

# FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*(Incorporating Fish Hoek, Clovelly and Sun Valley)*

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**SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON “DRAFT MUNICIPAL SPORTS FACILITIES  
POLICY”**

**DUE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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## **1. DISCUSSION**

In terms of Section 17 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000, we can submit comments to the municipality in respect of this Draft Policy.<sup>1</sup> The Fish Hoek Valley Residents and Ratepayers Association (FHVRRA) has consulted several Sports Clubs in our area. Most are aware of the proposed policy and will comment either directly or via their Sports Associations. Both our comments and those of some of the Sports Clubs are incorporated in this document. The FHVRRA believes that both the principle and the text of the “Draft Municipal Sports Facilities Policy” are sound subject to the following caveats:

### **Philosophy**

#### **“Less for More”**

There is a mantra that pervades all communications from the City in recent times - “The City will do less and you the ratepayer or resident must do more.” Less electricity - higher tariff, less water - higher tariff, less law enforcement, social services etc.- but higher rates. Yet, the number of City employees increases in each budget and their rate of pay escalates by more than inflation. This means lower productivity, which in turn means that each of us is getting poorer!

#### **“Negative vs Positive”**

Sport and recreation are iconic features of the Cape Town lifestyle for both locals and visitors. The benefits to mental and physical health and social cohesion are proven; all of which translates into a major economic benefit for the City. Rather than imply that the creation and maintenance of municipal Sports facilities need to be traded off against other priorities, the proposed policy should confirm the key nature of the City’s Sports and Recreation facilities. Although these criticisms may appear to be about semantics, they call for a paradigm shift in attitude from the City.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.capetown.gov.za/City-Connect/Have-your-say/Issues-open-for-public-comment/comment-on-the-draft-sports-facilities-policy>

## Specific Clauses <sup>2</sup>

This document continues the “Less for More” mantra to a certain extent, particularly in section 7.2.1

### “7.2 Maintenance

- 7.2.1 The City will manage facilities in a manner that reduces its maintenance liability....”, should be replaced with, “The City will manage facilities in a manner that **optimises its maintenance efforts....**”

The “Positive vs Negative” attitude appears in clause 7.4

### “7.4 Development

- 7.4.1 Promoting rationalisation, whereby clubs amalgamate or absorb smaller clubs. The formation of new clubs and new sporting entities is discouraged. This will prevent under-utilisation of sport facilities. Proponents of sport projects or youth projects should form associations with established clubs or be incorporated into existing clubs.”

should be replaced by:-

**“7.4.1 Promoting rationalisation in circumstances where existing facilities are under-utilised, so that:-**

**7.4.1.1 Clubs amalgamate or absorb smaller clubs;**

**7.4.1.2 Any envisaged new clubs should be encouraged to amalgamate with existing clubs or use existing facilities; and**

**7.4.1.3 Proponents of sports projects or youth projects should be encouraged to form associations with established clubs or be incorporated into existing clubs.”**

In Fish Hoek, the “soccer” club (FH AFC) shares municipal facilities with a number of other clubs (squash, cricket, hockey) under the mantle of the Fish Hoek Sports Association which operates on the equivalent of Tier 1 status. The soccer club has ±400 members, many of them drawn from less affluent communities but nevertheless bears the brunt of the costs. Due to municipal restrictions on playing hours the fields are not of adequate capacity. Other management issues are addressed in **Recreation** below.

### “8.2 Rentals”

Many clubs that have the equivalent of Tier 1 status at present, pay rentals that may not be market-related. Introducing market-related rentals may result in these clubs no longer being economically viable, so defeating one of the objectives of this draft policy. Furthermore, at a meeting between various clubs and sports bodies with Alderman J P Smith, it was stated that the City wishes to reduce the term of leases to five or even three years. If the clubs security of tenure is reduced to this extent, it is highly unlikely that the clubs would make any capital investments in improvements to their facilities.

## Reporting

While monitoring and evaluation and hence reporting is of critical importance, the reporting requirements for each tier appear to be rather stringent, rigid and bureaucratic and very possibly impracticable for most clubs and sporting bodies. Perhaps the management / user / lease agreements for each club could be tailored to suit the reporting requirements?

## Recreation

In Fish Hoek (and many other areas), the municipal sports fields are used by informal groups and individuals for walking (particularly dog walking), jogging etc. Although the various sports clubs accept these activities problems arise; in particular, dog “poop” and dogs attacking sports participants. FHVRRA recommends that this policy addresses the management of casual users of sports facilities.

## Language

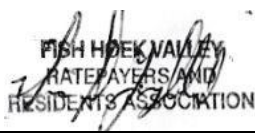
Replace:-

- “for free” with “**free of charge**”
- “in line with” with “**comply with**”

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Therefore, for the reasons set out in this report, we recommend the following:

- Change the wording as stated above for Sections 2.1 and 7.4.1;
- Maintain the subsidised rate in Section 8.2 (instead of insisting on being market-related);
- Grant leases that incentivise Clubs to make investment in additional facilities;
- Tailor the detail of reporting requirements in management / user / lease agreements for each club; and
- Manage casual users of sports facilities, especially those with dogs.

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<b>DATE</b>	28 September 2018