

**Pinelands Meeting
Lower Oval
2026-03-18**

[Riad Davids]

My name is Riad Davids. I'm the local ward councillor for Pinemins. With us as well, we have Siraj from the city and Wadia Bedford from the city as well.

This is an information session. It was requested by many, many people in terms of the process. So this is not part of what we call an official public participation process.

It is an information session. And if anybody has questions, we're going to try to answer it, although the process is saying something in the writing and get an official response in the writing. Because in that way, there's no confusion in terms of what your question is.

And there's also no confusion in terms of what the answer is. And we'd like to really stick to that. One thing I'd like to say right now is many people are going to ask extension of the comment period.

And Siraj, we've got it. That will add 30 days to that period. Yeah.

So the comment period will still remain open on the lease for another 30 days after the expiry, which will probably put it then, if you look at the ads that were put out, the latest date was 2nd of April. So we could something like the end of April. Yeah, so the 30th of April will be your comment period.

Everybody that has a question, anything you want to know, please put it in, and we'll send that in writing. The next thing I've asked is if you can, as you all spread out here, we need to give everybody an opportunity. So if cricket could be in one section, Frisbee in a section, people that live around the Oval immediately that you call the most impacted in a section, and then other users or anybody else that we call other, if you could be somewhere else, in the fourth section.

Because in that way, we can then give each person an opportunity for a grouping. But if we're going to be standing like this, it's gonna be very difficult to get through everything in one information session. Could we please do that, if I could ask maybe cricket to be here?

Okay, no, no, no, I'm just asking, so you're saying no? Okay, so it's no, okay, well, it was just a suggestion, not a problem, if you want to be all over the show, it's absolutely fine, we'll still try to get through everything. The residents that are impacted, you also want to just be all over, and that's it, okay, absolutely fine, thanks.

So what I've done is we have Hockey here, and I'd like to start with Hockey in terms of them showing you what the set out one is, I've asked Jack to set it out in Hockey's bin here, so that you have an idea of the size of it. Because many people think that Astro's gonna be from this fence to that fence, from the top end right through to the bottom, the Hockey field is not even 20% of that size. So maybe, Jack, we could ask you to do that, except I just want to ask, Siraja, Wadia, do you want to say anything, not at all?

Okay, that's absolutely fine, thanks. So if we turn around, Jack, can you just take us through that, please? Please, are we going to need the spare mic?

Yeah, because otherwise no one is able to hear or record. It is being recorded, if anyone has an objection to that, you are most welcome to leave, but we can't control that side of it, so if you're not comfortable with yourself being recorded, you'll have to leave the meeting or say nothing.

[Jack Thonissen]

Otherwise you'll be recorded, thanks. Thanks, Riad, my name's Jack Thonissen, President of the Pinelands Hockey Club for the last three years, resident at Pinelands for 41 years. As you can see, the AstroTurf is on this side of the field, I'll point it out to you now.

Traditionally cricket and hockey could coexist because you have one AstroTurf on this side of the cricket pitch and one AstroTurf on that side of the cricket pitch. So what we've laid out here, if you can see the orange cones, there's a corner there next to the far corner of the cricket pitch there, there's a corner next to the Athletics Club, there's a corner right here, just almost, Luke, put up your hand, yeah, there's a corner there, and then there's a corner over here, if you can see me pointing, just here. So that is an AstroTurf, 91 meters long by 55 meters wide, you can see it obviously takes up less than 20% of the overall oval.

Correct. Yeah, the runoff is traditionally two meters, probably on either side, one meter sometimes on the width, and the runoff is not really big at all, to be honest. Yeah, it's not, yeah.

[Riad Davids]

So, yeah, look, if we're not going to allow people to speak, and if people are gonna heckle, we will just call the end to the meeting and we'll follow the normal process. This is an information session, please respect that because we're gonna get nowhere if people are going to shout and complain. Jack's just answered a question, if you didn't like wanting to answer it and you don't like the answer, you was very truthful in the answer, then don't ask the question, but we have to work in the process that we're gonna get somewhere because there are a lot of people that want some information.

So I think the first thing I'm going to do is I'm going to then allow, if Jack wants to give any more information, or otherwise we could first ask Cricket to speak. Okay, Cricket, you have five minutes. We can do questions afterwards or do you want me to do questions first?

It's entirely fine. You wanna do questions now? Okay, all right.

Okay, so give your name, I have a secretary taking minutes. Give your name and your interest and then from there we'll try to answer the questions.

[Diane]

So I've got two questions. My first question is.

[Riad Davids]

Sorry, your name first?

[Diane]

Sorry, Diane. Diane. If the size that you need for your Astro is as described, then why is the lease proposal for the entire bottom field plus the wings of the top field, why do you need all that space?

I'll just ask my second one. My second question is, have you secured the funding of the nine million that you need to build the Astro? And if so, from whom?

[Jack Thonissen]

Thank you. What was the first question again? What is it?

Oh yes, okay, sorry. In our report, in our statement that we released, Appendix A, which is printed over here, it clearly says that we need to do geological surveys on the ground to see if the ground is suitable to put the Astro. Obviously if you're gonna invest nine million Rand, you need to make sure that the ground is stable, that we're not building on an old rubbish dump or for whatever reason, I know this field floods, that can also be fixed.

So that's why we've applied for the entire space because we do not know where the AstroTurf needs to be or whether it's safe to put it there. We've identified four different spots that the AstroTurf can be put down safely but obviously the geological surveys would need to determine that. Those are quite expensive.

As our club, we obviously don't wanna outlay that capital without even having a lease on the fields.

[Riad Davids]

Oh, the funding, okay.

[Jack Thonissen]

Yeah, so how the funding works is when we spoke to the city about this back in 2016, they said before we build anything, we would need to prove funding. Before we actually put something in the ground, you'd need to prove funding because you can't leave the city with a giant hole in the ground. At this stage, it's taken us, well, two and a half years since the lease application.

So to secure the funding, it's almost like the chicken and egg situation. We need to secure the lease before we can secure funding and it's not required from us at this time and the city can correct me if I'm wrong to prove funding now. We obviously believe that we can get the funding but we haven't actually put it all together yet.

We have some money in our bank account but obviously we'd look to partner to complete the rest of the project. So technically, this field could sit open for three months, six months, three years, depending on how long it would take us to get the funding but we can't start anywhere without a lease.

[Riad Davids]

Okay, so that was a, and Diane, you didn't give us your status. Is it as a user or interested Pinelands resident? As a user, thank you.

Okay, so I'd like to really go now to cricket as a, yeah, as a, yeah. Bonnie, carry on.

[Barney]

Sorry, thanks. Those of you who don't know me, my name's Barney. I've been at Pinelands Cricket Club for 46 years.

My first question is, since 2016, Mr. Thonissen alluded to the fact that he's been negotiating the city since 2016 to secure these fields and funding or whatever. Pinelands Sports Club, with Mark Peltret, who was the hockey chairman at the time, plus Graedon Boswell, who was the former chairman of Cricket Club, applied to the city for a lease. It was dragged the heels and then suddenly when Mr. Thonissen came on the scene, the lease was granted with Pinelands Sports Club were never entertained with the lease agreement. To keep it as it is, to appease all the residents, to appease the Frisbee Club, to appease the hockey, and the hockey to a certain extent, Athletic Club and the

football team. All right, now suddenly there's an asteroid coming on along here when the Pinelands Sports Club applied for a lease, 2017, 2020, with Mark Peltret and Graedon Boswell, who are the chairmen of the respective sports codes. Why, I want to know why the city, Siraj, maybe you can answer this question, why the city wasn't given a lease in 2020 for fields and for clubhouse?

[Riad Davids]

Okay, you can maybe put that in writing, do you want to rather, if you'd rather get that in writing. So Jack, just hold on, hold on, just hold on, hold on, hold on, just hold on, hold on, hold on. I did say right at the start, if we want something from the city specifically and especially, I wouldn't want them to misquote Siraj, or say why things happen.

What he's got to do is, he's got to go back and check exactly what the decision was, the record of decision, it's not on his shoulders. He is an official from the city, a decision gets taken by the city, he's got to find out what the decision is, and then he's got to answer you. Now if you don't understand that, then you don't understand process in the city, so don't heckle, I've asked that, I'm asking it again, don't heckle.

I have said that at the start, I would actually stop him from answering it, because I don't want it to be that he said something or it was misunderstood. So the question, if it's valid questions, we'll take it as valid questions and we will answer it accordingly, because he's got to go and look at the record decision. One thing I'd like to correct, sorry that lady is next, I will acknowledge you after that.

There isn't a lease given, it's a process that we're entering into at the moment, Jack explained from their side, they first need a lease before they can do anything else, from the city side they have advertised, and this is not part of the process, it's an information session for people that have additional questions. Because if you look at the lease application in the city, in the papers, it says sending your responses, all of those responses gets noted, they go through everything, and then a possible decision is communicated, and then there is still an appeals process as well. So you have not lost that process, to give input you have not lost that either.

So understand that as well, thank you. Yes ma'am, you've got the mic.

[Bulelwa Ngewana]

Thank you councillor, it's really good to be here to hear you speak to us, because for me it's the first time I'm seeing you here. It's also the first time I'm seeing you in terms of this process, which is my understanding that this started in 2016. I've been living right across this field for the last 20 years, I own property here.

When you started your opening statement you said you are the most impacted, but we've been the least consulted about what is being proposed. So please, please understand the emotions are running high. I feel like we've been bullied into a solution where everything else has been discussed, and you're coming at the tail end of it.

You say you've actually extended this process for another month, you've been on this process for the last four years. It's unacceptable that that has happened. So I'm gonna go back to my question to the cricket guy, who somehow kind of, I don't know what he was doing, I don't even understand what he said to me.

What are the health implications or the environmental implications of an Astro turf on this field? And second, where is the feasibility report? And thirdly, why would you start with a list when you don't know what your use is gonna be?

Why is it that, why is that upside down? Because in order to lease the land from the city, the city needs to understand what you're gonna use the land for. Why is it that we're coming to a place where we get an open check to kind of dig and figure out where you're gonna put your AstroTurf, when you don't understand what you're gonna lease the land for?

Thirdly, this space is a social space more than the sports space. It's actually equal. There are dog walkers here, there are picketers, picking people that come here.

It's not, it's the heart of islands. Why would you want to dig that out? Have you actually explored other fields and pioneers who do your AstroTurf?

So I'm actually feeling very emotional right now, and I'm trying to breathe deeply, because this for me is the really, really unacceptable process that the city can actually bring on us. We're not just here as participators, because if you have a bar here, I'm gonna have to deal with your, whatever patrons through that bar. If you have a parking on this lot in 10 years, I have to deal with it.

So I'm sorry, Councillor, we are emotional, and you need to understand that we're not helping you, we are dealing with emotions.

[Riad Davids]

I fully understand the emotional side of it. There is a process, and that is why within the lease application process, it gets advertised, and people are allowed to give their input. I really like your input, and nobody can answer about the health risks of Astril.

That needs, we need somebody else to answer that. So if you put that into your comments, that is something that can absolutely be done. The way the city works, they work in what's called statutory processes.

So hockey would come along, make a proposal. The city needs to look, go through a whole lot of departments. Until such time, the use is going to be hockey.

If they get a lease, it's for hockey. They can't use it for anything else. They can't do anything else.

So that is already set. So understand that it won't be that they can just put a parking lot. They can't just do this or that.

We, in something else I'm involved with, we wanted to just put a very small clubhouse at the tennis court. The plans, the work, and everything had to go through the city. The city had to actually agree to the fact that it could be a clubhouse, where it's going to be, what's going to be built on, because that entire building and everything, remember, it's not owned by hockey.

It's owned by everybody, and it's owned by the city. So that's a completely separate process. And what they've done thus far, unless somebody can prove it, and you can ask the question, did they follow all the statutory processes up to this point in time?

And it's something that they should have done. Okay, I thank you. Sir, where's the gentleman?

[Man A]

Well, we've had one from the cricket club now and one from an abutting resident.

[Riad Davids]
Yeah.

[Man A]
So perhaps one of the other sporting codes, athletics, perhaps? Athletics? Frisbee, Chilli?

I want to ask a question.

[Riad Davids]
Yeah, but, but, what? So I want to ask a question. Okay, so your name and your involvement.

[Elsa]
My name is Elsa and I am a resident. Okay. I want to comment first on the fact that Siraj is not able to provide an answer.

You know, in settings like this, you come prepared. There's normally a two week preparation for something like this. And that was quite an easy question to answer because we just want to know the why about the lease.

That's my comment. So in cases like this, you prepare for things like this. So the answer is there. Because when we're going to mail to ask for the answer, we're probably going to wait three months.

[Riad Davids]
No, let's not pre-judge it. Let's not pre-judge that.

[Elsa]
I hear you, Councillor, but I've got experience in that because I work in the social development setting. I do want to ask a question around social impact. As we know, there's a couple of schools in and around Pinelands and Thornton.

We're also very well aware that schools need a lot of investment because the amount of schools to accommodate the amount of kids that we have. We're also very, well aware that there's a large amount of unused facility, namely Thornton, Oude Molen, which has an astroturf, and a field next to it as well that I believe, I think, if I speak under correction, belongs to City, and a church is run on that field, on the open field. We also know that the Blue School has also some unused spaces.

And so I want to ask, why were schools not approached? And if the answer's going to be, yes, we did, and they said no, I've got messages because I used to serve on SGB, and I've got very close-knit relationships. I've got messages from stakeholders from both WCD and the schools asking, can you put this in writing to say, and they've received no proposal as such, why is this oval of such importance, and why are we standing here today if there's no lease agreement?

What are we missing?

[Riad Davids]
So I'll explain to you once again the reason why there's no lease agreement because it's an application process. This is an info session on that application process, so there is no lease. There's absolutely no lease.

The period will run until the end of the month. Hockey was always here, and you say, why here? So remember, until international hockey took a decision, you cannot play anything but on Astro.

Hockey then had to basically give up playing here and using facilities all over the show, and Jacquet could, and even the Pioneers Hockey can tell you the facilities they had to use, but they have always been home here. They've always been here. All they want to do now is to change the surface so that they can continue to be here, and that's the only thing.

[Elsa]

My question is not being answered, Councillor. I'm asking why not plow that nine million grand potential investment, which is probably already secured because no investors can waste their time with all of this if there's nothing in process. Why not plow that nine million back into our schools?

Like, for example, I think, again, under correction, he's an alumni of Pineland High. Why not plow that into schools and grow our schools?

[Riad Davids]

So what we mustn't do is let's not try to give them other suggestions because I promise you, they've tried. Just hold on, hold on, hold on. They've probably tried and exhausted that.

They, at the moment, have a lease application process, okay? They haven't tried schools, Councillor. So the thing is, because they've had that and they're going through that process, what we mustn't do is we mustn't try to decide for Pineland's hockey what they should do.

What you can do, sorry, no, no, let me tell you, let me, sorry, let me tell you. What you can do is send those suggestions in, let them explore those suggestions, but what we can't do here is to give suggestions. It's not being recorded, and then afterwards, you want to say, why didn't you do that?

So you remember the city had a phrase which was called NIMBY, which is "not in my backyard". It's now changed to BANANA. "Build absolutely nothing, absolutely nothing anywhere", and we've got to be very careful that we don't fall into that mantra.

You know what? Don't be here but go there or go there or go there or go there. We must try to see, is there a way that we can coexist and sweat an asset?

That's the important thing when we look at something, but why we, no, no, sorry, sorry, only if you have the mic, sir, only if you have the mic, and I'm answering a question. So, sir, so I don't know how I'm being biased. I'm giving everybody an opportunity to speak.

I'm giving everybody an opportunity to speak, and I'm saying to you, based on the process, send in your suggestions, so if, as the lady has got some very good suggestions, send it in. The city has to consider it, but that's the only way it can be done. It's the proper way to do it, and essentially why it doesn't answer is because I don't want it to be said that the city said this or the city, the amount of things that the city said that they didn't say with 35,000 employees, I'd rather have it in writing.

I promise you, I'd rather have it in writing. It's in my dealings with the city, that's what I do. It's the easiest way of doing something, and I will appreciate that, but thanks for your input.

Have we got Frisbee here? Yeah, the mic and Frisbee.

[Cannons Creek director]

I don't represent Frisbee. I'm here in my capacity as one of the directors of the Cannons Creek School, and we have taken a decision to be here today simply for the purposes of clarifying the

situation, and the reason we deem that necessary is because it has come to our ears that Cannons Creek has agreed to fund the installation of an astro. Rightly or wrongly, but that has come to our ears, and what I want to place on record very publicly is that no decision in that regard has been made.

[Riad Davids]

Can you put the, what are they saying actually?

[Cannons Creek director]

So as I stand here this evening, there is no decision by the Cannons Creek School to fund the installation of an astro. I want to say no more than that. It's just to correct the record, as I say, because it has reached our ears that that is the fact, it is not.

[Riad Davids]

Okay, thank you, thank you very much. Has everyone heard that? No.

No, okay. So it's a director from Cannons Creek School, and he's placing on record that it's come to the attention that Cannons Creek is funding the astro. On record, the answer is they are not.

There is no decision at this point taken for Cannons Creek to fund it, and it's from the directors. So can we park that as an answer from the Cannons Creek? Thank you.

I would really like for us to be the next one to speak. There we go, so thank you very much.

[Brent Phillips]

Hello, everyone. I'm Brent Phillips from Chile Ultimate Club. I have with me the city of Cape Town sports asset management policy.

We go to 7.3, principles of a sport coordinating committee. One sports asset coordinating committee per sport precinct or sport assets. So why are we considering a separate body's application for lease on this ground when we already have a sports body that is in charge of it as Pine and Sports Club?

Thank you.

[Riad Davids]

Have you seen that in officially, sir? I will. You will?

Okay, thank you, thank you very much. Is the, yeah. No, no, as I said, I don't want the city to be answering.

There is an absolute process, and the absolute process says, on the, see if you look at the advert, and all of you have seen that. That's why you're here. You've all seen that advert.

Comment in writing, submit your proposals. There's a name of a person that gets acknowledged, and then you will get a response, and we need to stick to that, please. Anyone else that's got something different to say or any other questions?

[Stephan Britz]

Can we just go back to the very first question that was asked? Hi, everyone. My name is Stephan Britz.

I'm vice chairman of Pinelands Cricket Club, and very soon to be resident. The first question, Jack. Sorry, this one's for you.

The very first question was regarding the lease for the flanks next to the top oval when an Astro requires about 5,000 square meters. The lease applications were 25,000 square, and you've partially answered that in terms of the geological surveys that need to be conducted. Why would the geological survey need to be conducted all the way up to the cricket club on that side and all the way up past the athletics club on the other side?

[Jack Thonissen]

Thank you, Stephan. When we applied for lease on the bottom field, we thought it was very important to still be able to access this bottom field from the clubhouse which we share at the top, so that's why that piece of land, if you see the drawing, goes all the way from the side fence there. We would like to obviously install the gates that we could actually walk down to the AstroTurf without having to walk across a cricket field or someone else's ground.

Yeah, maybe I can address that because I think a lot of people are referencing a 2023 draft proposal that was sent to all clubs with a drawing that had an indoor sports center, paddle, all that. That was a dream. That was a dream that we sent to all clubs to try and get them to dream together to say, can we form a joint sports club?

All clubs, athletics, frisbee, cricket, hockey, soccer, everyone together. That proposal was rejected outright. None of the clubs individually expressed any active interest in joining together to form one sports club to manage this facility.

They were all, obviously from our perspective, the Astro was part of that proposal. So that proposal died. I know, I think that proposal has caused some upset among the residents.

It is a three-year-old proposal. The only thing the hockey club is proposing at this stage is a lease on this ground for a hockey AstroTurf. That is the only thing we are proposing at this stage.

That was a joint proposal to all clubs. It died. It didn't continue.

[Riad Davids]

So, sorry, let me just add something to it. The lease application is only for Astro here. Anything else and any other application triggers a complete new set of applications.

It's not just that you've got a lease for hockey Astro, you can suddenly build something there. There is absolutely no way you can do it. I think it was answered, but if you, again, I'll come back to it.

If you are concerned about that, put in that you have no problem with lease here, but you do not want that portion to be leased. It's as easy as that to do. Your comments will be considered.

So it's not something new. It's just something that you can put in if those are your comments, yes. I don't know who was next, but, sir, you.

(Quiet talking far from the microphone)

No, no, no, no, no, sorry. Yeah, it's for land. It's for land, and Jack has qualified what they want to do.

So I think we're not going to say, we're taking the lease, and we're not going to try to put Astro. So let's just get that correct.

[Andrew Spencer]

There's no indication to people of what would be the content of the lease, the clauses of the lease, and what is allowed to the leasee.

[Riad Davids]

So what do we do in terms of that? I mean, Siraj could answer, but the thing to do is ask those questions, because remember, you're not gonna be given a lease. Sorry, let me just get back to that, and before you all say no, when you put in your concerns, as part of the process that it goes through, those are questions that need to be answered long before a lease gets granted.

A lease can only be drawn up once all the comments have been received. They've answered those, and then they decide on the next step. So if those are concerns that you want to know that, remember, the city has answered to say there is no lease.

This process determines what it's going to be. So when there is a proposed lease, it gets sent to everybody with a comment period, as well as Hockey Now needs to look at it and say, this is the proposal from the city. They might think, well, no, as well.

So there is many, many more processes. It's not going to be that after the 30-day period, the city's gonna say there's a lease and that's it. No.

If you have valid questions, and you need things, and you want things included in the lease, it can be included as well. There are statutory things that must be in, and if there are additional addendum, and it is something that can be, and all your questions could just be answered, that can be done as well. But I'll once again implore upon you, send those in because they are very valid.

They are absolutely valid, and it is a question that I'm sure an answer all of us would want to know, including me. So it's important for that to happen.

I don't want to give you another, sorry, sir, can we get somebody else to say something? Yeah.

[Andrew Spencer]

I just want a final comment. Anybody that is emailing the city, the Friends of the Oval have asked that you cc oval@ked.co.za with your email, so that we have a track record of everything that's gone into the city.

[Riad Davids]

Perfect, thank you, sir.

[Andrew Spencer] (29:42 - 29:50)

So please see that. There's also a Facebook group, Pinelands Friends of the Oval. So for consolidated record keeping.

[Riad Davids]

Dianne, we want to first give somebody else an opportunity first, so
(Voice far from the microphone)

no, no, no, no, sorry. You see, if we do then I've got to allow somebody that's already said something to speak again, but we have got, we have got others. Yeah.

Okay. Now, if it's a point of order, point of processing, you can, it's a difference.

[Lady A]

My point of process is that we've all gathered here today, with some of us taking time off work, et cetera. We've gathered here today because we were told that it's an information session and we must come with our questions and we've come with our questions and our questions are not getting answered. Now we're told we must email our questions.

When you email a question, that person gets a response, but everybody else doesn't get to hear what the response is. So we would actually like our questions to be answered. This session is being recorded, so you don't have to worry about any misinformation going out.

If there's any concern about misinformation, we can check the recording, but I think it's, I think it's appropriate for everyone gathered here today to have their questions answered rather than being told to email them.

[Riad Davids]

So we, look, in terms of things, so look, yeah, look, the, we have to make absolutely sure that we give an answer. It's the correct answer. It's appropriate answer.

And it's also an answer that the city can stand behind. I don't want to put an official that is only a portion of that to answer. So the questions in terms of what this gentleman has asked, those we can't answer now, they're valid.

If there is a question that can be answered, the questions at the moment, I think have been answered. Jack has answered the questions that were asked that could be asked of him. The questions to the city needs to follow the proper procedure.

What the city person can't do is actually duck his process, and in that way I'm protecting him as well. There is a process. This is an information session.

It's got absolutely nothing to do with the city, actually. It's a question, it was an info session asked by the people standing around here and others, you know. So what we have given you, so what we've done is we've, sorry, we're wasting time by me repeating myself.

Hockey has answered, Cannons Creek has answered, we've told you what can be done, what cannot be done, and it's a lease process, which we're going through a leased process. If there is, sorry, yeah, no. So if there is a question that you absolutely feel that needs to be answered, let's try and answer it.

[Bulelwa Ngewana]

Yes. Sorry, Councillor.

[Siraaj]

Thanks everyone. I think it's important to note that. So when the questions come through, we will submit a sub-council report with each and every single question, and there will be a response to each of those questions as well.

The important thing is this is a sports ground. Hockey has been here for many years. They would like to play here, and they want to develop an AstroTurf.

So we are doing a public participation process to determine whether we should proceed with that or not. We haven't made any decisions, okay? So that is where we are, and it is important for you to comment because your comments will become conditions for this lease as well.

So for example, I mean, I'm going to give you a very simple example. I'm going to give you a very simple example. You've, I'm just going to give you a simple example.

There's, for example, there's bylaws that says people cannot have access doors and things onto a public open space, okay? But the city doesn't take that into consideration. The city will say, if you put your comments in, if we still want access, if we still want to walk through from our things, those are the things we will take into consideration.

Other things you say, no hockey can take place at past nine o'clock in the evening, so those are all very important, if it should go ahead. But those are the comments that is vital for you as the community, should the proposal go ahead.

[Bulelwa Ngewana]

Okay. Thank you very much. I know, Councillor, you want us to shoehorn this conversation into neatly packaged terms.

[Riad Davids]

No, no. I didn't use that term, ma'am.

[Bulelwa Ngewana]

You are using it. Thank you for clarifying that. Listen, I've been a town planner for 20 years.

I've worked with the city for over 20 years. Please don't kill us with bureaucracy. We know the city processes.

Most of us here have already submitted letters of objections and who had received no answers to that.

[Riad Davids]

Because the process...

[Bulelwa Ngewana]

You won't... Sorry, sorry. No, no.

[Riad Davids]

No, no. Sorry, sorry. You know why you haven't?

Because the process is still... And you can clap as much as you want to.

[Speaker 6]

Of course.

[Bulelwa Ngewana]

I understand that.

[Riad Davids]

The process hasn't finished. And until the process is finished... No, no.

Sorry, sorry. She says she hasn't received answers. She...

[Bulelwa Ngewana]

Can I speak, Councillor? Councillor. I am confused about your role in this, to be honest.

Who are you for? I am for... For the cricket club, for the walking club, for the city, for us as your people that voted for you?

[Riad Davids]

So... Who are you for? So, you see, this is one of the problems when you have a meeting like this.

The acquisitions fly and people heckle and they scream and they carry on. We know, and then they say you're not answering when we do answer, except when we give a different view. What I was trying to say to you is you're saying you wrote and you're a town planner and you haven't received a response.

You know why? Because the process hasn't gotten to that stage yet. That's as simple as that.

We've explained why we're here, I'm sure we don't have to explain again why we're here. Now next one, sorry, sorry, just one other one that was levelled. I'm the ward councillor for Pinelands and I represent everybody within Pinelands, but sorry, you can either decide either way as long as I know what I'm doing is correct.

I've said to you, I've said to you, and Siraj has spoken about it as well, and Siraj has answered you in terms of it, every single comment, and I know because we sit at sub-council and we sit in the city, every single comment is listed and there's an answer to every single one of it. You can even, when it comes up to a sub-council, if I'm still around, if it happens within the next six to seven months, you get invited, so even if I'm not around, you get invited to that sub-council where the decision gets, a decision gets discussed. It goes then from sub-council to full council for ratification.

You can even attend that, but in those processes, every single comment that you've made and everything is given, and that's why I keep reiterating, as much as you're trying to say I'm biased, it's how it's written and submitted properly, that's where the record is, not me standing here. Me standing here is only to facilitate this meeting. I'm not involved in that process at all.

Your comments and what gets delivered at the end of the day based on it, that is where the proof lies, not with whether Wadia, Siraj or I say anything, absolutely not. It's a defined process that we'll go through. Okay.

Anybody else? Yes sir, you've got the mic.

[Johan Berger]

Hi Councillor, my name is Johan Berger and I just wanted to point you to a club just to the south of us in Claremont, the Western Province Cricket Club, which has two astroturfs, it has high fences around it, it has pavilions, those are on separate grounds from the cricket fields. These sports I don't think are compatible. You have lights shining there at night, and I think you are hearing that the residents don't look kindly upon this type of activity, and I think there's a little bit of a misrepresentation of what's been done here and that these things can co-exist, and how would you like to answer on that?

[Riad Davids]

So, the first one is, remember we're not introducing hockey. The application is for hockey to have a place to play. That is it. So, they've always been here.

Lights are something, if you look, there are lights already. The new modern technology with the lights can be done in many ways, and as Siraaj said with bylaws, you can have lights that do not shine into other people's properties. You can also have a time that it should not shine and stop, and that happens across the Cape.

So, those things can be very, very easily addressed, sir. But I want to correct you again, and we've got to understand this, it's not about cricket and hockey co-existing or exclusive to each other. Hockey has always been here (uproar) and they have, they have, they absolutely have, sorry, sorry, they have.

I can, we can, we can, we can answer that. They can send you their fixtures, they can send you everything. They have always been here.

The only time they had to leave, the only time they could not play, sorry, let me say, the only time, sorry, I can't hear if people heckle, so, the only time they weren't was when international hockey took the decision, and as I say, just understand something, it could have been the decision taken for cricket or the decision taken for any sport, and I would then be, if it was for cricket, I would be fighting for cricket to come back as well. It's not about the sport, and you've got to understand that.

It's about their right to utilize a facility that they've always utilized, except for when the international hockey rules came. No, that's not a lie, that is the absolute truth, and I say to you, we will send you, we can send you the fixtures, we can send you the membership list, remember, hockey is bigger than cricket in terms of membership list, and we can also, (Uproar) yes, yes, yes, yes, okay, so, so, sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry, so, what we'll do, what we'll do, shall we do, we'll send, we'll send you the fixture, we'll send you the matches, we'll send you the membership list, so it's not going to be me saying it, it's not going to be me saying it, but we will, sorry.

[Chilli Lady]

Sorry, sorry, can I ask a question of Jack, which is, when is the last time hockey was played on these fields?

[Riad Davids]

Yes, so he must take this, I'll take this one, yes, absolutely.

[Jack Thonissen]

I speak under the direction, because I was...

[Riad Davids]

Can we stop the heckling, please, man, it gets us absolutely nowhere. The heckling gets us nowhere.

[Jack Thonissen]

Maybe some of the older Pinelands Hockey Club members can help me here, but as far as my knowledge goes, it was, the last game was played on grass 2006-2007 season.

[Graedon Boswell]

On that point, I'd like to continue that point, because I see there's been a lot of information, disinformation disseminated recently, including by Mr. Thonissen, over the week, where he said for every one cricketer in the suburb, there are five hockey players. So let's look at some stats, I have them on the tips of my fingers, we had 85 cricket league playing members this season, we had 15 veterans players, we had 27 social league players, and we had 46 juniors in our youth academy, excluding the ones that are double counted by playing in more than one of those categories, that leaves us at 169 cricket players that represented Piedmont's Cricket Club this season alone.

I'll be happy to send them. We actually have circulated this information in a response to their statement earlier today. So five members for every one of those puts you at, check my math here, please, it's 169 members, so it's 845 hockey players that you claim to have.

So I want to ask Mr. Thomson, does he have a list of said players, considering that at their most recent AGM, they couldn't reach quorum of 30, had to postpone their AGM to an online session later, and then change their constitution to require a minimum of 10 people to constitute quorum at their AGMs. 10.

[Jack Thonissen]

I'm so glad they mentioned membership numbers. What the membership numbers I was reporting are coming from the Pineland Sports Club. Now the Pineland Sports Club is frisbee, hockey, and cricket sitting on a joint sports club.

It has a constitution, it has a bank account. Every single club has to report the number of members they have to the sports club, and they have to pay an affiliation fee per member. So I'm very happy that cricket has grown, because that means the Pineland Sports Club, whose bank account is almost zero right now, and can't afford, we have the bank statements, thank you, they get sent to us, and so the last time cricket reported members to the sports club, they only paid between 30 and 40 members.

That was what they reported to the sports club, so that's the latest stat that we have. If they are now reporting 169 members, we are very happy, because that means affiliation fees will go to that sports club, which helps everyone at the Oval. Our membership, as per our AGM, was 175 members, so that's in the AGM report, you can see that.

That is based on 10 teams, and we are projected already, because we've opened registrations, to have 12 to 13 teams this year. So that's some membership numbers. And also our membership is 40 to 45% female, so we're an equal gender sport, and I just think that's a great thing.

[Riad Davids]

Sorry, can we just have, no, no, no, hold on, I want to give it to, who, anybody who was next? There you go. So can you just give to the next one there?

There we go.

[Maria Porter]

Hi, thanks, I'm Maria Porter, I'm one of the Oval houses. I just have a very unemotional practical question. If you are not adding, let's say reintroducing a sport, which is currently not active here, and it is only a lease for the Astro, where will they park?

And if there is no lease for parking, where exactly will they be? Because that directly affects every single person within the nearer neighbourhood.

[Riad Davids]

Sorry, we want to, there are certain questions that can be answered, so we will answer those.

[Jack Thonissen]

Yeah, parking was a common one that we've come across for the last few years, so we did count all the parking bays. Obviously, these are kind of unofficial bays, I would say. We didn't count there either.

So we counted the official parking lots at the top, at the town hall, and the opposite, the church scout hall there. Off the top of my head, it was in our 2023 proposal, and it was 150 parking bays. And we did speak to the city about potentially accessing the municipal parking lot if we had an event that would require overflow parking.

Remember, back in the 80s, 90s, and early 2000s, we had four fields, hockey operating on this oval. We had one, two, three, four, and obviously, parking was not an issue then.

[Riad Davids]

Yeah. Okay. Yeah. Yes. Yeah. I'm going to go to the next hand. Yes. Yeah. Sorry.

Yes. So, lookie. Yes.

(Voice far away from microphone)

So, yeah. Sorry. Yeah.

I'll say what she said. Yeah. I don't want to be unfriendly, granting the different normal questions.

So the question was, she says, traffic has increased tremendously since then. Can anything be done, or what is going to be done so that it isn't a parking problem? That I say is your best one to do that, is send that in as a response.

(Uproar/Murmur)

No, no, no, I'm honest about it. If parking is a concern, it has to be addressed, and it absolutely has to be addressed. So that question comes in, it has to be addressed.

Okay. So please, please send that in. Yeah.

(Voice far away from microphone)

Yeah. I've got this lady here, and then will you give it to that gentleman there afterwards?

[Berenice]

I'll do that. Okay. The name is Berenice.

[Riad Davids]

Sorry. No, no, no, no. So who is the rugby shirt?

And you're third? Okay. So, yeah.

So, sir, I've acknowledged that gentleman as number two. You are number three. Yeah.

Okay. Absolutely.

[Berenice]

Okay.

[Riad Davids]

Please. Thank you.

[Berenice]

So this, as you said, is an information session, but Siraj, you've also said it's a public participation session.

[Riad Davids]

No. No.

[Berenice]

Okay. Nevertheless, this is to gauge the feeling of Pinelands residents who've come out this evening. And so one needs to just hear what people have to say.

[Riad Davids]

I'll try to shut him down. I want no hecklers. I have said that.

No hecklers. Okay.

[Berenice]

Okay. So I think that that's what you need to allow, is that you hear the feeling of people here. I am absolutely listening.

And because I don't think there's been a meeting like this about these fields before.

[Riad Davids]

No.

[Berenice]

I've seen in one of the comments in the WhatsApp chat group that apparently these fields are underutilized. So you've given an opportunity to the sports clubs to speak, but actually a lot of the people who are here perhaps don't belong to any of the sports club, but we use the field. So how does the city council come to the conclusion that these fields are underutilized?

Is it underutilized formally? But I think informally it is massively used. And I think that needs to be taken into consideration.

I hear you that one can email, but that is invisible.

[Riad Davids]

No, it's not. Email is not invisible.

[Berenice]

No, to the rest of us. So I think that we need processes like this.

I also want to say to everybody that's here, perhaps we haven't been as involved as we should have been around this asset that we have here, but we can begin now. An issue has arisen, the hockey club thinks that it wouldn't make much of a difference if it's astroturf, but it clearly makes a difference to a lot of people that are here today. Thank you.

[Riad Davids]

Thank you. Thank you very much.

[Lady]

Before we answer the question, sorry Councillor, I want to have a suggestion in terms of a facilitation point of view. Can we ask the question and then pass it on and then answer all the questions?

[Riad Davids]

It becomes more difficult.

[Lady]

It's four people. There's just four people.

[Riad Davids]

Sorry, I'd like to give the gentleman, let's not change the process.

We've been going for an hour on the process. Let's not change it now. Yes, sir.

Carry on.

[Neil]

Thank you. My name is Neil. I speak as a user.

So if the lease is granted for argument's sake tomorrow, who is allowed to use the facility and who will manage that allowance? And secondly, who will own the facility once it's built? With a nine million rand investment, that's a substantial amount that will need a for-profit model.

[Riad Davids]

Okay. So I can actually answer those to the best of my ability. So when something gets (murmur) no, stop it, man, you know, it's just unbecoming.

It just reduces this to more of a gaggle than an actual meeting. I've said nothing, so I don't know how my mind's made. If there are some mind readers here, can you tell us maybe the lease will be granted as well or not or anything else? Mind readers are absolutely amazing. You didn't even have to come to the meeting then.

Sir I'd like to answer your first one. If a facility gets built here, it gets to be approved by the city and the city owns it. So that nine million gets actually handed over to the city, to everybody. And the city's everybody. So remember, that happens with any, not just here. Anything you build on a city facility, you're handing it over to the city. Sirraaj am I correct? Thank you very much. So yeah, so that's your first one.

The second one is, if the astro gets put there, there, there, or there, nobody's going to be barred from utilizing every other space because when you have a lease, and again it comes to, and we can

tackle that as well, even at Cannons Creek School where they're leasing from the city, they have to allow residents and other people to utilize it. That will not change.

That's within city laws - rules and laws in terms of it. So nobody's losing a facility. Nobody's getting locked out of a facility at all. And where the astro is, they might have usage rules just where it is. But it does not, even if they have a lease, they can't bar anybody else from using the other 80% of the property.

And that counts whether you... whether it's cricket, whether it's hockey, no matter what it is. Clyde Pinelands has got the same lease with the city, everybody, even at Pinelands Tennis. So remember, at Pinelands Tennis, to protect the facility, there is a gate. But you can ring a bell. You can go in and you can use the courts.

(Uproar)

No, no, no, no, hold on, no, no. Let's not be... not let's not be unrealistic. You're not going to go play soccer on a tennis court, no, no, no, no, no, no, So sorry man, let's not go, let's not get into anything.

So sir, have I answered your questions? Because there is no issue in terms of that. Yes.

(Neil, speaking far from the microphone)

Absolutely. There is nothing, yes, there is nothing that precludes anybody from utilizing any city owned land anywhere. And why I'm using the example of the bowls, or I'm using the example of Pinelands Tennis, other people can absolutely use it. They can't stop anybody. They might have, in Pinelands' case for the courts, for the maintenance of the courts and things, there's a guest fee. That's just a control over it.

But other than that, it can be utilized. You can't go and play baseball or something on there. That's different. It's the same with here. If an Astro gets put down, whatever sports can be played on the Astro with a proper booking system, which you need because it can't be a free-for-all, with a booking system. There is a booking system at the moment for the use of these fields as well.

So those controls are in place. Thank you.

Sir, there was a person that was next.

Yes, you.

[Man]

Yes, thank you very much. Councillor, you can't...

(interjection)

[Riad Davids]

So I'm not speaking all the time. I'm answering questions. When I didn't answer questions, there was a complaint.

I'm not answering questions. Now you're saying... So it's simple.

Either I answer questions or I don't. You know? Yeah.

Okay, sir.

[Man]

Okay. Thank you, Councillor. No.

It is not sitting well with the community. You are taking the community for a joke. We can't come for information.

It can't happen like that. Please.

[Lady] (Speaker far from the microphone)

Where is there going to be a clubhouse?

[Man]

OK. Just ask

[Riad Davids]

Sorry, sorry, ma'am. Ma'am, you are jumping the gun. He's been complaining. He hasn't had an opportunity. First, give him an opportunity.

[Man]

I'm giving one to her.

[Lady]

I just want to ask, if this all happens, is there going to be a clubhouse for the hockey?

[Riad Davids]

So I will ask Jack to answer that one. Yes.

[Lady]

Yeah. Will there be a clubhouse and where is that going to be? And how...

Where is the ablutions going to be?

[Jack Thonissen]

Yeah. So as I mentioned earlier, Pinelands Sports Club has a lease on that clubhouse and that is Frisbee, cricket and hockey together. So that is the clubhouse that we use.

That is our changing rooms. That is our ablutions. We still use that six months of the year and cricket uses the other six months of the year.

So we've invested in that clubhouse. It's safe there. We don't plan on going anywhere.

[Man]

No, and I was just saying, you can't take the community for a joke, because we can't come for information. The other thing is, your involvement makes it clear for the community that you are being compromised. That is what we are seeing and that is a fact for tonight. But the other thing that I want to ask is, why are you not taking the public participation process that is also coming now, that you are speaking about, why is this not a public participation process?

This is the first thing that must happen, so that the community here, their voices can be recorded, because this is an important one here, that is the start of this process. Thank you.

[Riad Davids]

So, sir, I don't know, I don't know how to answer you, because the mere fact that we are here is that we take the community seriously. We have had requests from the committee, sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry, so that is why we are here. We didn't need to be here. The advert, the requirement, the requirement in terms of public participation for this was only in writing.

We had requests to come here for an info session and that's why we acceded to it, and the reason, sorry sir, you can shake your head as much as you want to, I can't break city bylaws or laws or processes at all. Siraj has mentioned this is not part of the public participation process, this is an information session, and we have to stick to that in terms of it, because it was not required to have this type of meeting for the least part of it. If you feel strongly that it should be, put that in your requests.

(Murmur)

No, no, you can heckle as much as you want to, but that's important, that's important. So you don't decide for me what I'm going to do. It doesn't help. No, you don't know. What am I thinking right now? What am I thinking right now? No, no, no, sorry, sorry. If you don't know what I'm thinking right now, don't try to say, okay, ignore it, ignore it.

Okay, so who is next? Yeah, you, yeah, carry on.

[Man B]

Thanks, Councillor.

Hopefully fairly simple two questions. One, why when we send emails, complaining or submitting responses, is that not acknowledged by the email address? Can we, if possible, have public record of all complaints and emails sent to that email address in this regard?

And if tomorrow the Frisbee or cricket club wants to apply for a lease, is that something that's possible? Thank you.

[Riad Davids]

So let's do the first one. Acknowledgement and replies only happens, and I've said this before, after the process closes, they normally give a window period, and after that, that process closes.

Now we've got all the comments, that gets compiled, and then that gets answered, and that is why it's not been answered until this point in time. Am I correct, Siraj? Yes.

Okay, your second one was, anybody can apply for a lease, and believe me, with the city, you don't want to know how many leases. If I say thousands, 10,000, 100,000, 10,000 leases on application, so they all come into the city, there is nobody...

Sir, you can heckle as much as you want. I'm answering the gentlemen, sir. So I'm going to make it short, okay. Yeah, yeah.

So that's it. So, and you can apply, Sir, there is nothing that precludes anybody from applying. It comes to me as well.

It will go into the city, they draw up the application process, and then an answer gets given. But if we, as Siraj would say to you, it's 10,000 leases and a huge amount that's on a month-to-month basis, it could take a time, but I can escalate if you send it to me as well.

There is a gentleman that asked, then gave a very good suggestion in terms of all of you sending something to the city, put it as well.

But as Siraj and I both said to you, is every single submission gets drawn up into a document, and you will see absolutely everybody, even those that missed your groupings, you will still get to see that as well, Sir. Thanks. Thank you.

Yeah.

[Bilo]

Good afternoon, everyone. Hope everyone is, yeah, it's a difficult day today, but I'm Bilo from Thiba Business School. At Thiba Business School, we talk a lot about impact.

I want to know what's the impact of building the AstroTurf here, where it decreases the space that's available to everybody here. As you can see, there's so many people out here because they know this field, they use it for walking their dogs, they use it to play soccer, they use it for Frisbee, they use it for so many different reasons. As you can see also, Thiba also wants to be part here and also start playing soccer.

As it is right now, it's for the community, but if it changes, I don't think it will be for the community.

[Riad Davids]

Sorry, could we not have interactions on its own? Do you need an answer? I can answer you, Sir.

Yes. Sorry, can we just get that?

Nobody is going to be excluded. Absolutely nobody. What many people are here now is to try to exclude hockey. Remember, that's a big difference.

Everybody, sorry not everybody, many people here are trying to exclude hockey and then say, oh, don't exclude the other, the other, the other, but exclude hockey. No, no, no, no, sorry. Athletics must mention, no, no, sorry, ma'am.

Athletics must mention athletics. Are you from Athletcis? So I will give you the mic next.

Where is the mic next? No, no, let's do that. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Let's do that.

[Lady]

Can I also say, everyone was putting up their hands and he was actually waiting for a while now.

[Riad Davids]

Okay, there we go. There we go. No, no, no, you can go, you can go.

She said yes.

[James]

Hi, my name is James, former Pinelands resident of 15 years and current chairman of hockey at Western Province Cricket Club. There were a couple of points made that I just want to address seeing as this is an information session. So yes, Western Province Cricket Club is private land.

It's not a lease from the city. So Astro came into play, particularly in the Western Cape from a league structure perspective around 2007, meaning all league games have to be played on Astro, right? Hence the move from grass fields here.

In terms of the lights, the lights are LED. They operate between a lumen of 1000 to 1500. There is almost absolutely no bleed outside of the field in terms of lights.

Our B field at Western Province Cricket Club currently houses an Astro turf and two soccer fields, which is currently leased out to a private facility. That field houses those two fields on a field smaller than the bottom oval. We receive zero light complaints from nearby residents.

Sound complaints, different story when we host events, et cetera. We have to apply for noise exemption.

No light issues. In terms of playing regulations, we can't start before 8am. We can't go on after 9.30, Monday to Sunday. There are currently no health concerns or published health studies about the use of Astro turf, either on the ground or individuals. And I think Western Province Cricket Club is the perfect example of how a community can come together, have access, multiple sporting codes, multiple dog walkers, Padel, cricket, hockey, running, squash, cycling, the works. I think your approach needs to be far more inclusive rather than exclusive.

Thank you.

[Riad Davids]

Thank you. Okay. Okay.

[Paul]

Hello, Councillor. I think this lease application, I'm Paul. I'm a user.

I think this lease application is in conflict with a lot of issues within the city. We heard that there is a code by law that either X amount of codes. Hockey by law or international law is an Astro turf surface.

This is a grass surface. The codes that happen here are grass activities and they spread far and wide into the boundaries. Hockey excludes anybody who's a grass user.

That's the problem. Hockey is saying that we're excluding them. It's the reverse.

There's actually misrepresentation here from hockey around the use. The last whistle might go at nine o'clock or eight o'clock, as we just heard, but the activity thereafter extends to 10, 11, 12. That is the problem, Mr. Councillor.

[Riad Davids]

But that's got nothing to do with the surface. Nothing to do with the surface.

[Paul]

Councillor, Councillor, don't try and confuse the facts here. The facts here is that the codes that played on grass is different from hockey.

We're not excluding hockey. We actually want hockey in Pinelands. We want them.

But the problem here is not about a lease. We actually going down the wrong road here. The issue here is land.

And you got to understand that, City Councillor, that this lease application is in conflict with your own bylaws. And I think we must go back to the drawing board. We must be open and honest with each other around what is being applied for here.

The hockey club and the cricket club are in conflict with themselves. So let's not beat around the bush by extending city resources. All of the town planners, all of the people processing this paperwork, let's get down to brass tacks here and agree that what is legally requirement.

And the legal requirement is land, and there is sufficient land around Pinelands to include hockey in a different space. Thank you very much.

Here we go, ma'am.

(Conversation far from the microphone)

[Riad Davids]

So you've got to be somewhere in front of the speaker, slightly more forward. I'm standing with my comrades. Here you can.

Then they can all go forward with you.

[Henry du Plessy]

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Henry Duplessy. I am a member of the Pinelands Athletic Club.

I've been involved in this process on behalf of the club since 2022. So this process is not a public participation process. This is a measure-sharing process.

In other words, it has no cause and effect. Why I say so. We are presented with a map on an A3 page to say this is what this is about.

That's it. There's no further information about this. So what we need to look at is for the city to take the lead in this and talk to the developer, Pinelands Hockey Club, and say your proposal is inadequate.

You haven't addressed the transport or traffic management plan. You haven't addressed issues of a facility on board. In fact, your lease proposal is very misleading.

You are saying you only want the leased land for the Astro. But why are you leasing the entire area? If it's not for the entire area, is there a separate lease for the new clubhouse that's going to be built here in five years, ten years' time?

So are we being open and honest with each other? Secondly, we as stakeholders cannot comment on this lease agreement without those facts. We have to be told where you're going to park, how many are going to park there, when they're going to park there, what's the traffic flow between the robots here and the robots there in the afternoon, the evening, etc.

We don't know that. We are walking blind because the developer just put in an application for a lease and the city says thank you, we put it out to the public and see what they say. But it's half-baked information.

We don't know the facts. So my request, besides all the objections from cricket, from frisbee, from athletics, perhaps from individual members, since 2022, I don't know where those comments are. Some say no, it's in there, it's part of that.

If it's part of that, why are we here with a lease? If that was the objections they're narrating in 2022, why are we here today? In other words, we are just ignoring that, we ask you a fresh comment now.

And that's a concern I have. And so what I'm pleading from the city is to postpone this meeting. Call the meeting in the town hall.

Put the plans up. What did the transport department say? How are they going to manage in terms of what the developer has put on the table?

In other words, the developer must go to a traffic engineer and put a plan on how he's going to manage traffic flow in this area should a lease be considered. Not after the fact. Don't first have a lease and now you can say, okay, now how are we going to deal with traffic?

So what I'm pleading from the city is, as part of a public participation process, that it calls it, the town hall, with all the information from the different departments, how they address the concerns that have been raised in the past, and new concerns have been raised also here. Besides the one that we've heard this afternoon. So from an athletic perspective, we are saying no.

We actually asked the city council for a three lane track to be built around here. If I want to put on accolades, we don't like to do. We have an existing world class record holder running this club.

On this grass. We have world champions in this club currently. And we don't even have a track here.

I've been asking that for years. Come back to my last point. That's where I'm confused.

My understanding is that cricket and hockey are joined by the heap. Yet, the one heap goes out and makes applications without knowing, in front of the other party, and getting their agreement. So my question to property management is, how legal is this application for a lease?

If the constitution of tennis, hockey and cricket says, any consideration will be done jointly. Secondly, when does a lease application become void? One month?

Two months? Three months? Five years?

If not, then my understanding with cricket, they have made an application to lease the entire area. And they're still waiting. So how can you consider two different leases on the ground, without considering the first lease?

Thank you.

[Riad Davids]

Can we ask Pinelands Athletics please to send all of that in? It'll be very important to do. Okay.

Anyone else? Sorry. You're going to do it.

You're going to do it. There we go.

[Dylan]

Thanks. My name is Dylan. I'm a relatively new resident of Pinelands.

I played hockey for a lot of my life, play cricket, play a lot of these sports. And to be honest, from reading the comments and stuff from the hockey club, I'm pretty disappointed in them. Because if you read the statements they put out, the statements that are shared on the WhatsApp groups, it's stated as if the cricket club, the frisbee, they're all on board with this.

Everyone's happy. Oh, it's great. But it's clear coming here today that that's not the case.

So how, as the athletics club member says, how are we supposed to trust them with the lease when they're making false statements about what other people are saying? They're trying to mislead people. Even their fundamental plan here, obviously it has to be contingent on the stuff.

I understand the construction stuff, understanding where you can put the Astro. It's not trivial to know. But the lease itself is clearly not going to be holding them to that.

They can have plans. They can show us, oh, look, we're going to make lots of space to the side here. But there's no real guarantee that that's going to be the case.

So I just want to state that I think there's a lot of things that have been said here that are quite misleading. And to be honest, as a new resident and somebody who's a fan of hockey, I'm pretty disappointed. I think it's very unfortunate for the hockey club that the International Hockey Associations have made these rules that have excluded a lot of people that don't have access to these AstroTurf facilities.

And that's really shitty. I'm sorry. That sucks.

But making this land into an AstroTurf inherently makes it exclusive. As a fellow resident has said, it's not about excluding the hockey club. It's not the pilots community that are doing that.

That is the International Hockey Association. And making this space, putting a fence around it, which even stated in their statement, they want to put a fence around it and only close off access to that. It's making that accessible.

Even if you could use it for soccer or anything else. They even said there that they're going to make it inaccessible. So yeah, that's just comments I want to make.

And finally, my last comment to the director from Cannon's Creek who came. I just want to point out that his wording was quite specific. He said no decision had been made yet, which kind of implies they have some...

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

[Riad Davids]

I will let him finish, but he can't try to tell us what somebody implied. I mean, that's ridiculous. Let's be honest about it as well.

[Dylan]

The wording is very specific. And he did not say that there's no considerations for it that have been provided to them. But the hockey club are unwilling to tell us about any of the funding avenues.

You even stated, Councillor, that they've not received anything for funding, which is a misleading statement for what he said, to be honest. I disagree. Sorry, just as a new resident, I'm also quite disappointed in the way you've spoken to the residents here.

I understand the process, I understand it's frustrating for you, I understand the city has processes they have to follow, but you've been quite snarky to everyone, quite frankly.

[Riad Davids]

I...

[Dylan]

That's disappointing.

[Riad Davids]

I'm just putting that on the record.

[Dylan]

You're not?

[Riad Davids]

Man, so, you know, it's a difficult one. If you say something people don't agree with, then you're snarky and you're dismissive, and if you say something they agree with, then you're not. So I'm not going to go into that because I've tried to be as cordial as possible, but what I haven't allowed to do is people to heckle, I haven't allowed people to mind read or not tell the truth.

And I think that's very important, and I think that's something. What I'll also say to you is misleading information went across the board on all sides. So you So what you're doing is, if you're looking at information, you've got to then say, are you absolutely sure that everything the other sports clubs have put out is also, so you haven't interrogated that either.

No, no, no, sorry, sorry. So yeah, no, no, no, no. So there is no way you'd know on any of them, and I'm not going to judge on anybody on the information they sent out, because I haven't done any verification on it.

What I will say to you, sorry, sorry, what I will say to you is, number one, 20% of the field, if the lease gets granted for Astro, doesn't exclude people from everything else, including the use of, if there's going to be a bill of support that can be played on the hockey. So we must be careful in terms of misleading statements, because that is misleading. I want to now go to the next person.

[Graedon Boswell]

Thank you. Hi, everyone. My name is Graydon Boswell.

I actually was chairman of Pinen's Cricket Club for about five years. I've been here for about 10 years. So I've pretty much seen this from the beginning until now, and I can honestly tell you, hand in my heart, 10 fingers on the Bible, whatever you want to say, every club here said no to this, and it was ignored.

And we are here now. And it's interesting, because we've had multiple meetings in observatory at council offices. Scout's Hall was there, Henry was there, from Athletics Club, multiple people there, and we've all said no.

And it was just ignored. And so what I wanted to ask is hockey haven't used this field for, I don't know, 15, 20, 30 years. Cricket Club has been here for almost 100 years, but the hockey is getting preference now on the lease.

So I just want to understand that. There's a lot of operating in the gray areas, especially with that 10-pager that was distributed by the hockey club, saying, oh, no, there's only 16 players on the side, the traffic won't be a problem. What happens when there's tournaments?

Is that just not going to happen? I just wanted to find that out. This gentleman did raise a good point about Western Province, but the thing is, Western Province had four fields before that happened.

And also, I'm curious on that point, if hockey's actually investigated private land. Because if you go and do some quick research on Google Maps, you can see lots of private land that hasn't been approached or used. And some of the people that were supposedly used or approached, we called them.

We've done our due diligence. And they said they have no record of any meeting with Finance Hockey Club, which is quite interesting. And I think what a lot of people are starting to pick up, there's a lot of gray area here.

And myself, personally, being involved with this, and I will gladly print every single email we have sent since 2015, negotiating and requesting a lease for this land. And Siraj, you have also been CC'd in those emails. And we have not had a response from 2017, we have not had a response from 2018, we have not had a response from 2019, we have not had a response from 2020.

We've got a proposal in 2022. We asked for the borders to be expanded. We have not had a response.

And then we were given a lease in 2024, just for the clubhouse. And we said we want the land as well. And we have not had a response.

[Riad Davids]

Do you want to respond to that? There was a lady here.

[Nicky]

My name's Nicky. I'm also a resident here and I do make use of the field. I have a couple of questions.

One is what is to stop once, if the lease is granted, and I understand what you're saying about there will be stipulations in the lease, but what is to stop the hockey club from putting another two astroturfs on here, which then totally excludes residents?

[Riad Davids]

So when the application for lease goes, they will do the geological and the astro will be put at a certain point, okay, if that happens. If they want to put another one, it is a separate application, because then the lease conditions will have to change. It will once again be public participation and everything else involved in it as well.

So all they, as I say, is at the moment, there is only an application for lease of land. And of course, there needs to be a provisor in terms of what you're going to do. So that's part of it.

And what they were going to do, because they can't play on grass, as you know, was to put on an astro in one of those four positions, depending on it. And that is it. When it comes to building a clubhouse, when it comes to anything else, that's not part of that lease.

And it's a completely separate process. It's not just that they can do whatever they want to do. It absolutely is not.

I like your questions. Let's send that CC me as well. And let's find out from the city why you haven't received responses, because you should send that to the.

[Nicky]

Okay, my next question is also, if the lease is granted, but then the bid for the astroturf is refused, what is the obligation from the hockey club then to look after this land?

[Riad Davids]

So that is something that will be put in the lease, and the conditions will be put in. I think that's a very good question to ask that question, because it's something the city needs to look at, and something they've considered, but they have to answer that, and I'd prefer that coming in writing, so that we all know that answer as well. Thank you very much.

[Nicky]

Last question, sorry. This area also falls under the heritage zone layer. Is there any kind of restrictions?

I know most of the heritage zone layer applies to residents and houses and that, but is there some sort of protection within that, for this as a cultural heritage and community area?

[Riad Davids]

So at the moment, it's zoned for sport, sports arts and cultures within the sports department, so there are rules and regulations. If anything within that needs to change, it has to trigger a process complete on its own. Nothing can be built unless it's gone through a complete process, and if something gets rebuilt, the heritage considerations also come into it, so you have complete protection in terms of that.

I always say to people, my biggest fear ever on public open space is land invasions, and underutilized space is one of the biggest threats that you have and problems you have. So you start from there. You can laugh.

Ask communities that it happened to. I've got a community living in Maitland South, that is Oya Town....

[Speaker 7]

Riyad, can we only acknowledge people that have the mic?

[Riad Davids]

Can you just continue toning the page? Okay, and ignore them? Excellent.

Okay, thank you. Who is next? There we go. Hi.

[Sarah]

Hi, my name is Sarah. I'm a long-time resident. I've lived here since I was two, and we use this field pretty much every day.

We take our dogs here. So firstly, earlier you said that the tennis courts are technically available to everyone. You just can't go and play baseball on them, right?

If I wanted to come here tomorrow and hit home runs for six hours, right here, from this spot, I could. If you put an astroturf here, you can't. So it becomes a usage issue of community space is no longer accessible to the community. Well, I can't stand on the astroturf and hit home runs this way.

As for the us wanting to allegedly exclude hockey, and I say this as someone who grew up doing the Friday Night Lights hockey things. I'm currently a hockey player. I play ice hockey four times a week. I don't hate hockey in the slightest.

What the community is saying is that hockey should invest the nine million that they have secured to invest into their facilities into an already existing facility, and leave this community space for the community.

No one is saying that they can't exist. They're just saying that you can't exclude the community from a space that currently belongs to them and is used every single day by the community. I would also like to ask a question at this point.

So it was said that should the turf be built, that it is just the turf that becomes exclusive, essentially, and that we will still be allowed to use the external areas. But because the lease is for the entire bottom field, what is stopping hockey from just building a fence around and saying, yeah, but we have a lease on this area, you can no longer access it.

[Riad Davids]

Okay, so I'll ask you your last question, because that's a question. Any city-owned property that has a lease has part of that is to allow public access, so there is no way that they can just build a fence to do that. Okay, so I've got the information.

She said I mustn't speak to anybody that doesn't have the mic, so I can ignore you. So I hope that answers your question. There is nothing that will allow somebody to do that.

Hockey can answer themselves as well, but there is no way that they, even if they wanted to, can just exclude people. You absolutely cannot.

[Sarah]

That's in theory. In practice, though, those tennis fields that are supposed to be of public access aren't. I have never seen anyone, and we've tried, because I tried playing tennis in primary school.

I've tried accessing it as a member of the community, and we were told no. So if there is a gate that gets put up, and it says, oh, it's for public access, that doesn't necessarily mean that it is still for public access.

[Riad Davids]

So let's just do tennis. They give you a register of all the guests that play, and every year when the AGM happens, the money that they've earned on the 20 rand per court, and it runs into thousands of tons of rand. So I'm sorry that you were, but if you pop me an email, I'll speak directly to the club chairperson, and we can then do that.

But for the rest of it, they cannot exclude you, and I think that has been answered.

[Sarah]

Okay. Sorry. This is a question for Hockey.

So earlier you said that there has not been a game played here since 2006, correct? 2006, 2007, around there. So for the last 20 years, Hockey has had a space somewhere, probably.

I'm assuming that Hockey players have played a game in the last 20 years somewhere in Cape Town. Yes. So I'm wondering why there's an insistence on taking this specific area that is currently being used by the community, and as a separate addendum to that question, why there has been such a lack of transparency regarding that.

I mean, we've heard it here today that there have been things said on behalf of people that are very clearly in disagreement with those, and why the community is only being consulted this late in the game. Because I mean, we heard about this for the first time when we heard about the protest, and I walked here today. I live literally right up there.

So yeah.

[Jack Thonissen]

So in our statement, we did mention that we've looked everywhere for an opportunity to build a home field. When you are renting fields, you can lose your field over one email. At the moment, we're sharing two different facilities with multiple clubs.

It's not sustainable for any club. So the only way we can build an astroturf is on land under the control of the Department of Recreation and Parks. We spoke to the Department of Recreation and Parks.

This oval and Clyde Pinons are the only two places that they control in Pinons that they can lease legally to sport. So those are our only two options after exploring all other options. We can only legally lease this or Clyde.

So that obviously doesn't leave us with very many options. In terms of the transparency thing, yeah, it's difficult to communicate with an entire community. We have released a statement.

We can only follow the law and what the city has outlined for us. There is a nine-step process. We did include it in our statement.

We have tried to follow that process. We're trying to go above and beyond that process. We've tried to give information as best and as easily as possible, and we will continue to do that.

Interestingly enough, we have not received one email as the hockey club requesting information, but we have put information out.

[Man]

Where's the notices on the field that you're going to change the field?

[Sarah]

So the first thing that I wanted to address is we've had two people speak to it now, the fact that they've reached out to both private fields as well as schools and other community areas, saying that there is no record of hockey reaching out to them requesting the space. So would it be possible to find out exactly who you have reached out to, to see where the discrepancy lies? And then I had a second thing that I was, sorry, what was the second part that you addressed?

Yeah, so as for the transparency, I mean, most of us have access to the Facebook, and then we also, all of our emails, we receive our bills and all of that through our email. So there is public access of how to, or there is access to contact us, yet no one has been contacted directly about this. So where has that information been posted for everyone to see?

Because that gentleman also just said that it's not been posted anywhere here.

[Riad Davids]

So as I said, right at the start, the city follows a statutory process and the city has followed it. There has been a note with some people to question that. It is part of the minute that we will take.

People will send in and question the process. You're probably the second or third person that has mentioned it. Put that in, and then if there has been any not following of process, the city will pull it and restart the process because that is very important because what we don't want to do as a city is go to court and then be found wanting because we didn't follow a process.

So we'll make absolutely sure we tick the boxes as Jack spoke about the nine points as well, but we will check up on that. Please send it in as well. I know somebody else has mentioned it, but if they don't send it in, send it in because that will then be part of the decision, which means that every department that is involved in it, including legal, with a process, will make sure that they've ticked the boxes correctly.

Okay, thanks.

(Lady far from the microphone)

Yeah, so it's on the list, and then of course you have a request here as well, but there is a list. There is an email. You've all seen the advert in the paper. There is an official one where it gets compiled in that way.

Jade, is it that lady, this gentleman, and then okay. Yeah, okay. Can we also, after that four, can we wrap up please? Yeah, okay. Sorry, sorry. You don't have the mic, lady.

[Man]

Thank you. Contrary to my position, I support hockey, and in fact, my two sons played hockey at the Blue School, and then they went to the high school and they played hockey there. Then the field, AstroTurf was built at O-Mutual, and I presume you play there as a hockey club.

Then the following, the high school spent a lot of years raising money for AstroTurf. They have built an AstroTurf, and have you discussed with the pilots high school if you can share their field? That's a question to hockey, and then I'd like to say, I've heard what people say.

They email, and it goes into a box, and it gets lost. Then what will happen? They will make a decision.

It will go to a sub-council somewhere in the back room. So can we have a commitment, councillor, that once a decision has been made, or you got all the information, you call a public meeting, and you can present it to us. Then we will make a decision if we support it or not.

[Riad Davids]

So I'll say it again, put that suggestion in, and we'll follow through with it. That's done. Okay.

[Jack Thonissen]

So obviously Pinelands High School has been amazing to all the clubs in Cape Town. There are currently three clubs that use Pinelands High School. It's UWC, it's Mutual Hockey Club, and it's Pinelands Hockey Club.

We are trying to use any facility that's available for us because our club is quite big and growing. So, and again, the Mutual was based at Odomola, and they have been removed from that facility. So they are no longer even able to access that facility.

It's on school grounds, and the school refuses to let any club use it. So that is a big issue, especially considering that that club, or Mutual itself, invested in that facility. But that's not our fight, obviously.

I think this is a citywide issue. There's a lack of sports fields, soccer, cricket, hockey. I think when you speak to the city department officials, you'll find out that there are multiple soccer clubs, multiple clubs without fields.

It's not just hockey, it's every single sport across the city that's struggling to find places to play. And obviously, as I've mentioned, this is the last place that we can apply. Clyde Pinelands has obviously been included in the Mowbray Golf Course redevelopment.

So even Clyde Pinelands, as a soccer club who's been around also for many, many years, risks losing their fields.

[Riad Davids]

Thanks. Okay. Can we have the last two, please?

So you had an opportunity, I just wanted to give somebody not had an opportunity to speak yet.

[Andrew Spencer]

Yes. Can I just speak to the lease agreements? I have been on the committee of a sports club in the southern suburbs, which has a lease with the city council for use of land.

Part of the requirement is that the sports club is responsible for the security of the land, and therefore has every right to put up fences, gates, and restrict access as is required, because that is its responsibility. City council, yes, is responsible for the outside of any buildings and so on. But the club

has the right to put down tar, to put down driving areas, to organize any sorts of sport-related constructions on the property that they have leased.

So part of this situation, and what you said earlier, is you said something like the lease is for one AstroTurf, and if they have to put on another AstroTurf, they have to apply again. The lease is not for AstroTurf. The lease is for a lease of land.

So unless their conditions are made known to everyone, how can we put a valid objection or agreement if we don't know what the lease conditions are?

[Riad Davids]

So I'll come back to it. So I fully agree with you in terms of that. What I say to everyone is, if that's something you want in the lease agreement, and entered into the lease agreement, that can be put in.

So that's what I'm saying to you, and I mean, I said it ad nauseum tonight. Put it in in such a way that you are protected, and that's the way to go.

[Andrew Spencer]

And then I think the other question is that...

[Riad Davids]

You will see, I've said that as well.

[Andrew Spencer]

Let's say that in objection to this lease application, 5,000 people write, ineloquently, and not using really good English, or not having valid points, but a huge number of people object. What are the conditions, or what is the situation, how transparent is it for us to realize or know why City Council goes for or against such a decision?

[Riad Davids]

So maybe because of many people interrupting, you didn't hear it, so I'll say it again. Every single objection, every single comment gets put into a document. If your comment isn't there, and you have proof that you've sent it, it can be included.

So every single comment, and that's what I'm saying to people, the most important thing to do is to send in those things. Many people here, very skilled, have given very, very good suggestions, and I've asked for every one of the suggestions to please be put in.

And now, I'll preface it again, the lease is for the land.

What we're also saying is when the application went into the city, the negotiations was for an astro because that is why they are leasing it. So there is no lease, but when there is a tentative proposed lease, one of the gentlemen asked, can that be put forward to the residents, and we will check with the city, but I don't think that's a problem, that it can be sent in with all the comments to everyone. As an interest in effected party, we did that with Oude Moulen, and you can put in the request that every single person's comments, as well as the answers, and then it triggers an additional process, and you can ask for an additional process within it.

The city can consider it, because what I wouldn't want to happen is the thing gets roughshod. That is why we're having a meeting here today. What I also wouldn't want to happen is that the residents'

views are not taken in, because there could be very serious things that could happen on this land, and we're disregarding it, or we're told, because we didn't consider your comment, now if somebody else wants to do something else, or there was a shopping centre or something, we now want to disregard it, and that is why I'm saying the process is very important.

Your views are very important, because you are ultimately the custodians. The city doesn't own this land. We own this land. The city just administrates it on our behalf, and that's a very, very big difference, especially in the city of Cape Town for that.

It's not easy to administer land. It's not easy to satisfy everyone. What we want to try to do is to be as fair as possible, and as inclusive as possible, and that is why I also say I didn't want to have heckling or anything like that, because then we disrupt the process. We destroy the process, and then people's actual views do not get heard, and I think that's important as well. Thank you. Can we do one last one?

I really need to leave.

[Lady]
One, two.

[Riad Davids]
Okay, two. Can we do the two? Okay, so you're getting a second bite, sir.

Yes, thank you. A small bite.

[Man (who has spoken before)]
Two comments. Like I said, Claremont has a very different setup than here in Pinelands. They have much more land, and the use of the hockey land doesn't infringe on other users.

So people can walk their dogs there. People can play frisbee. They allow people to go on there, the children to go.

[Riad Davids]
You don't want to see the comments and objections at Claremont, so let's not rather go there at all.

[Man (who has spoken before)]
So the thing is here, there was a gentleman standing next to the hockey person there from WPCC. The land sort of size here doesn't really accommodate all these uses, and so the comments there isn't valid. Secondly,

[Riad Davids]
I think you made some very good comments, but let's not go there. Let's leave him out of it. Let's just speak about this here.

[Man (who has spoken before)]
So this is where we practice sports. It's not for other clubs to come and give comments here, and so I think it is valid.

The other thing is, I used to live in Somerset West, and if there was people wanting to change a piece of vineyard into development, you saw a notice up there notifying residents of what is going to

happen here, and the chairman from the hockey club is trying to convince us that he's followed a very transparent way.

[Riad Davids]

We're not interested in him. It's a city process. So don't worry about that at all.

[Man (who has spoken before)]

No, you would have probably had thousands of people coming out here today if notices were put up. So how has city council and yourself really engaged with community?

[Riad Davids]

We have answered that. If you put in a comment, I'm sorry to interject, but we have covered that many times. If you feel there's a problem with the process, please put that in and we'll address it.

Yes, ma'am.

[Karen]

Thank you. Hi, my name is Karen. I'm a resident in Pinelands and a player in the Frisbee sports club.

I think a number of us have raised our eyebrows at the comment that these are underutilized fields, and I wonder if in fact there has been any kind of assessment of the field usage, but also I wonder if the city plans to do any kind of impact assessment on what will happen if some, because you're talking about half the lower field being utilized.

[Riad Davids]

20 percent, 20 percent.

[Karen]

It's not 20 percent of the lower field. It might be 20 percent of the oval.

[Riad Davids]

No, no, it's 20 percent of the lower field.

[Karen]

Do you think so? How's your spatial reasoning there?

[Riad Davids]

Okay. 40 percent, 40, 40 percent.

[Karen]

Okay, so we're saying half the, so if I can say it back to you, half the lower field being utilized. There are a lot of sports codes, in particular soccer, currently using most of the space. That means increased usage of the remaining space and concerning potentially the top field which the cricket team in particular has put a lot of effort into maintaining as a usable surface for them, and so I just wonder if there will be any kind of assessments of usage and impact should half the lower field be utilized.

[Riad Davids]

So if that's something that you absolutely want to have an answer to, please ask that question, and then it's, yeah, please do, and then, yeah, and then in the same way as you say is that comment, I don't know who made that comment, but I will say to you something, and I come from a sporting

background. I would say fields are underutilized across the city completely. There are, sorry, there are fields that aren't, but if you want to really sweat an asset, you're looking at something that's going to be used almost all the time by everyone, and that's not the case here, but if you put in that question, we can answer that question.

We also have a huge amount. We have 17 parks across Pineland. 14 of them are official parks.

We have a huge amount of public open spaces, and many of them are just standing empty, and I'll tell you why we know that is because the amount of comments we get from people wanting housing, wanting housing, wanting sport, wanting schools, wanting a whole lot of different things. People want to put up clinics, want people to put up private hospitals, private developers wanting to buy things, so we have a huge amount of that, and we've got to make, we have to make absolutely sure that every city asset is utilized properly, and if it's not utilized properly, we can't answer people, and that's why if you look at the, and I'll go back to just King David, Melbourne Golf Club, people say why that golf club? Now we've got 12 golf clubs in the city. We've got more golf clubs than Trump has in Mar-a-Lago and in Florida in the inner city, so what we've got to do is, sorry, I'm an answer, so what we need to do is the lady asked a question on utilization, and I'm answering on good utilization, please.

[Karen]

Can I just clarify, I asked if there would be an assessment of utilization and assessment of impact, so my question is will there be process?

[Riad Davids]

So what I'm saying to you is if, remember you gave a period of comment, and they're not saying what you can comment on, they're just saying you must comment and give input, so if you give input and say these are, you want to know if there is going to be hockey, what is the impact going to be on the other sports, and that's a question you can ask.

[Karen]

I'm asking if that's part of the normal process, so if someone puts in a lease to utilize space, is part of the process an impact assessment?

[Riad Davids]

So the gentleman was talking about Somerset West, so if this wasn't a sports, if, I'm answering, if it was not a current sports facility that was used by sports, including hockey, that process will be triggered. In this case, it's already an existing sports facility, it's already zoned for sports, and hockey was here for many years, so that doesn't trigger, but it doesn't mean you can't answer the question, but that's the big difference between, let's say if this wasn't sports, it goes through a different process than because it is sports and it had existing hockey. Can I thank everyone, I have another meeting starting at seven o'clock, and I'm also fasting, as well as Wadia and Siraja are also fasting, so we need to do that.

Can we wrap this up, and please, I appeal to everyone, send in your information as much as you can, we can then consider it when the time comes for the consideration to be done. If you wanted additional process, ask that as well, and we'll maybe call on a town planner to try to put something like that together, and that will be considered within the city as well, and I can interject as well to ask, because look, the one thing is we know what the sentiment of those present, we've heard the sentiment, we felt the sentiment, and that is something that will be conveyed as well, but I don't need the sentiment to go into the city, I need the facts, the questions, the inputs to go into the city,

because that's the important side, because that's when the consideration gets taken, that's what they're going to look at.

Emotions always run high with something, and as I say, we left NIMBY and we're into BANANA, “build absolutely nothing, absolutely nothing anywhere”, and unfortunately we've got to shift from that. The city is growing, we grew by almost a million people in a very, very short time, we are going to be growing more, and we've got to be inclusive and make sure that we sweat our assets as much as possible. I'm not saying it's going to be hockey, I'm not saying it's going to be football, I'm saying we're going to sweat our assets as much as possible, and we also know we have a massive, massive housing shortage as well, which is something the city also has to be cognizant of.

I thank you all for coming, thank you.

Please note:

The recording of the meeting was transcribed using [turboscribe.ai](#)

Various corrections/additions (e.g. names of speakers) were added by Andrew Spencer.

If any errors occurred in this process, please accept my apologies. They are not intentional!