

May 2, 2020

Re: Update on Lighting at RLTC

Dear Rockcliffe Neighbours and RLTC members:

We hope this message finds you well and able to enjoy the beautiful weekend. The Board of Directors of Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club want to take the opportunity to update you on the status of the lighting project at RLTC. Over the last few months there has been much discussion around the benefit of the tennis court lighting and its significance to both the Club and the neighbourhood.

With the advance of COVID-19 restrictions and physical distancing, there has been a natural pause in the project development. As many of you already know, there are strong opinions on both sides of the project. We are taking advantage of this timely opportunity to re-evaluate feedback from our neighbours and encourage additional discussion on both sides. This includes within the club membership where some opposition has recently emerged, in contrast to our internal consultations before the last AGM.

We respect and value our neighbours and are committed to engaging in healthy, positive conversations. To reassure our neighbours, the Board has decided to hold off on further project development until there has been ample discussion. We will collaborate on the timing of these discussions as we feel they are best held in person and not in an email or video-conference format. Once COVID-19 restrictions have eased, we can collectively discuss the best steps forward. Additionally, the Board will freeze collection of the lighting levy until we have consensus on the best path forward.

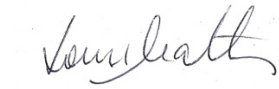
The RLTC has never intended to disrupt the community or create controversy. The lighting plan has been discussed and debated with neighbours and club members for many years and we are the third Board of Directors to take an active role in its development. We recognize the importance of discussing in detail the current lighting plan with our direct neighbours, but in retrospect recognize we should have engaged with them earlier to help avoid misunderstanding with regards to the impact which the lights would have on our closest neighbours.

The City of Ottawa issued us a Heritage permit with full confidence in the value of the lights for the tennis club and reiterated their stance that the lights are not in conflict with Rockcliffe's Heritage Plan. With this in mind, the RLTC felt confident that lights would add to the benefit of the neighbourhood by strengthening our community club which has been in existence for 97 years and is an integral part of the fabric of our community.

There is no doubt the value of heritage within our neighbourhood is an important element of Rockcliffe Park. There are also other important elements that make our community vibrant and encourage strong community spirit. These include promoting active living, cherishing green space, providing safe spaces to raise our families, and encouraging strong community facilities. Collectively these elements help strengthen our neighbourhood and bind together the stories and fascinating people of our community. The recent addition of the Rockcliffe Rink project is a wonderful example of creating a shared purpose and encouraging active lifestyles that bridge generational gaps and bring our neighbours together. That rink project, which includes year-round lighting, has made our neighbourhood stronger, more vibrant, and tremendously engaging. The RLTC has a long-standing history of helping to strengthen our neighbourhood, and we will continue to focus on that priority.

The RLTC wishes you well in these uncertain times. COVID-19 has created an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear in all parts of the world and we have no wish to increase this anxiety. We will continue this discussion once we are able to gather once more as a true community.

Kindly, and with respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louise Malhotra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Louise" being more prominent than the last name "Malhotra".

Louise Malhotra

On behalf of The Board of Directors of the RLTC