy will be published to the project webpage in 2021 and reported with the Sports Field Strategy in 2023 with the new term of Council.
 - A draft of the Cricket Strategy will be shared with the CRG in Q1 of 2022 for feedback and comment before broad circulation.
- Scarborough Cricket Association (SCA) hosted indoor cricket at the Pickering Soccer Centre with 5 teams this winter, with some games delayed to March. Positive response from the cricket community, with an anticipated increase in demand for the 2022/2023 Winter season.
- The SCA hosted a dinner to recognize and celebrate 4 of their players heading to the International Cricket Council (ICC) U19 Cricket World Cup:
 - Matthew Nandu playing for the West Indies U19 Team.
 - Matthew has also played for the Brampton Etobicoke & District Cricket League, and the league is very proud of his accomplishments.
 - Arjuna Sukhu and Ethan Gibson playing for the Canadian U19 Team.
 - Surendra Seeraj appointed as the Canada U19 Team Assistant Coach.
 - The Cricket Reference Group members discussed how significant these players are on the world competition level, the role of Cricket Ontario in supporting player development and recognized that there are many other strong high caliber young players in Toronto and the GTA.

- New Pitches outside Toronto:
 - [Thunder Bay](#) converted a baseball diamond at Chapples Park to have its first cricket pitch.
 - Cricket fields have also been recently approved in [Clarington, Oshawa and Whitby](#).
- CRG members encouraged the City and each other to use social media platforms to celebrate the success of local players internationally, and to recognize the ongoing growth of cricket in the GTA.
- A CRG member suggested contacting the Guyana Chronicle to run a story on the success of Toronto cricket players and the growth in the sport. Interested CRG members will connect offline to discuss, including Ontario Twilight Softball Cricket League and Cricket Ontario.
 - [Cricket Canada Magazine](#) provides a good example of articles highlighting the achievements of players.

Terms of Reference

- Staff presented a revised Terms of Reference. Following a discussion (below), all members in attendance agreed to the Terms of Reference.
- Staff asked CRG members if there are representatives missing from the CRG, and who could be invited to join the CRG to bring in more voices representing youth, women, and people with disabilities.
 - The Cricket Ontario representative shared that they have women and youth programs. They can provide contacts as required.
 - Staff will follow-up after the meeting to discuss the potential for adding new members to the CRG.
 - The Canadian Police Cricket Club League representative noted they provided staff with the contact information of two teachers from the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) involved in student cricket.
 - Staff confirmed receiving these contacts.
 - The representative also suggested connecting with Jonathan Wood from the Toronto Accessible Sport Council.
 - The CIMA representative noted that they represent youth programming at a grassroots level.
 - Staff will follow-up after the meeting to discuss the potential for adding new members to the CRG.
 - The Scarborough Cricket Club Association noted that they run women and youth programming.
 - Staff will follow-up after the meeting to discuss the potential for adding new members to the CRG.
 - The Cricket Canada representative noted that there have been about 12 in-school virtual cricket programs running in the GTA, which have been well received. They can connect staff to members who have been involved in these youth programs.
 - Staff will follow-up after the meeting to discuss the potential for adding new members to the CRG.
 - The Community Sport Collective suggested local community members from various Toronto neighborhoods join the CRG to ensure all areas of the City are represented.

- Other CRG members responded that there are representatives on the CRG that do represent various geographies of Toronto, and that representation in cricket should not be based on strict geographic boundaries, as given the lack of cricket facilities to meet demands, many cricket players and leagues operate across municipal boundaries, wherever there is playing and practice space available. It is important that end-users of cricket facilities are represented.
 - Staff responded that the implementation of facilities operates according to the Facilities Master Plan, which is built on working with local communities. The City goes back to communities wherever new facilities will be located to ensure community fit and support of the new field.
- The Scarborough Cricket Association representative noted that the broader public have been engaged in the development of the Cricket Strategy, through a City-Wide town hall that included a callout to those interested in sitting on the CRG. The representative noted that the CRG is made up of key stakeholders but that it will be important to continue to engage the broader public through other channels.
- The Brampton-Etobicoke and District Cricket League representative noted that it will be important to ensure all new members agree to the Terms of Reference and are working to promote the growth of cricket for all.
- The Canadian Police Cricket Club League representative inquired what percentage of permits for Toronto cricket facilities are going to local community groups and how field permits are issued to groups with players inside and outside of Toronto, including internationally.
 - Staff advised they would research and then provide that answer in the meeting notes. A review of the City's Permit Allocation Policy can be discussed at a future meeting.
 - Response: All field permits are administered through the Council adopted Permit Allocation Policy. See Allocation Policy [here](#)
- Members also discussed the opportunity for the Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) to be involved, to provide insight into the progress of cricket in other municipalities/jurisdictions.

2022-2031 Staff Recommended Capital Budget and Plan

- CRG members discussed how the demand for new cricket facilities exceeds the investment allocated by Council. They noted that the current implementation plan for new facilities is provided on too long of a timeline. A CRG member inquired what proportion of the overall budget allocated to the growth of all sports in the city, is allocated to cricket.
 - Staff advised they would research and then provide that answer in the meeting notes.
 - Response: The Council adopted 2022-2031 Capital Plan identifies \$5,839M for 5 new cricket (\$2,500M), 4 new mini soccer fields (\$250K) and 6 new full size soccer fields (\$3,120M). The ten year plan provides

43% of natural turf field funding for new cricket fields and 57% for new soccer fields

2022 Cricket Reference Group Agenda

- Proposed 2022 meeting topics included:
 - Field Maintenance
 - New Field status updates
 - Draft Cricket Strategy review
 - Programming opportunities
 - Promoting and growing the sport
- Suggestions for additional agenda items included:
 - Permit Allocation Policy
 - Lighting (Suggestions included G Ross Lord Park, Sunnybrook Park and a Scarborough location)
 - Tape Ball and Tennis Ball cricket
 - Design options for shared used fields such as flex wickets and natural turf
 - Design innovations in cricket

Next Steps

- Members to email any other ideas for growing the sport of Cricket in the City of Toronto or additional feedback to Susan Fall.
- Staff will circulate the 2022 Terms of Reference, and post a version to the project webpage.
- Staff will circulate a meeting summary. Please review and provide any edits within a week.
- Tentative date for the next meeting is April 21, 2022
 - Note: Updated post-meeting to April 12.

Contact Us

For questions or comments related to this project, please contact:

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