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It was a day city hall decided to be nice to baseball players and anglers.

Council's executive committee served notice Tuesday that it wants "No Fishing" signs taken down after they went up only last week in about 20 locations along the inner harbour.

And the committee, chaired by Mayor Rob Ford, backed cutting in half and delaying until 2013 proposed new sports field fees for youth baseball leagues.

Councillor Paula Fletcher said the city should be encouraging urban fishing. The committee approved her motion to schedule a fishing summit of anglers and waterfront agencies "to celebrate and encourage shoreline fishing."

Among other things, the summit will map busy waterfront locations that should be off limits to fishing and where signs are needed.

Fletcher's motion, which goes to July's council meeting for final approval, calls on the parks department to remove the recently installed "No Fishing" signs.

When the signs went up, "anglers were left out of the conversation," Fletcher said. "People do need to be consulted. They've been fishing there for decades."

On sports field fees, the city promises better quality fields in return for collecting fees from youth baseball leagues which have been able to play for free.

New fees were slipped into the city's 2012 budget, prompting a major backlash from leagues which said they were too onerous considering fields are in worse shape than in surrounding 905 communities.

The 2012 fees were cancelled, and a reduced fee schedule was drafted for 2013 with the caveat that field quality must improve.

If it doesn't, the city will be charging for "basically crap fields, that's what I hear a lot," Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong told fellow executive committee members.

The city expects to raise about \$850,000 next year by charging \$6 an hour for A fields; \$4 an hour for B facilities; and \$2 an hour for C fields. The money will go to hiring special turf maintenance crews in 2013.

Before it does, the city must invest money in upgrading its 676 sports fields, said David Black, president of the Toronto Baseball Association, the umbrella group for 16 youth leagues with 8,500 players.

"They need to spend money to upgrade an A field to an A field standard," Black said. "We don't even know if the irrigation systems work in a number of these A fields."

"Until that's rectified and the fields are brought back, only then does it make sense to upgrade maintenance."

City parks staff conceded that fields need better aeration, fertilizing, top dressing and overseeding, as well as rest periods to recover from heavy use.

In other business, the committee declined Councillor Paul Ainslie's request to offer free parking to Canadian war veterans in all city facilities, including Green P lots and on-street meters.

And it asked staff to report on Councillor Adam Vaughan's request to allow food truck and cart vendors to set up in parking lots.

Meanwhile, the committee signalled it wants the city's real estate development arm, Build Toronto, to restrain wages paid to its top executives.

Build Toronto's board paid chief executive Lorne Braithwaite \$585,122 in total compensation in 2011. Senior vice-presidents Don Logie and John Macintyre earned \$361,947 and \$324,827 respectively last year.

The committee passed a motion by Minnan-Wong asking Build Toronto's board to look at city finances and salaries paid to city staffers in awarding salary and bonuses to its executives.