



A S S O C I A T I O N

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Coquitlam Votes – October 15, 2022

As many of you know on Saturday October 15th the City of Coquitlam will be electing a new city council (8 seats) and mayor (1) for a four year term. The CFSA membership discussed, at the September meeting, a manner in which we could elicit information and feedback from those individuals who put their names forward for election to city council.

We have canvassed the candidates for their views on sport facilities and their visions for future outdoor sporting and recreation needs. As a result of those discussions the CFSA put forward a “survey” to candidates. We are of course also aware of some candidates through previous interactions either with the CFSA and/or city council.

Our goal in getting direct feedback from these candidates was to determine how they view the needs of “field sports users” and a commitment to maintaining and developing additional facilities. We have had two successful sports field strategies that established clear plans for the future.

We are aware that it can be easier to answer questions in a survey then to have demonstrated through actual actions. Having said all of that, the CFSA executive did come to consensus in our discussions, and feel it is important to ask that you provide this information to your membership.

We understand that there are other issues that city council will need to address and such as housing affordability, transportation and finances, and our goal is to work with council to make Coquitlam one of the most desirable places to live and encourage our community to be active in as many ways possible.

What now.

We recognize that the information we are providing is based on our own CFSA experiences, and the responses we read from the returned surveys. While each and every club and member has the opportunity to make their own decision we hope that you will pass on our support of the above candidates as a part of providing information on making an informed decision.

The past and future of how field sport organizations achieve their own successes needs a supportive community and city council.

The election is Saturday, October 15th, and CFSA members can make a difference by encouraging all of our members to vote so hopefully you'll do your part in getting this information out

Dave Jones
Chair
Coquitlam Field Sports Association



Candidates for Council (2022)

We are reaching out to connect with candidates for municipal council in the upcoming City of Coquitlam elections on behalf of Coquitlam Field Sports Users and community non-profit organizations supporting families and youth in Coquitlam, as well as the surrounding Tri-Cities region.

First and foremost, incumbent, or new candidate, we wish to thank you for your service to our community. It is a critically important role, which demands commitment, courage and balance, and at many times can be a thankless role. Thank you!!

Our requests for your support are grounded in the following:

1. We know the City is **motivated to be the best**, as evidenced by the 2021 Annual Report (<https://bit.ly/3S2tk7l>), which highlighted a “a banner year for awards”, such as UBCM Community Excellence, BC Top Employer, GFOA financial/budgeting, BCMSA Safety Excellence, CNAM Asset Management and Communities in Bloom awards.”
2. We believe the City is **committed to the “Benefits of Recreation”**, as highlighted by the City of Richmond (<https://bit.ly/3BD4upo>), supported by Parks & Recreation Ontario (<https://bit.ly/3xnphKU>) as being “Essential for Quality of Life” and delivering quantified “Economic Benefits” by NRPA (<https://bit.ly/3qCncXI>) and the City of Plano (<https://bit.ly/3qDZXwx>).
3. We **appreciate the blessings** of being members of our community and the efforts of the City to deliver best value and inclusive services to ALL citizens, as well as efforts to activate and support community groups through Volunteer Support Hub, Support & Recovery Plan, Spotlight on Sport and the Sports Fair; not to mention the quality facilities. **The City and School District are recognized as our PRIMARY stakeholders.**
4. We believe that “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” (Benjamin Franklin), that “Treatment without prevention is simply unsustainable.” (Bill Gates) and that public sector agencies (and others) are challenged when it comes to **investing in prevention**, as described in Social Finance (<https://bit.ly/3eShZIT>).

Coquitlam is fortunate to have a dedicated group of organizations and volunteers that provide access to both organized and casual sporting activities that is both diverse, inclusive and equitable. These contributions and services are a significant part of what makes Coquitlam a quality, progressive and affordable community to live in.

We are looking for your support, as well as comments or suggestions, on the strategic issues identified in the attached CFSA backgrounder and seek your perspectives on the series of questions we have posed around these issues.

While some may describe sport groups of having “unreasonable expectations and being too sophisticated”, we understand and support the diverse needs of the community, as well as the belief that you must give to get. We support our fellow community organizations and respect their efforts, along with ours, to make Coquitlam the “go to” community for families looking for active and healthy lifestyles grounded in physical and mental wellness. We recognize that our key stakeholders (City & School District) are ESSENTIAL to the delivery on our missions to the community. We support making Coquitlam the healthiest and best places for families to raise kids.

We are open to the guidance, counsel and direction on how to best support the City (and School District) in attaining this lofty mission and are looking for continued evolution of our partnership – one that is innovative, candid, understanding and mutually respectful.

Thank you for taking valuable time to review our submission and consider our questions.

We look forward to engaging with you.

Sincerely,
Coquitlam Field Sports

CFSA Backgrounder for Candidates for Coquitlam Council

A. Sport Field Capacity

Although we should be extremely proud and thankful for the facilities provided by the City, which we are, we are currently average at best, as evidenced by Vancouver Parks Report of April 9, 2019.

Table 1: Synthetic Turf Playing Field Provision in Metro Vancouver, ranked lowest to highest

Municipality	2016 Population	# of Synthetic Turf Fields	# of Synthetic Turf Fields per 100,000 residents
Vancouver	631,486	12	1.9
Surrey	517,887	15*	2.9
Burnaby	232,755	8	3.4
Coquitlam	139,284	5	3.6
Richmond	198,309	8	4.0
Langley(City + Township)	143,173	7*	4.8
Delta	102,238	5*	4.9
North Vancouver (District + City)	138,833	7*	5.0

** including future synthetic turf projects approved or currently under construction*

“Recreation planners cite a figure of one turf field for every 15,000 people in a community” according to Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows News, so Coquitlam is projected to require ten (10) synthetic turf fields, a shortfall of 4 when the new Centennial High School field is considered.

The challenge is compounded when you look at population growth since 2016 (Coquitlam has grown 6.7% to 148,625) and think about the projected densification and development in the Town Center area!

In addition, city staff have recently added individual sport’s standard of play when allocating facility times, increasing the demand for additional fields. As an example, for the sport of soccer, CMFSC is a Canada Soccer National Youth Club Licensee and are required to meet Canada Soccer minimum playing standards. Current analysis indicates a need for FOUR additional turf fields 100% allocated to soccer from 5-10PM Monday to Friday.

The initial Field Strategy envisioned the development of “general use” synthetic turf surfaces that would support most, if not all sports in some manner. Since the original strategy in 2003, we now realize that there are some sports that require a more specialized surface (field hockey) to function and grow as a sport organization. When considering that this sport is primarily female based and is limited by the type of playing surface available. The creation of a sport specific field/ facility, that would still provide usage to other sports, even if on a limited basis, is clearly required

B. Facility Quality & Equity

Synthetic turf fields, due to the quality of the experience, adaptability to west coast rain forest weather and ability to standup to intensive use are the primary focus.

Many of our sports groups have declined to use natural turf (grass) and few, excluding soccer, are required to access all-weather, gravel fields, at all. While many sports would welcome the ability to play solely on grass as it is healthier and kinder to the body, it is neither reasonable nor possible.

Our largest sport club, CMFSC, despite intense utilization and volume of players on synthetic turf, CMFSC are still required to have upwards of 10 teams utilizing gravel fields annually.

The use of all-weather (gravel) fields does not fit in with or adhere to what is basic level of playing surface that any sport would expect to be forced to utilize in today's sporting environment. From poor field condition, wear and tear and equipment and greater risk of injury from the surface itself, most sports and communities have ceased the use of gravel fields and in some cases converted those fields to a synthetic turf surface.

This form of surface negatively impacts any sports ability to provide a quality experience that encourages participation and keep citizens active.

C. Facility Fees

A major factor when the City sought approval for the Casino in 2005, was the request of youth sports groups, and their families, for support. The request came with a commitment to across-the-board discounts for all sport facilities user fees and included a commitment to eliminate sport fields use fees for youth (See D below).

Since that time, and in the face of growing casino revenues (excluding pandemic), non-league play (camps, academies) were excluded and are now subject to fees.

Fifty-five percent of Coquitlam citizens in the City's Sport Fields Strategy survey supported NO field fees for outdoor youth sports.

Coquitlam remains unique amongst comparable municipalities in having access to casino revenues to support youth sport and recreation.

D. Value & Investment

The discussion of user fees, subsidy and community benefit always present challenges for decision-makers, so we propose an approach, previously executed by the City, to frame such discussions and provide greater transparency around use of tax dollars.

We believe fact-based, data analysis to be foundational and that the report contracted by the City with David Hewko in December of 2015 for the Arena Services and Facilities Study to be an excellent starting point, as it covers, to highlight a few, capital costs, operating costs, usage and subsidy analysis.

This type of analysis, across all PRC facilities, is essential to delivering on Master Plan strategy #5 - Optimize the Use of Public Facilities and Amenities (#5)

E. Partnerships & Innovation

The City identified in the PRC Master Plan the importance of Service Delivery through Partnerships (#2) and highlighted such partnerships deliver services & facilities “at far less cost than what the City could build and operate on its own.”

Examples identified in the plan included Planet Ice, covered tennis facility, Douglas College, School District 43, Place des Arts, Evergreen Cultural Society, Société Place Maillardville Society, the Coquitlam Public Library, and the Coquitlam Heritage Society. Since the Master Plan’s release, the City has concluded a partnership with the YMCA, which is to be commended, but does not outweigh or offset our concerns.

Partnership proposals from tennis, curling and soccer have been rejected. The City and the School District negotiated a land swap/facility development while an RFI was in process between soccer and SD43 for a covered indoor facility. Société Place Maillardville Society (a community non-profit in existence for 40+ years) was removed from the rebuilt community centre!

When we look at our neighbours in Port Coquitlam (BC Soccer, Sport Alliance), the municipalities of Burnaby (Curling), Surrey (Cloverdale Fieldhouse, South Surrey Indoor), Langford (Covered Indoor, Rugby Canada partnership, Pacific FC) & Township of Langley (Van FC), we feel that we are falling behind in terms of innovative and entrepreneurial partnerships, many of which come with federal or provincial grants and/or charitable funding.

Questions attached below.

Please return completed questions to Dpjones108@gmail.com



Questions (Please Refer to Background Information)

A. Sport Field Capacity

How can Coquitlam maintain and increase the inventory of current and future turf fields to maintain alignment with Individual sport standards of play?

Do you support the creation of a specific sport facilities, such as a dedicated field hockey surface? Please explain.

Do you support sport specific facilities being embedded as part of the new Sport Field Strategy and why (or why not)?

B. Facility Quality & Equity of Access

Do you support, equality in allocation of facility assets (i.e., prime-time turf (best) and gravel (worse) based on equal % of total hours for each user group and minimum standards for participants/field/hour? Why or Why Not?

Do you support ceasing use (allocation) of all-weather (gravel fields) through either addition of a new field facilities and/or the conversion to a more suitable playing surface?

C. Facility Fees

Do you support maintaining free access to sports fields for youth sport activities? Yes or No? Why or Why Not?

D. Value & Investment

Do you believe the financial investment and return on investment analysis, as illustrated in the City's Arena Services and Facilities Study (authored by David Hewko) in 2015 should be applied (and published) for all PRC facilities to support data-driven, transparent decision making and ensure equity and validate community benefit?

E. Partnerships & Innovation

Do you share our concern that the City is lagging on the delivery of Service Delivery through Partnerships (PRC Master Plan #2), resulting in and highlighted such partnerships our inability to deliver services & facilities "at far less cost than what the City could build and operate on its own" and allowing other municipalities in innovative partnerships? Please explain.

Please return completed questions to Dpjones108@gmail.com

C O Q U I T L A M ● ● ●
Field Sports
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Richard Stewart - Mayor

“Richard Stewart has a long history of actively supporting community sports and recreational activities. Over his time as Mayor of Coquitlam, we have seen the growth and expansion of quality facilities throughout Coquitlam have benefitted both organized and casual users. His experience as Mayor, and commitment to maintaining active and affordable opportunities, for all residents has been demonstrated over many years. As outdoor sport and recreation activities continue to grow it is Richard’s experience and leadership that we need and look forward to working with over the next four year.”

Matt Djonlic – City Councilor

“Matt’s outreach and commitment to Coquitlam Sports and Recreation activities is important to the Coquitlam Sport Field Users who assist over 9,000 registered sport users the ability to access affordable quality facilities. We look forward to working with you as part of city council to enhance outdoor spaces our community enjoys and appreciates every day.”

Craig Hodge – City Councilor

“Craig has shown his commitment to Coquitlam over numerous years through his support of upgraded and new sport, and recreation facilities. His leadership on the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee demonstrated a clear understanding of the growing needs of the city for both organized and casual sport users, and with several challenging projects to come in the next four years, Craig’s experience will help guide these initiatives to completion. We look forward to working with Craig over the next four years.”

Trish Mandeweo – City Councilor

“Ms. Mandeweo brings together a balanced and thoughtful understanding of the community’s growth and value in outdoor sport facilities. Recognizing the challenging aspects of growth and access, make Trish’ ideas even more important for our growing city. Her approach to collaboration and new partnerships provides guidance for the future. We look forward to working with Trish over the next four years”.

Dennis Marsden – City Councilor

“Dennis has demonstrated his commitment to the City of Coquitlam by supporting sport and recreation activities. He has been part of decisions made to update current and create new facilities, for both casual, and organized sport users. We are excited to hear about his commitment to continually improving access for all community members, while maintaining affordability. Dennis’s experience, knowledge and commitment to Coquitlam is what we all need, and we’re looking forward to working with him for the next four years.”

Robert Mazarolo – City Councilor

“We are pleased to hear about your ideas on access and development of initiatives that support sport and recreation activities, for all residents of Coquitlam. Robert Mazarolo’s experience as a volunteer and his commitment to the community, as whole, will make him a great addition to city council”