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**TO:** GENERAL COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT:** UPDATE ON BARRIE DISC GOLF LAND USE AGREEMENT

**WARD:** 5

**PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT:** S. DIEMERT  
MANAGER OF DESIGN (EXT. 5150)

**SUBMITTED BY:** R. SUTTON, P. ENG.  
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

**GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL:** R. FORWARD, M.B.A., M.Sc., P. ENG.  
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH  
MANAGEMENT

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL:** M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

1. That the Land Use Agreement for the use of the Barrie Disc Golf Course by the Barrie Disc Golf Association as detailed in Staff Report ENG009-18 be endorsed.
2. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to enter into a Land Use Agreement with the Barrie Disc Golf Association for the annual use of the Barrie Disc Golf Course for a five (5) year period starting January 2018, including the potential for an additional five (5) year extension, on terms acceptable to the Director of Engineering, the Director of Roads, Parks and Fleet, and the Director of Legal Services.

**PURPOSE & BACKGROUND**

3. The purpose of this staff report is to update General Committee on the success of the Disc Golf Course throughout the last five (5) year term with the City and propose that a new five (5) year Land Use Agreement continue the successful partnership with the Barrie Disc Golf Association ("the Club").
4. In 2012, the City undertook the Amendment to the Official Plan to rezone a portion of the Sandy Hollow Landfill Buffer to change its zoning from Environmental Protection (EP) to EP-Special to permit the installation of a proposed 18-hole disc golf course by the Club. See attached for a map of the lands for the course. As a requirement of the rezoning, the Club was required to enter into a five (5) year Land Use Agreement to undertake the design, maintenance, and management of the course with the assistance of City staff. This initial agreement did not include a roll-over clause as there was initial concern as to how the sport would develop, and to avoid a long-term commitment for a sport that was new to the City of Barrie.
5. One of the conditions of the agreement was for the Club to provide to the City annual insurance coverage for the use of the course for their events and activities. For 2017, the Club provided coverage under their Master Policy with the Ontario Disc Sports Association and listed the City of Barrie as an additional insured party.
6. As the previous agreement was effective from June 29, 2012 to June 29, 2017, the Club would like to renew the agreement for a five (5) year period with a further renewal option for an additional five (5) years.

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## ANALYSIS

7. In 2016, 47 new members joined the Club for their regular “League Night” play at the course, bringing the total membership to approximately 90 members. This program was in its third year and has proven to be a successful way to recruit new players to the game. In 2017, the Club saw incredible growth with the largest increase in female memberships.
8. The Club has had regional affects for the City, drawing players from Barrie, Angus, Oro-Medonte, Midland, Innisfil, Midhurst, the GTA and the Collingwood and Blue Mountain areas. In addition, the Club has an active Facebook group with over 200 followers. Our success has led to other courses being built and planned in Simcoe County and beyond, including Orillia, Collingwood, Tottenham, Springwater (Tiffin Centre) and Bracebridge.
9. The parking lot is often full on weekends, and vehicle overflow parking typically occurs on Benson Drive, using the walkway to access the park.
10. Four (4) local schools now have disc golf clubs, and are using the course for their physical exercise and team activities (Innisdale Secondary School, Bear Creek Secondary School, Eastview Secondary School, and St. Joseph’s Secondary School).
11. In 2017, the Club held the following tournaments/events at the course:
  - a) The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Sandy Hollow Open – This Professional Disc Golf Association tournament doubled in attendance since 2013, with 84 players from all over the province registered in 2017. They often bring friends and family members and stay the weekend in the Barrie area, bringing tourism revenue to our City each year. We also had five (5) of the top ten (10) Canadian Disc Golf Champions attend the Sandy Hollow Open, which has developed into a marquee event on the provincial calendar for the sport;
  - b) The inaugural tournament intended to raise money for Youth Haven Barrie;
  - c) The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event directed at those who are new to the sport; and
  - d) The first junior division with three (3) competitors aged 15 and under, and the first women’s Masters Division for women over 40.
12. In 2017, the Club worked with City staff to install concrete patio stones at each of the 18 tee blocks to give the course users better traction during play. Sponsorship of tee block signs helps to offset costs to install infrastructure such as benches and small shelters.

## Future Event Planning

13. The Club has been approached by the provincial governing body, the Ontario Disc Sports Association, about hosting a weekend provincial championship event in 2019. An event like this would attract nearly 200 disc golfers from across the province. Midland hosts a similar “A-tier” type weekend event annually, which they estimate brings roughly \$20,000 in revenue to area hotels, restaurants, and shops.
14. To prepare for this provincial championship, the Club would like to add two (2) holes to the course to improve flow, safety, and capacity. The two (2) new holes would be within the existing course limits, and would not require any further maintenance by City staff. The Club would fund 100% of the expansion.
15. In addition, the Club would like to open discussions with City staff on the establishment of a temporary course in close proximity to the Sandy Hollow Course for this two (2) day event. While Sunnidale Park is being proposed, City staff would have to research and report back to General

Committee before any decision is made. Other locations and competition logistics would be discussed at the same time.

#### City Operational Support

16. City staff undertake the following tasks within the disc golf course throughout each playing season:
- a) Turf maintenance of meadowland areas at a minimum of two (2) times per month with general turf on a more frequent basis;
  - b) The provision of portable toilet facilities;
  - c) The planting of trees between fairways;
  - d) Maintenance of hazard trees adjacent to the golf course;
  - e) Litter collection including clean-outs for the in-ground garbage can;
  - f) Trail inspections;
  - g) Parking lot upkeep; and
  - h) Bi-annual spraying for poison ivy.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

17. There are no environmental matters related to this staff report.

#### ALTERNATIVES

18. The following alternative is available for consideration by General Committee:

##### Alternative #1

General Committee could decide to not continue the Land Use Agreement with the Club and turn over the operation of the disc golf course to City staff to manage and control.

This Alternative is not recommended for consideration as the partnership with the Club has allowed low capital cost improvements to be made to the site at no cost to the City. In addition, turning over operations to the City would result in a higher service level requiring more dedicated staff hours be spent on managing the site with the number of tournaments, activities, and participants that use the site on an annual basis.

##### Alternative #2

General Committee could choose not to renew the Land Use Agreement and close the disc golf course.

This Alternative is not recommended as the partnership with the Club has resulted in the disc golf course becoming a marquee attraction for the City both locally and across the province, with the site hosting annual tournaments and bringing tourists, players, and visitors to Barrie, supporting our local economy.

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**FINANCIAL**

19. The implementation of the pilot project under the first agreement with the Club did not include additional resources for parks and forestry operations. Staff have reorganized their duties and resources to now include additional maintenance requirements to support the disc golf course at its present level of service. Should the new agreement be modified to require additional staff resources based on a more intensive use of the site, an additional staff report or intake form will have to be provided to address the financial implications of this more intensive use.

**LINKAGE TO 2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN**

20. The recommendations included in this staff report support the following goals identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:
- Inclusive Community
21. The development and success of the disc golf course supports the above Council strategy by promoting and facilitating community connections, and providing a great public space, despite being a new sport for the City of Barrie. The course has, over the past five (5) years, turned this underutilized open space area into an active sport program for the public, school teams and clubs to use while being a location that can host marquee events at local and provincial levels. This success has brought new exposure of the sport within Barrie, and has helped Simcoe County become a destination for this activity.

Map of Lands for Disc Golf Course

