

From: jane anne Murray jamconsults@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Jgtc final dialogue
Date: August 23, 2018 at 1:35 PM
To: Boris Fucic bfucic@hotmail.com, Bob Searle bob.searle@yahoo.com, Allan Poss aposs@rogers.com



Boris....

There is no need for a general meeting.

The Decision has been made in conjunction with the City.

The Club lasted far beyond its years.
The team at all costs, made it last even further.
While we appreciate your current concern,
There is no point.

We serviced the members to the best of our ability with the limited resources that came in from fewer memberships yearly, and then from the camps.
With the permit costs increasing annually, the minimum wage increase and the diminishing membership annually... the end was unavoidable!
Had we pushed to raise fees, we would have lost members who cannot afford or would not afford the current membership rates which can now rightfully go as high as \$200 a year.
We have been charitable.
(I might add that we still have "members" who disrespect the system and continue to want to play there without having paid their annual membership -who try to work the system to their own advantage.)

It was a well-known fact in the community that James Gardens was a steal; but it was also a substandard facility. Intercounty teams didnt even want to play there in the last few years.

To be fair to the team,
every time I've been down at the courts during the week, last year and this year, there has been no one there playing other than on Intercounty nights or on the odd round-robin night.

Your executive stopped doing major programming because the cost of the permit and the court monitors basically took up the entire budget and there was minimal participation of members.

People like Bob, have given countless hours of volunteer time to keep the place clean, tidy and operational.

Quite frankly it's a little late to get yourself worked up about this.

We were actually going to make an announcement prior to the season-opening, that we would not open in 2018, nor acquire a permit.

We labored over the decision for a long time last year and now this year; however the city has the ultimate say- not us. 2018 was the season new policy was ratified by city council and now adhered to.
The fact remains we do not- I repeat we do not meet the requirements for a community club under the new tennis policy. We must have a minimum of one hundred and twenty adult paying members - not seniors or juniors .. to meet the minimum requirements. Last year we had 60 plus-half of the requirement.

I recommend that you save your energy for choosing where and how you want to play in the coming years.

You're welcome there any time next season -2019 as the courts become public all the time or find another club.

The City has a file on record for J.G.T.C with membership and fiscals which is a requirement for getting a yearly seasonal permit.

We are not willing to entertain any more dialogue, as there is no point.

Enjoy the rest of the season and keep the memories of James Gardens close to your heart as we all will.

Jane Anne Murray

On Thu, Aug 23, 2018, 10:32 AM Boris Fucic, <bfucic@hotmail.com> wrote:

Jane Anne,

First off – I am hereby formally requesting that an emergency general meeting be held to decide on next steps (open to all members) and that financial statements be shared in advance (going as far back as possible).

In terms of a response to your previous email:

You make several references to how the club's problems were well known for a "long" period of time. The question is what did you as the president of the club do about it?

And the answer to that question is; absolutely NOTHING.

The following are just a few of the items that are a direct indicator and result of the executive's mismanagement of the club.

Transparency - There has been absolutely zero transparency into the day-to-day operations of the club. The club has not had an Annual General Meeting in the time that I have been here. No financial statements have been produced and there haven't been meeting minutes sent out for A SINGLE MEETING in 20 years! So while the club's problems may have been well known to you – the average member of the club can only see the symptoms of these problems. The last email is another clear example of the lack of and the lacking communication from this club's leadership.

Club Pro and Training Program – You parade the tennis camps as some savior of the club. Why is it that James Gardens didn't have its own camp where a greater portion of the funds would go to the club and not some fly-by-night operation that for several years was associated to another club altogether. I know tennis programs and I know what the economics of such programs are - this was NOT a good deal for James Gardens. While it may have kept the club afloat temporarily, it definitively had nothing to do with ensuring the club's long term viability. A point so clearly illustrated in your email.

Further to this, most clubs make a substantial amount of their income from the lessons. Perhaps if our club pro spent more than 50 hours in the last 20 years (and this is a liberal estimate), the club would have made some additional funds to sustain itself. There are pros out there that would absolutely love the opportunity to head a club but the option of bringing on a new pro was never entertained.

Number of Members / Rates / Marketing – I have been a member of other clubs (with 4 or more courts) and have had the opportunity to talk to club members, pros and executives throughout my time in intercounty. It was very common for clubs with four courts to sustain themselves with memberships running close to the 200-member mark (adult or not). This is with even greater overhead of a complete club-house. They do this through proper management, flexible pricing, fundraising and through creative marketing. Your executive again, did nothing – James Gardens has had the same website, same boards and absolutely no marketing for 20 years (even our sign-up from is from the 90's).

You mention that the "leadership" has done all that it could to assist the club. Other than sitting on city committees and keeping the parking lot open after hours, I really struggle to know what this is. The only person worthy of any credit here is Bob who has thanklessly ran every element of this club with what can only be described as a completely incompetent executive.

Maybe if James Garden's wasn't operated as a personal fiefdom and if the president was physically present at the club more than two times in 10 years we would have a better-informed membership. Perhaps if the membership was properly informed and if it had been given the opportunity to act we would not have waited for the club to bleed out in every sense of the word.

Quite honestly Jane-Ann, if I wasn't so sure of your utter incompetence I would have assumed that something illicit was taking place.

Please advise as to next steps.

Boris

From: jane anne Murray <jamconsults@gmail.com>

Sent: August 22, 2018 11:08 AM

To: bfucic@hotmail.com

Cc: Bob Searle; Allan Poss

Subject: Jgtc

Thanks for your email.

Bob is our j.g.t.c. communications person and the current face of the club.

He communicates all messages, changes, schedules etc.

Bob has been "the" faithful servant to the club.

Allen has been most responsible recently for acquiring and dealing with the tennis camps, which have, in fact kept the club viable these last few years, as camps infused monies and junior programming, that the membership couldn't produce to keep the club open.

I have been lobbying for the club's

continuing operations while participating on the Toronto Tennis liaison committee that was addressing and writing new tennis policy for community clubs across the city.

Were it not for sitting on that committee, and petitioning for a permit the last three seasons, we would not have acquired one.

We were all waiting to see what would happen when new policy went into effect.

According to the new tennis policies that went into effect 2018,

James Gardens doesn't qualify financially, nor by the numbers of members, to name a few reasons, to acquire a permit.

Also and important, is the fact that the courts are in irreparable condition and do not meet the criteria for capital improvement-location, lack of water, emergency access, safety, isolated etc...

This is not new news.

The park has changed supervisors every year for the last 10 years.

The leadership team has done all they could to assist the club.

However,

The club does not have any remaining Capital nor the required membership.

Our Capital was used 22 years ago when we did the full reconstruction.

The membership at the time rose to approximately 250 people. Admirable, however it really needed to be about 400 annually with the majority being adults every year since.

Our club demographic has never been that.

Considerably senior by age and continues to become more senior by age.

Subsequent remaining capital offset yearly needs.

To that end, We have not raised fees in many many years because of the demographic of our own members.

(Also during the Ford Nation of 8 years, the park itself went into neglect and disrepair. The Mayor at the time, for his own security reasons didn't want anyone in the park, so the park and the courts were pretty much left unattended by the city.)

We have been talking about all of this for a number of years as the situation continued to deteriorate.

Again, This is not new news.

Members have complained about the courts for years and we've only been able to tell them the same thing." We do not have the money nor the membership to finance another reconstruct "

There comes a time when decisions just have to be made and they were.

Bob, Allen and I have attended meetings, had consultations Etc and still the decision remains the Same in cooperation with new city mandates.

The facility in 2019 will become

" a community facility" where anyone can play by putting up their racket.

...no monitors, programs, toilets, shed etc...

..under city public rules which will be displayed.

(Until such a time as the city shuts the entire facility down for safety reasons...anyone can play there in 2019.

No one knows how long that might be.)

So all are welcome to play there or choose a club of your choice.

Jane Anne Murray.

