

City of St. Catharines
ARENA PARTNERS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 12th, 2014 at 5:15 PM
Meridian Room, Seymour-Hannah Sports and Entertainment Centre
240 St. Paul Street West, St. Catharines, ON

MINUTES

Attendance: Kim Bauer; Jim Richardson; Phil Baranoski; Glen Cyr;
Tony Penna; Lincoln Fannell; Bill Burke; Steve Secord;
Joe MacNeil; Murray Nystrom; Council Ip; Councillor Williamson;
Dave Gerow; Councillor Siscoe; Councillor Phillips; Ken Houtby;
Kathi Plug;

Absent: Wayne Briggs-Jude; Paul Coates;
Jim Denham; Ken Russell;

Staff Liaison: Sandra Neil; Rick Lane; Scott Greenfield;

Staff Absent: Jim Benson

Guest: Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk (City of St. Catharines);
Doug Herod; Dan Pilon, Sara Bauer;

1. CHAIR TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER
Welcome from the Chair, Kim Bauer at 5:20 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES January 8th, 2014
Motion was made to accept the minutes as circulated.
Moved by: Glen Cyr
Seconded by: Jim Richardson
CARRIED

Approval of minutes from Dec. 11/13
CARRIED

3. ADVISORY COMMITTEES
Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, the City Clerk of St. Catharines met with the Arena Partners Committee to discuss the Advisory Committee Handbook. Over time it was noted that even though there were procedures in place for Council, there was nothing in place that addresses the needs and the requirements for our Council appointed committees.

As part of the City of St. Catharines on-going commitment to public *accountability and transparency*, on April 26, 2010 a Code of Conduct was adopted for Elected Officials, Local Boards and Advisory Committees. This Code is part of the handbook (tab C). Handbooks were then distributed.

Part 2 of the Code that applies to all members of Council and local boards, has some provisions that apply however they are some that are not applicable. Pages 4 and 5 have some good general conduct information.

Section D contains the new 'simplified meeting procedures by-law for advisory boards. This was done to assist all committee chairs and members to conduct meetings in an accountable and transparent fashion. Notice of meetings, agendas for meeting and minutes must be posted for the general public to view.

All committees are advisory only and do not exercise any power or authority. They do not have any decision making powers (pg. 2 – rules). Terms of reference are adopted by Council and members of any/all committees must stay within that mandate. Committee members are asked to stay within the terms unless a motion of the committee directs them to do otherwise. The Committee Chair **MUST** be at all meetings of the committee, to rule on procedural matters and maintain decorum. Pay close attention to 'simple majority', if there is no quorum no business can be moved forward.

After being questioned about the Merritton lease, Rick announced to the Committee that according to the City's Legal Department, the lease cannot be realised at this time.

Arena Partners Committee, along with other user groups, will be making a presentation to Council on Monday, February 24th regarding the closure of arenas.

Bonnie reminded the Committee that each presenter must let the Clerk's Department know that they are speaking. If there is a presentation package that needs to go to Council, it must be handed in 5 – 6 days before Council. The presenters usually have a limit of 10 minutes but because it is also budget night, they may limit it to less.

ACTION: Email by-law, handbooks and contact information from City Clerk - Kim G.

4. ACTION LIST
no updates

5. REPORTS AND UPDATES
4.1 CHAIR

No comment because of multiple issues to discuss throughout the evening.

4.2 COUNCILLORS

All Councillors agreed that the user groups need to voice their concerns to Council about the arena closures. Although ideally all of them should stay open, staff recommendations to keep Jack Gatecliff and Rex Stimers opened while decommissioning Haig Bowl would be a good compromise to the arena closure situation. This would give staff time to reallocate ice and dry floor users to other City facilities and allow staff to review the statistical data to come up with further solutions to this problem.

It was suggested by Councillors that staff continue conversations with other municipalities and organizations for partnerships in building new arenas. Rick mentioned that talks have already taken place with both Thorold and Brock.

ACTION: Provide Dave (CYO) with a copy of the 2014 Operating Budget – Kim G.

4.3 CITY STAFF

Rick mentioned that because of the motion Councillor Burch made to the Budget Committee, he was able to provide a draft report with his recommendation of not closing both pads at Jack Gatecliff and to close Haig Bowl in the fall of 2014. We would then study what implications there are over the year with a conclusion as to whether the future holds a closure of another ice facility. Remembering that the Meridian Centre will be up and running in the fall of 2014 with approximately 30 hours weekly available and also giving the IceDogs their new home freeing up more ice time at Jack Gatecliff.

When questioned about the Meridian Centre ice rental rate, Rick said that it would be 20 – 25% higher than City rates.

6. ARENA STRATEGY

Kim conducted a presentation to the Committee covering ice allocation, financial and historical issues. Jim R. assisted him with the facts that were presented. Various concerns were voiced during the presentation regarding the impact on tournaments, the economy and the future of our arenas and rental costs. Kim stressed again how critically the Arena Strategy Report is needed.

After the presentation, an extensive discussion took place regarding the Committee coming together with a motion to move forward on an agreed direction about the closure of the arenas.

Kim introduced his daughter Sara, and after talking about her background including her interests and specialities, told the Committee that she was willing to help out in any way she could.

It was suggested by Councillor Phillips to produce an actual people count of ice users which could be beneficial in the statistics.

ACTION: Send number of participants from user groups to Kim G. - All

MOTION:

For the Committee to make a decision tonight, to move forward on the motion regarding arena closures.

Moved by: Phil Baranoski
Seconded by: Glen Cyr
CARRIED (11 votes)

MOTION:

For the Committee to support the staff recommendation regarding the removal of ice operations for Haig Bowl for the 2014 – 2015 season.

Moved by: Jim Richardson
Seconded by: Phil Baranoski
CARRIED (9 votes)

7. NEW BUSINESS
nothing

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, March 12th, 2014 at 5:15 PM

9. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING
Motion was made to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Moved by: Joe MacNeil
Seconded by: Tony Penna
CARRIED

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**ACTION LIST
(Updated: February 12th, 2014)**

1	Sep 17-08	ARENA STRATEGIC PLAN - commence a strategy & feasibility process	Kim B.
2	Aug-24-11	Recommendation procedure for the Zero Tolerance Policy	Committee
3	Feb-13-13	ARENA STRATEGY – statement of preferred location from Brock and their long term plans	Murray
4	Feb-13-13	ARENA STRATEGY – current budgeting of facilities	Phil
5	Feb-13-13	ARENA STRATEGY – history of capital expenditures	Phil
6	Feb-13-13	ARENA STRATEGY – statistics on boys hockey	Committee
7	Feb-13-13	ARENA STRATEGY – statistics on new ice arena programs	Committee
8	Feb-13-13	ARENA STRATEGY – statistics on new Canadians	Committee
9	May-8-13	RCS Senior Management will discuss policy regarding end of allotted ice time when game is not completed	Trish Scott
10	Sept-11-13	Motion was made that City staff be asked to acquire allocation information from Merritton Arena for the 2012 – 2013 winter season	Jim B. Trish
11	Sept-11-13	Contact City Clerks Department to see if the public has access to the Merritton Arena Lease Agreement	Jim B.
12	Nov-13-13	Accessibility For Ontarians with Disabilities Act volunteer training modules were handed out and need to be returned to Sandra Neil by December 16 th	All
13	Nov-13-13	Signage for locker room time limits and signs to temporarily store hockey bags under the restaurant	Jim Sandra Trish
14	Jan-8-14	Meeting with Rick Lane to clarify	Kim B.
15	Jan-8-14	Meet with the Thorold Arena Advisory Committee	Kim B. Rick
16	Jan-8-14	Confirm with Clerks Department whether the Committee has authorization to receive a copy of the City's lease with Merritton Arena	Councillors Williamson Siscoe
17	Feb-12-14	Send number of participants from user groups to Kim G.	All