



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

MEMORANDUM

TO: Patti Bridal, Chief Administrative Officer **FILE:** 6140-20
PC: James Rice, Director, Operation Services **DATE:** May 11, 2023
FROM: Kendra Kryszak, Manager, Parks and Public Spaces
SUBJECT: **FUNTASTIC - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**

Administration received a letter (Attachment A) from the President of the Funtastic Sports Society on March 17, 2023. The society indicated it is looking for support from the City to reduce rental costs and increase baseball diamond maintenance.

On April 26, 2023, Administration met with Funtastic Society representatives to discuss specifics regarding their requests in their letter. The society indicated that they are facing several increased costs related to their event and are investigating all options to reduce costs to ensure the event continues in the future.

In the meeting, Administration advised the society that it would not recommend a reduction in the rental fees as it sets a precedent for other user groups. Administration also advised the society members that a review of the Parks fees and charges is currently underway and will include input from staff, user groups and bench marking from similar communities.

On May 1, 2023 Funtastic President, Jamie Austin provided an email (Attachment B) detailing the additional parks support that they are requesting for the event including:

- No charge for unused diamonds (Schedule to be provided by Funtastic)
- Field drags after 2 games
- Field lining twice a day
- Increased washroom cleaning
- General field maintenance, removing lips and filling depressions

The society is requesting that this support be provided on an ongoing annual basis.

Operations currently provides significant support for Funtastic including pre-event site clean-up, barricades, parking lot grading/dust control and permanent staffing of the washrooms for the duration of the event. The items noted are currently funded from the Parks Operating budget at an estimated cost of \$13,000.

The additional service requested by the Society, not including removing lips and filling depressions, is estimated to cost an additional \$9,000 and would be completed by a combination of City and Contractor support. The loss of revenue resulting from not charging for unused diamonds cannot be determined until a Schedule has been provided

by the society. Under standard operation, the City requires 30 days notice of field cancellation for a full refund.

Removing lips and filling depressions is a significant item that could not be completed this year due to available resources. The estimated cost to complete this work is approximately \$90,000 (\$10,000 per diamond). Administration does not recommend preceding with this particular item until Council has endorsed the Parks Asset Management plan that is scheduled to be presented to Council by the End of June.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive for information the memorandum titled "Funtastic - Request for Additional Support" dated May 11, 2023, respectfully submitted by the Manager, Parks and Public Spaces;

AND FURTHER, that Council advises Funtastic that the City of Vernon currently provides \$13,000 in resources for the event which includes pre-event site clean up, barricades, parking lot grading/dust control and permanent staffing of the washrooms for the duration of the event.

ALTERNATIVE:

THAT Council receive for information the memorandum titled "Funtastic - Request for Additional Support" dated May 11, 2023, respectfully submitted by the Manager, Parks and Public Spaces;

AND FURTHER, Council authorize Administration to provide additional support during the Funtastic event including field dragging after every two games, field lining twice a day, and increased washroom cleaning as outlined in the memorandum titled "Funtastic - Request for Additional Support" dated May 11, 2023, respectfully submitted by the Manager, Parks and Public Spaces, at a cost not to exceed \$9,000 to be funded from 2022 Unexpended Uncommitted Balance;

AND FURTHER, that Council authorize Administration to bring forward a service level increase for consideration during the 2024 budget deliberations to provide Funtastic event support at an annual estimated cost of \$9,000;

AND FURTHER, that Council direct Administration to waive the 30 day field use cancellation notice and not charge the Funtastic Society for diamonds that are not used during the Funtastic tournament.

Respectfully submitted:

Kendra
Kryszak

Digitally signed by: Kendra
Kryszak
DN: CN = Kendra Kryszak OU =
CQV Users, Yards
Date: 2023.05.16 14:08:22 -0700

Kendra Kryszak, Manager, Parks and Public Spaces

Attachment A: Funtastic Letter
Attachment B: Funtastic Email

Approved for the Agenda by the CAO





Funtastic Sports Society

**PO Box 21072 Polson Place PO
Vernon, BC V1T 9T7
Ph: (250) 558-7756**

**Email: office@funtastic.org
www.funtasticsports.ca**

March 10, 2023

Dear Mayor Cumming, Mr. Ovens and Ms. Kryszak,

I am writing on behalf of the Funtastic Sports Society, once again, regarding the costs of the DND fields for our up coming July long weekend tournament.

We as a society feel the City of Vernon's rates for the field rentals are extremely high for the quality and playing shape the diamonds are in and also the lack of field maintenance during our event.

I have spent many hours talking with other municipalities regarding their rentals and what is all entailed.

- The City of Kamloops rentals for an adult tournament are \$178.66 / game. This fee includes the city liming the fields and dragging the infield after each game.
- The City of Kelowna charges an hourly rate of \$18.50 /hr per field for an adult tournament, again followed by liming and dragging done by their parks department.
- The City of Vancouver charges \$16.90/hr with the maintenance covered.
- The City of Surrey charges \$15.66/hr with the maintenance covered
- The City of Abbotsford charges \$45.00 per game with no maintenance.

The City of Vernon charges the Funtastic Sports Society \$204 per game, an additional \$31 per hour for lights and we have to hire our own private contractor to take care of the maintenance. The Funtastic Board is seeking to have the City of Vernon be willing to work with us to help reduce the costs of the rentals and include maintaining these fields. We understand that if the City offers this assistance to one Society, they will be requested to do the same with other organizations, but please take into consideration, that it was with the contribution of Funtastic funds, that the majority of the diamonds at DND were built. The Funtastic Capital Asset committee is in the process of seeking funds to upgrade the diamonds ie dugouts, protective edging on fences, etc and the funds saved from paying rent will allow us to put it towards that project. This will be a benefit for not only Funtastic, but the City, and other users of the diamonds.

The Funtastic Sports Society is a non profit organization that has been contributing to the Greater Vernon area in the area of sports since 1985 and have given back over \$2.1 million to the community. We believe in the community and will continue to support it if we can reduce some operational costs to

keep the Society and the Slo pitch and Music Festival successful. Funtastic is the largest economic draw in Vernon and we want to see it continue on for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JA', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jamie Austin,
President
Funtastic Sports Society

Chris Ovens

From: Funtastic Sports Society <office@funtastic.org>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 6:46 AM
To: Chris Ovens; Kendra Kryszak
Subject: Funtastic Field Maintenance
Attachments: 2022 Field Maintenance Agreement.pdf

Use Caution - External Email

Good afternoon,

Thank you again for taking the time to sit down with us the other day regarding our fee rental concerns.

As per our conversation, our wishlist is as follows..

1. The Funtastic Sports Society requests to not be charged for diamonds not used during the tournament. A schedule will be provided once registration has been closed.
2. The Funtastic Sports Society would like to see C.O.V. to include the field maintenance in the rental fee. The fields to be dug after 2 consecutive games and the fields limed twice a day.
3. . The Funtastic Sports Society wishes to not be charged for washroom cleaning throughout the weekend.
4. The Funtastic Sports Society would like the C.O.V. to consider removing all the associated lips from the infield to outfield transitions. Filling all low lying and depressed areas, and creating positive drainage on all fields.

Please see our current honorarium attached:

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Jamie Austin,

President

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Diana Williamson

Administrative Manager

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FIELD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT 2022

BETWEEN:



AND:

FUNTASTIC SPORTS SOCIETY (VERNON)

Key contractual obligations and responsibilities of [REDACTED] will be as follows;

1. Shall supply a field maintenance and set up on DND and Graham diamonds.

Thursday, June 30th - 5:00 PM to 10:15 PM

Friday, July 1st - 7:00 AM to 10:15 PM

Saturday, July 2nd - 7:00 AM to 10:15 PM

Sunday, July 3rd - 7:00 AM to 2:30 PM

2. Field maintenance will include but not be limited to, repairing and raking the Home plate area and batters boxes, cleaning of the strike plate, repairing and raking the baselines and infield areas where required, by hand. On occasion may also include replacing broken bases or broken straps and repositioning dislodged bases.

3. Field set-up:

Wednesday, June 29th from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM, and

Thursday, June 30th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM,

to set all bases and install required field signage.

4. Take down:

Sunday, July 3rd from 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM

to remove all bases and signage from fields for tear-down.

5. [REDACTED] agrees to support Funtastic Volunteer Program policy. This requirement will include a brief registration, orientation and signing in and out during this event.

Key contractual obligations of the **Funtastic Sports Society (Vernon)** will be as follows;

1. Funtastic will supply all replacement parts, tools and game time and production schedules to help with arranging required field maintenance times.
2. Funtastic values the volunteer contribution of [REDACTED] towards Funtastic. A reward system has been introduced and shall apply to ALL of their volunteers. To qualify, ALL volunteers must comply with number 5 above and the Funtastic Sports Society volunteer policy.
3. If [REDACTED] is using his own motorized vehicle in field maintenance duties, he understands the Funtastic Sports Society does not take any responsibility or insurance regarding such vehicle. The responsibility lies solely with [REDACTED].
4. Funtastic Sports Society will pay to [REDACTED] One-Thousand-Three Hundred Dollars (\$1,300) for his services. This fee will be paid to Harold Shewchuk no later than July 31st, 2022.

[REDACTED]

Diana Williamson, Administrative Manager
Funtastic Sports Society

Date

Date