

# Councillor pushes for money for rec park

By Bernice Pontanilla  
Staff Reporter

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A financial contribution from the City of Winnipeg towards a recreational project for Transcona is still up in the air, despite efforts from the local councillor and project organizers to get a definitive answer.

"We are still trying to find ways to assist," said Mayor Sam Katz, in an exclusive interview with The Herald.

"I think the project is a great project."

Katz and members of the East Winnipeg Sports Association, the group behind the \$5.8-million Buhler Recreation Park, met for two hours on Dec. 12.

This came just hours after councillors on the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee held a special meeting to discuss a motion put forward by Transcona Coun. Russ Wyatt.

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# Rec Park

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The motion requested that \$1.5 million be immediately provided to the association as

funding that "would represent the City of Winnipeg contribution as per the Transcona Recreation Park business plan," with the City recouping the money in fees paid when future housing developments are approved, done through the community's land dedication

fund.

"We're trying to find ways to fund this outside of the capital budget because the mayor seems apprehensive about putting one penny towards this project," said Wyatt, "which I think is very unfortunate."

But Katz said the City has ponied up, providing \$65,000 towards the project's business plan, the land on which the park will be built, valued between \$200,000 and \$300,000, and endorsed the park as qualifying for the Manitoba Rural Infrastructure Fund.

This led to the federal and provincial governments kicking in \$1.5 million each towards the project.

"We had to basically sign off on it, even though there's no funding coming from the City," said Katz.

"And that was done and that wasn't an easy thing to do because there were some people who thought those monies could be used for other projects."

Wyatt did stress that he and Katz are working together.

Steve Mymko, director of the East Winnipeg Sports Association, said the meeting with Mayor Katz was "productive," but declined to release any details as to what was discussed.

"The EWSA has a commitment from the mayor to have a resolution to this by the

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**Transcona Coun. Russ Wyatt says he will work with Mayor Sam Katz to find funding for Buhler Rec Park.**

spring of 2006," he said.

"We are glad to see that he (Katz) and Coun. Wyatt see it as a worthwhile project for the community."

The Buhler Recreation Park will be built over 57 hectares of land located on Murdock Road, near Dugald Road.

It will contain eight softball diamonds, two baseball diamonds, four soccer fields, a toboggan hill, skating pond, playground, walking trails, canteen, exhibition space and parking for 600 people.

More than 400,000 people from all over the city are expected to use the park when it's completed.