

MINUTES SPORTS ORGANIZATION REFERENCE GROUP (SORG)

Saturday, May 3, 2014

9:30 am to 11:30 am

Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall

Council Chambers/Foyer

ATTENDANCE

Parks Manager Lead: Ray Stukas
 Parks Standards & Innovation: Ed Fearon (Chair); Doug Smith
 Parks Staff: North York: Roger Macklin, Parks General Supervisor, Kevin Caissie, Parks Foreperson
 Scarborough: Ben Ryzebol, Parks Supervisor
 Toronto/East York & Waterfront: Bob Ward, Parks Supervisor
 Etobicoke York: Mike Martin, Parks Supervisor
 SORG & Maintenance Irene Cullum, Ed McConnell Heather Mitchell, Jason Robinson, Joanne Davidson

Regrets: Dave Black, John Hendriks, John Morgan, Andrew Pace, Jack Brown, Aaron Falcioni, Rick Greif, John Steele, Paul Charbonneau, Paul MacLeod, Howard Birnie, Richard Helfrich, Ron Gerskup, Steven Davis, David Turcotte, Mike Yen, George Whyte, Mike Burke, Patrick McConnell, Sue Protaska, Karen Somerville, John Primeau, Melvin John, Kevin Arnsdorf,

Minutes: Liz Kouri

No	Item	Action & Follow up/Notes
1.	Minutes: March 22, 2014	Approved Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned by: Ed Fearon • Moved to approve the minutes: Irene Cullum • All in favour and carried without dissent
2.	Sports Field Updates	Turf Conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winterkill has caused turf damage that has affected ball diamonds and sports fields to various degrees across the City • Spring growing conditions to promote recovery have been poor 2014 Field Opening Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1 – Ball Diamonds • May 10 – Sports Fields <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1st ball diamond opening problematic because of the winter weather; turf not recovered • Normally at this time of year, we're cutting grass

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our equipment could cause ruts as the turf is saturated • 7-day delay to opening ball diamonds, the City of Toronto has offered baseball permit holders to add 1 week at end of permit • Ray to email Park Managers to find out which sports fields are affected by the weather, for opening on May 10th • It would be helpful if we had 50 degree weather and dry not raining • IT is working on a Twitter link to update sports field information as required. • Customer Service developed a web page for closures of diamonds/fields; this service is from Monday to Friday 8 am to 3 pm • Sports & Recreation Permits - Announcements: This new service went LIVE on April 28, 2014, below is a link. • http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vnextoid=Oddf137135b85410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vnextchannel=1b3adada600f0410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vnextfmt=default • Heather Mitchell, Toronto Sports Council will place this link on the TSC's web page as well as post the SORG Minutes <p>Playability & Responsibility Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officials, coaches and permit holders need to embrace the Playability and Responsibility guidelines to ensure turf sustainability
3.	IPHC Program	<p>Practices to Date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning a recovery from winter kill (<i>The Perfect Storm</i>) • Irrigation boxes still have ice within • Staff are monitoring damaged turf conditions daily • Taking soil sample/plugs removed from turf to examine the condition of the grass and root zone. • Wait and hold with contingency planning should the wet weather continue. • Some staff are hand seeding; tarps down on turf to support germination of grass seed • Turf is 2 weeks behind regular growth rate • Normally at this time parks are aerating C fields but saturated turf does not allow for heavy equipment to be used until turf dries out. <p>Program of Excellence -- Turf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks staff are providing the IPHC Sport Fields staff with a comprehensive orientation/training program for turf management purposes: Fertilize Aerate Seed Topdress (FAST) • Based upon the premise that staff understand why they are doing a specific best practice as well as how to do it. • Involves both in class and equipment demonstration components

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		<p>Action & Follow up/Notes</p> <p>First Session: Introduction, Orientation, IPHC (Integrated Plant Health Care)</p> <p>Module 1: In Class – Soil types, soil compaction, soil tests In Field – Aerating equipment, Turf Diagnostic Instruments</p> <p>Module 2: In Class – Fertilizer blends, Purposes In Field – Equipment & Calibration</p> <p>Module 3: In Class – Sport Turf Seed Blends, Purposes In Field – Equipment & Calibration</p> <p>Module 4: In Class – Topdressing blends, Purposes In Field – Equipment & Calibration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPHC program is 33 weeks long, this year it will be 30 weeks • Area Supervisors will be responsible to cut fields and groom diamonds • With 17 groomers, it will be difficult to meet standards • Ball Diamond Groomers will be re-trained thru City staff this year <p>Equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug brought in a 'soil core probe' as well as the equipment that can diagnose soil compaction and spoke about their uses in the field • Sharing equipment between districts such as the Klopping Hardie for ball diamonds (attached to tractor) used to condition warning tracks. 
4.	Annual Audit	<p>Cricket</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred to next meeting <p>Audit Template</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Members prefer excel template; same as last year • Customer Service (permits) to send to permit holders to complete • Members to respond by June 30 to parkssportsfield@toronto.ca • Ray to ask Customer Service to put template on the web page • Toronto Sports Council to put on their web page • City staff to cross reference 2013 audit to 2014 audit

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5.	Field Reclassification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Staff are working on reclassifying diamonds and sports fields based on the Council approved Rating Standards • The reclassification will take effect in 2015
6.	Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will ask Customer Service (Permits) to attend next SORG meeting; Ray to follow up • Members want to know where the City stands with respect to 9x9 soccer fields • City staff to identify fields that can be used for 9x9 and perhaps move mini soccer elsewhere <p>Field Capacity: Hours of Play Threshold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Turf Association (STA) provides guidelines for maximum hours of field usage based on turf/soil science. Some fields are permitted well over maximum guidelines. Need to calculate thresholds for different sports • Synthetic fields can permit 2000 hrs <p>Next Meeting: Thursday, September 18, 2014, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm; Monarch Park Stadium: to be confirmed</p>

Meeting Adjourned: 11:30 am