

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Community Services Manager
DATE: 7 May 2009
SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to the Hope Reserve Management Plan

PURPOSE

To advise the Committee of a necessary amendment to the Richmond Ward Reserves Management Plan and in particular the Hope Reserve section of this plan and to recommend public notification of the proposed amendment.

BACKGROUND

As part of the 2008/09 Annual Plan process, the Hope Tennis Club applied for funds towards the construction of four new courts at the Hope Reserve. There are currently six courts at the reserve and over the past few years these have all been upgraded to astro-turf and now all have lighting for night use.

The use of these astro-turf courts has increased dramatically, mainly in the area of senior tennis.

Council agreed to provide \$150,000.00 towards the estimated total cost of \$243,000.00 for these four new courts and, as a result, the club has been busy fundraising to cover the balance. They are now almost ready to commence work.

DISCUSSION

By chance, staff were recently checking the Hope Reserve Management Plan Policies and found the following:

Policy 9.3.6: Limit tennis to the existing six courts.

Explanation: there is provision for a substantial increase in tennis courts at Jubilee Park in Richmond.

While the explanation with the Policy was at the time correct, both clubs have since grown in numbers and as mentioned earlier the Hope club is mainly used by seniors.

Therefore before any work can commence on the four new courts an amendment will need to be made to Policy 9.3.6 of the current plan limiting tennis to a maximum number of courts eg 10 or 12.

Limiting the maximum number to 10 (current six plus the new four) would more than likely meet the club's needs for many years and in the meantime a full review of the Richmond Ward Reserves Management Plan will have been undertaken which will provide the opportunity to reassess the maximum number of courts required in the longer term.

OPTIONS

- 1 Advise the club that the Management Plan has a limit of six tennis courts and that until the full review of the Management Plan is undertaken no additional courts can be constructed.

Note: this would probably result in the Hope Tennis Club having to refund all the funds they have raised for these new courts. This option is not recommended.

- 2 Proceed with a full review of the Richmond Ward Reserves Management Plan as soon as possible and delay any work on the new courts until the review is completed.

Note: this process is lengthy and also quite costly with no funds allocated for the review at this time. This option is also not recommended.

- 3 That an amendment be made to the Management Plan as permitted under Section 41(9) of the Reserves Act 1977, to change the wording of Policy 9.3.6 to read "Limit tennis to a maximum of 10 courts".

This would require public notice to be given detailing the proposed change.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT pursuant to Section 41.9 of the Reserves Act 1977, public notice be given that the wording of Policy 9.3.6 of the Richmond Ward Reserves Management Plan be amended to read "Limit tennis to a maximum of 10 courts".

L L Kennedy
Community Services Manager