

## Report to Community & Protective Services Committee

**To:** Chair and Members  
Community & Protective Services Committee

**From:** Kelly J. Scherr  
Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure

**Subject:** Sports Court Donation  
by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation

**Date:** November 23, 2021

## Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the proposed donation of a Sports Court by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation:

- a) that the donation of a multi-use sports court by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation **BE ACCEPTED** as per the City's Donation Policy; it being noted that the value of the donation is estimated to be \$250,000;
- b) that the hiring of ERA Architects to design and carry out contract administration for the construction of the project by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation at their expense **BE APPROVED** as per Section 14.4 (i) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy as a Single Source contract, SS21-45;
- c) that subject to the approval of recommendation (a), and determining a location for the multi-use court, Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to enter into a formal agreement with Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation and establish a capital project budget based on the final amount of the donation, and;
- d) that Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation **BE THANKED** for their generous donation to support London's youth and their physical and mental health and social engagement.

## Executive Summary

Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation has offered to donate a multi-use sports court to the City as part of their on-going strategy to support youth in communities across the province.

Under the Donation Policy, Council is required to approve the receipt of this donation, valued at approximately \$250,000. In addition, Council needs to also approve the "Single Source" hiring of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation's design consultant to carry out this project.

This report outlines the details of the proposed donation and work to date by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation to engage the community, and the next steps in scoping the project and determining a suitable location.

## Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

This project builds on Council's strategic priorities:

### Strengthening Our Community

- Increase the number of residents who feel welcomed and included
- Increase participation in recreation, sport, and leisure activities

## Analysis

### 1.0 Background Information

#### 1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

None

#### 1.2 Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation

Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment recently brought the Toronto Maple Leafs and Toronto Raptors sports teams to London for public access practices. As part of that event, the Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation (MLSEF) announced a commitment to work the City of London and the local community to upgrade an existing outdoor court space to be inclusive of the changing demographics and growing population of London youth.

To support their generous offer, the MLSEF team has provided the following background information:

The MLSE Foundation is an organization built on the belief that sport has the power to change the world. Our fight is to provide equitable access to sport and opportunity on the playing field that leads to success and opportunity off the playing field. With the support of the Toronto Argos, Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors and Toronto FC, we are committed to investing \$30 million over four years to help youth recognize and reach their potential.

With the support of our teams, we have spent the last decade intentionally investing over \$45 Million into kids and communities faced with systemic barriers. Using the power of sport as a unifying force, we're committed to helping youth reach their potential and creating more equal playing fields for all.

Equity is the heart and soul of our work. We invest in the next generation by creating access, building capacity and empowering youth. We create spaces, give to sustainable programs, and deliver best-in-class sport programs.

Vision: Changing lives through the spirit and power of sport.

Mission: Improving the lives of youth by building facilities, giving to sustainable programs and empowering youth through sport and recreation.

MLSEF's overall goal of using sport to build stronger communities aligns with London's Parks & Recreation Master Plan Vision: *In London, all residents - regardless of age, ability, culture, gender, income, or where they live – have the opportunity to participate and share in meaningful and accessible parks, recreation and sport experiences.*

In London, the MLSEF has already reached out to many local communities and groups and have indicated that their goal is to “work with the City of London and local Muslim Mosques to develop an infrastructure investment rooted in community need. The investment will provide greater access, foster deeper empowerment within communities, and create opportunities for leadership in the areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion. By taking a stand against hate we will Change the Game.”

In numerous communities, MLSEF has built similar projects that deliver on their goal and vision. A recent project in Scarborough can be found at: [Celebrating community-led design with Gordonridge | ERA Architects](#) . This multi-use sports court is shown in Appendix “A”.

## **2.0 Discussion and Considerations**

### **2.1 Donation Policy**

The City's Donation Policy section 4.1a) states that “[t]he City reserves the right in its sole discretion to accept or decline any donation”, and that “donations exceeding \$100,000 will be presented to City Council.” This report outlines the details of the proposed donation, work to date by MLSEF to engage the community in scoping the project, and next steps, should Council accept the donation.

### **2.2 Consultant Hiring**

The donor has advised that they wish to use ERA Architects to carry out the design process and supervise the construction of this project. ERA has worked many times with MLSE and carried out similar projects elsewhere, including the Gordonridge Courts project attached as Appendix “A”. Under the City's Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, approval of Council is required to hire a consultant with fees over \$100,000 as a “Single Source” as outlined in Section 14.4 (i) - *Another organization is funding or substantially funding the acquisition and has determined the supplier, and the terms and conditions of the commitment into which the City will enter are acceptable to the City.* ERA Architects will work directly for MLSEF but comply with all City of London policies and procedures for the design of an amenity in a public park.

### **2.3 Public Consultation**

With the advice of Rumina Morris, City of London Director, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression, City staff, MLSEF staff, and their consultant will continue the community discussion about the best location and ultimate design of this park amenity.

MLSE Foundation's consultants will lead a design process that will satisfy the City's Public Notice Policy (March 2019) for recreation facilities and parks. It is expected that this consultation will begin in January 2022. Further consultation will include the neighbourhood in which the amenity will be installed, once it has been determined, to seek additional input.

## 2.4 Project Timing

If Council chooses to accept the donation on December 7, 2021, City staff will work with MLSEF and their consultant to establish a timeline for the project. Project steps include: public consultation, design meetings with the community and stakeholders, tender document production and tendering the works. Typically, these steps take 6-8 months to complete, assuming no significant issues arise during the process. A tentative construction start date is June 20, 2022.

## 3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

Further discussions with MLSEF will take place regarding their potential participation in the ongoing maintenance of the multi-use court, potentially reducing the City's required commitment. If necessary, should that ongoing support not materialize, funding may be requested through a future budget or assessment growth process to support the ongoing operating costs of this new park amenity.

Depending on the location and nature of the work required, this project could fall within either the City's Lifecycle Renewal (replacing / upgrading an existing asset) or Growth (new assets) categories of capital projects. Future end-of-life replacement costs (after 15 years) will be requested via the appropriate future financial process (budget or assessment growth), subject to the determination of the location and nature of this project.

Part of this donation may be eligible for an official income tax receipt for the fair market value of the court as assessed by an independent appraiser or supported by documentation satisfactory to the City Treasurer.

## Conclusion

Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment Foundation has offered to donate a significant park amenity to upgrade existing services in the City of London. With Council's approval, this multi-use sports court would provide a greatly enhanced recreational and social experience for London's youth.

**Prepared by:** Andrew Macpherson  
**Manager, Parks Planning and Operations**

**Submitted by:** Scott Stafford  
**Director, Parks and Forestry**

**Recommended by:** Kelly J. Scherr  
**Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure**

**APPENDIX A**

**MULTI USE SPORTS COURT AT GORDONRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD  
SCARBOROUGH. ONTARIO**

