

Meeting Minutes
City of Brampton's Sports Group Consultation
Wednesday May 13, 2020
10:00 to 11:00 am – via Skype

Key Speakers:

Host: **Martin Medeiros**, Regional Councillor Wards 3 & 4 (Lead)
Moderator: **Mikkel Marr**, Director, Organizational Performance and Strategy (Staff Lead)
Working Group Coordinator: **Emily Sung**, Advisor, Performance Measurement
Parks: **Rob Gasper**, Director, Parks Maintenance & Forestry
Recreation: **Anand Patel**, Director, Recreation
Brampton Emergency Management Office (BEMO): **Rick Bernard**, Supervisor, Emergency Management

The meeting commenced at 10:13 a.m. and adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

1. Introductions – Mikkel Marr

- Today will be the first of many stakeholder meetings.
- We will open the floor for feedback and suggestions. We would like to hear how you have prepared for reopening and what you have been doing over the last several weeks.
- Questions, feedback and thoughts may be typed in the comments section or any time going forward to Covid19ReopenCity@brampton.ca.

2. Reopening and Recovery Working Group Update – Councillor Medeiros

- This meeting is the first in a series of stakeholder consultations. Your organizations are vital to keeping our youth and adults active and healthy.
- The guidance from Peel Public Health and the Provincial and Federal government will remain crucial throughout this process.
- We want to hear from everyone on how we can safely and gradually open indoor and outdoor sports opportunities for our residents.
- Brampton's reopening will be a phased-in approach with full guidance and support from our medical officers and public health experts.
- In consultation with the Mayor and colleagues in Council, we will develop a plan and recommendation and then ask staff to bring a plan back to Council in terms of how we open up.
- We would like to hear from you on 3 key issues:
 - How are you preparing to address health and safety when we are ready to open our indoor and outdoor facilities?
 - What are your key concerns?
 - What supports and resources do you require from the City?

- All input will be consolidated into a report and reviewed with Peel Public Health to ensure public safety in this process remains at the forefront.

3. Staff Update

- Parks:
 - Grass cutting has commenced for all sports fields, at a reduced cutting until we receive more information on when we will be opening our fields.
 - We are also cleaning and preparing the tennis courts.
- Recreation:
 - The recreation team has been working with the different task forces to develop options for individuals to stay healthy and active.
 - A new section was added to our website - www.brampton.ca/recreation with content to include everyone (virtual fitness, arts and crafts for kids and parents and a digital café, specifically for seniors).
- BEMO:
 - We will be looking at all the guidelines and taking a consistent approach to all services moving forward, in line with what the Province is recommending.
 - There have been additional cleaning, disinfecting and signage posted throughout the buildings. Some were already implemented before the closing.
 - We are looking at other additional measures that will be implemented, still in the preliminary stages.

4. Q & A*

When are employees returning to work?

- The framework is being developed in stages. We are currently in stage 1. We don't know what will be reopening at this time.
- There are some groups that have continued working. (I.e. Animal Services – adoptions by appointment only).
- Recreation buildings will follow the lead set out by the Province. There is a working group to ensure control measures are in place.

Will the City of Brampton be allowing tournaments to be held in 2020?

- Information will be decided by the Province based on their guidelines. Once the Province rolls this out, we will be able to provide more information.

Is Sports bookings and increased time being built in (i.e. ice time and larger restraints)? How will the City be handling bookings for user groups as: some other sport groups that would typically rent in the summer may look at extending their season and will hit against the fall bookings and if there's increased time being built in for people to get on/off the ice, ice time will be greatly reduced so there will be a larger strain on the resources we have within the City.

- While we have been in contact with the user groups, it's premature to look at right now. We will work closely with the groups to follow the guidelines from the organizing bodies.

Brampton Minor Baseball

At the point the Province allows for a return to recreational and sport activities, how long will it take for the youth groups to get access to the facilities?

- It will be a couple of weeks for recreation to start building the schedules out and work with the user groups.
- From a maintenance perspective, the City is ramping up right now and will be ready when the Province gives the go-ahead to begin the sports season.

Skate Canada Brampton - Chinguacousy

Are there intentions to implement Facility/Rental area caps? Specifically for us, we are interested if there will be a cap on how many participants may be on one ice surface at one time. Do you have any ideas on what these caps may be?

- We will be leaning on the user groups to talk to the organizing bodies. There will also be a conversation with the user groups based on their use and needs. This will be built upon depending on the provincial, regional and corporate direction.

Will there be follow-up meetings?

- This is the first of many meetings. We expect and encourage the conversations and to plan together to maximize facility use.

There was a question with respect to fees and rental fees and if there was anything in the works within the City to help accommodate associations fee-wise.

- There has been no discussion on this. This is something that can be discussed offline to work within the groups and to have a discussion with Council.

Brampton Cricket League

Cricket being a no contact sport, we are in good shape to maintain some social distancing. Will the City be providing hand sanitizer at the cricket or soccer fields? Internally, we are looking to advise our umpires/officials to carry hand sanitizers for the players and themselves, but if the City is able to set up some stations that would be great. Is there any plan for the City to implement something on the fields?

- That is an option that we are looking at right now and we do not have an answer at this time. We may look at having the player bring their own sanitizer as an option for discussion. This would be an extension from the facilities as long as it is on the City property. More information to come.
- If we can have the different sports groups start planning for that as it would be difficult to administer all the fields across the City. With respect to cricket being a non-contact sport, there are still concerns with people on site and the change of ball from hand to hand and player to player. We look forward to the groups' thoughts and we will continue to have the discussion. We may have to discuss based on each sport and based on what each group is doing on their end.

Brampton Cricket League

The struggle with the cricket fields is there is one bleacher or a couple of benches but how do they socially distance? Do we have players bring their own chair and place 6 feet apart? Will the City have plans to introduce more seating or temporary set-ups so that players can socially distance from each other?

- Since seating is limited, we may have to look at either rental seating or purchasing more seating. This will be a bit of an issue at the beginning, as we don't have capacity to bring in more at this point and we will have to come up with alternative ideas.

United Sports Club Brampton Inc.

We have players ranging from 4-16 years of age and the City has mandated the opening of fields from July 1st. The challenge is how do we keep 4 and 6 year olds and parents apart? I don't think soccer should be opened up this year.

- There is no firm plan to reopen on July 2. As we lead up to those dates, we will continue communication within the groups to align with the Provincial rules and guidelines.

5. Comments

Once things open up, it would be great if the City can provide extra hand sanitizer for user groups, extra staff on-site to enforce social distancing guidelines, etc.

- Many different hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout our recreation centres and corporate facilities. BEMO is currently in discussion with the internal groups on how to control and make sure safety remains the top priority for everyone.

We have heard of varying ideas regarding how hockey facilities will manage public traffic flow including not having parents/spectators in the arena, having athletes comes fully dressed and just put on their skates and go, etc. These types of guidelines may/will not work for some para ice hockey athletes (i.e. some need transfer assistance from a parent, length of time to get on/off of the ice if reduced access to change rooms happens, etc.).

- Staff have been in contact with the groups and the lines of communication are open. We will work closely with each group to discuss on a case-by-case basis.
- Recreation staff have been in contact with our user groups as well, understanding that para and youth sports is a staple in what we do.
- Please reach out and have those conversations with our sports and rental staff now. As the governing bodies communicate information, please send that through so that we can build a plan for when we reopen.

Brampton Canadettes Girls Hockey

We met with the OWHA last week and there is no plan as to the start date of the hockey season this year and how it will be played out since social distancing impossible on the ice or bench. The only challenge they are facing is that the City is asking for ice allocation, we don't know as we don't know when the hockey season is starting. They are asking if the City can rebook the ice time with the contracts the same as last year. They can then give 3-4 weeks notice based on the OWHA. Other hockey groups are facing the same timelines and challenges with respect to ice allocation.

- Thank you for your comments, these are the types of conversations we want to continue to have.

Brampton Girls Softball Association

There has been talk within our groups about ordering masks and setting up fences to separate players and parents and to supply hand sanitizer and soap and water and even taking temperatures. The challenge is with young ones and how to separate them from their parents. The only need from the City is to have the diamonds up and ready to go.

- Our spring program hasn't changed. We are focused and prepared to launch as soon as we get the go ahead from the Province.

It would be nice for groups using indoor facilities to get help with renting fees as we are taking a big loss.

6. Closing Remarks – Councillor Medeiros

- Council is cognizant of the financial crunch in the different sectors, including the user groups.
- We are looking toward the Province and Federal government as a result of the impact the municipalities have had to see what financial supports are available.
- One of the discussions we will have is the hit the user groups are taking and what type of supports we can provide financially looking towards our Federal and Provincial partnerships to provide funding.
- Our number one goal is to ensure safety.
- Council is prepared to take additional measures to what the Provincial guidance is. One example would be to suggest certain hours are given to seniors for safer operations.
- For more information regarding the City of Brampton's response to COVID-19 and related information, please visit: <https://letsconnect.brampton.ca/>.

We have included additional questions and answers below that were submitted via Skype after the meeting ended.

Skype Chat:

Youth and Men's Hockey

How will we handle dressing rooms, showers and such?

- We will be increasing the frequency of cleanings and will manage traffic flow to our recreation centres. Some amenities may not reopen in the first phase of our Recreation centre reopening.
- We will continue working closely with our sports user groups and their governing bodies, as well as take input from residents.
- Please stay up to date by visiting: <https://letsconnect.brampton.ca/reopening>.

Brampton Youth Volleyball

As the Province updates their stages, will the City update the various groups and how these updates affect their operations etc.?

- The Mayor's Reopening and Recovery Working Group continues to be committed to reintroducing programs and services in a manner that is consistent with prioritizing resident safety above all else. Following the advice of Peel Public Health and the Ontario government's directive that Recreation centres remain closed, the City is not yet reopening facilities. As more updates become available, we will most definitely be in touch with user groups. Feel free to continue connecting with the Sports and Rentals Unit. Additionally, residents are asked to continue checking brampton.ca/COVID19 for updates.

COBRA Swim Club

Will you be setting up individual meetings with the sports groups?

- The Mayor's Reopening and Recovery Working Group continues to be committed to reintroducing programs and services in a manner that is consistent with prioritizing resident safety above all else. Following the advice of Peel Public Health and the Ontario government's directive that Recreation centres remain closed, the City is not yet reopening facilities. Since swimming pools are located within our facilities, they will remain closed until further notice. Residents are asked to continue checking brampton.ca/COVID19 for updates.

COBRA Swim Club

Presuming that we will be restricting the # of people in an area, will the City consider providing online streaming in facilities so that the sports groups can ask the parents to drop off the children and watch from elsewhere?

- This is an area that will need to be revisited and have legal weigh in as well from a privacy perspective. With minors utilizing our facilities, we do not have cameras within active use areas (we do have cameras from a security perspective at major entry points and common areas as required). Previously we did explore options for streaming within the centres and at outdoor fields, but did not proceed at that time.