



City of St. Catharines
Arena Partners Committee
Wednesday, April 9th, 2014 at 5:15 PM
Seymour-Hannah Sports and Entertainment Centre
Meridian Room, 240 St. Paul Street West

Minutes

Attendance: Kim Bauer; Glen Cyr; Tony Penna; Bill Burke;
Lincoln Fannell; Jim Richardson; Ken Russell;
Councillor Phillips; Phil Baranoski; Dave Gerow;
Councillor Siscoe; Mayor McMullan; Paul Coates;

Absent: Joe MacNeil; Steve Secord; Councillor Williamson;
Wayne Briggs-Jude; Kathi Plug; Ken Houtby;
Murray Nystrom; Joanne Thomson; Jim Denham;

Staff Liaison: Dave Oakes; Jim Benson; Scott Greenfield; Sandra Neil;

Staff Absent:

1. Chair to Call the Meeting to Order

Welcome from the Chairman; Kim Bauer at 5:20 PM

2. Approval of Minutes February 12th, 2014

Motion was made to accept the minutes as circulated.

Moved by: Glen Cyr
Seconded by: Jim Richardson
CARRIED

3. Action List

Everything should be deleted off the list except numbers 2, 9 and 13.

4. Reports And Updates

4.1 Chair

February 24th Council agreed on a motion to decommission Haig Bowl for September 2014 and then review the issues for the closure of the Jack Gatecliff Complex. Moving forward we need to focus on the various items that the Councillors addressed at the same council meeting.

4.2 Councillors

Councillor Phillips is looking forward to working with Dave Oakes, Director of Recreation and Community Services, and proceeding on the Recreation Master Plan.

A dialogue took place regarding the full page advertisement on the possible closure of the Jack Gatecliff Complex that was placed in The Standard by a group of various minor hockey teams. In order to correct any negative issues from this article, it was suggested having everything go through the Committee so that it can be debated and then expressed as one voice.

4.3 City Staff

Dave Oakes introduced himself to the Committee giving a brief history of his time with the City of St. Catharines. Prior to his current role, David was the Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Customer Service as well as assisting with the Clerks Department. As of March 31st there is a new structure for the City of St. Catharines that was implemented through the new CAO, Dan Carnegie. This includes two commissioners, Shelley Chemnitz, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Dave Bloomer (interim), Commissioner of Operations. Rick Lane has taken on a new position as Director of Strategic Initiatives which would include the Meridian Centre and the Performing Arts Centre.

This will create new opportunities for parks, facilities and recreation because we will see their deficiencies and build from them a long term vision which may or may not include the closing of arenas.

There was a motion at Council on February 24th that was approved to hire a consultant to assist on producing the Recreation Master Plan. The Request for Proposal (RFP) has gone out as of Wednesday, April 9th and this will be brought back to Council in November. This will also highlight the Terms of Reference which may be specific to certain arenas. There will be ongoing communication with this Committee and all user groups.

The schedule required by the Council motion is:

- April 9th – release RFP
- May 9th – proposals due
- End of May – award project

Staff will stay on top of this timeline because some of the dates run through the summer and the new Council will be dealing with this in the Spring of 2015. Once we meet with the successful firm and layout the time frame, the consultants should be able to see if it is achievable or not.

The Mayor wanted to thank all the volunteers from the user groups that represent this Committee. Their dedication has made this process a huge success and we

have received \$150,000 from the City budget to proceed with doing this process properly. This should give us the answers that we are seeking and for that, kudos to the Committee and a job well done.

Lastly, we were also directed to bring back the issues regarding the Merritton Arena and that will be in May 2014 as well.

The Committee wanted to confirm the order of supervision for the City:

- Staff report to Managers
- Managers report to Directors
- Directors report to Commissioners
- Commissioners report directly to the CAO

The Mayor would also like to thank all the City staff that continued to work with the Committee on gathering all the arena strategic information, especially Rick Lane, who is such a dedicated advocate for hockey and recreation.

It was suggested by Councillor Phillips that the Director of Recreation and Community Services present an annual update to Council on the Rec Master Plan.

5. Arena Strategy

As the Chair, Kim wanted to know the Committees' views on moving forward and the direction we would like to take. Over the years there have been some discrepancy issues but the Committee continues to have a good relationship with Councillors, staff and the user groups and he is extremely proud of this Committee and what they have accomplished.

It was suggested that as a Committee, everything should go through the Chairman. You shouldn't speak on behalf of the Committee if it is your own opinion. These items need to be discussed and decided upon by the Committee vote whether to move forward to Council or staff.

The Mayor reminded the Committee that it is a 50% plus 1 vote that passes the motion, just like Council. You need to bring your views to the Committee and fight hard for what you believe in but the end vote comes from all Committee members. The single vote comes from all individual user groups to support one decision.

Councillor Siscoe stated that we need to re-write the Terms of Reference for this Committee. That will be done when the Recreation Master Plan is completed and at that point it will confirm the accurate roles and responsibilities for this Committee.

Jim R. suggested working with staff to promote ways of using more ice time, tournaments, etc. The total number of users is still a valuable asset to have for the arena strategy. This would include public skating, shinny hockey, pre-school hockey and any other public programming.

Sandra and staff are working on ice allocation because of Haig arena closing in September 2014. There will be adjustments and changes so user groups need to be flexible. We need the user group numbers so that allocation is accurate. Unfortunately we can't stand on the historical evidence. Sandra wants the communication to continue between the ice users and staff.

Scott agreed that it is essential for the dialogue to come from the ice users for operations. This is beneficial to have the feedback to improve our services.

Kim wanted to know if there will be guaranteed blocks of ice time at Merritton arena and the Meridian Centre. Dave Oakes confirmed that there is a reference in the existing lease for Merritton in the report and moving forward we hope to include Merritton in the Allocation Policy. This is something that we hope to have by September 2014.

Sandra reminded the Committee that the deadline for fall and winter registration for ice is May 1st. It will be at that point that we will have a better view of what is needed due to request conflicts.

There was a concern voiced by the Committee about the price of ice time at the Meridian Centre. Dave Oakes mentioned that Ken Noakes is the General Manager for SMG Canada and he will present their contract for operations before Council as their management group is coming from the private sector.

6. New Business

Sandra mentioned that the office hours will be changing according to the usage of the arena, but they still will open ½ hour before tournaments begins. The new office hours as of April 28th will include 2 shifts ranging from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Senior skate attendants will still be available and they will be able to accept payments for ice rentals. She stated to the Committee that the new customer service for the City is called 'Citizens First'. She said it is a one call service to help all citizens out and that some of the office tasks have been transferred to that group. Their hours are 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., with walk in hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and phones only from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

It was confirmed by Sandra that all four ice pads at Seymour-Hannah will be running during the summer season.

Phil would like Sandra to look into having the office opened till 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. for key distribution and safety issues.

Sandra will also look into the shinny hockey that is booked in between the adult user groups. This could result in ice time being turned back in and making it available for other programing.

She will also review the long term strategy for ice rentals on eplay. There have been some concerns in the past regarding the Class program and the rate for the ice that is tagged for the user groups when they log into the system.

CYO would like one contract through the City when rentals need to be purchased through the Meridian Centre and/or Merritton arena.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 14th, 2014 at 5:15 PM

8. Adjournment of Meeting

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

Moved by: Jim Richardson
Seconded by: Phil Baranoski
CARRIED

Action List
Updated: April 9th, 2014

1. Aug-24-11

Recommendation procedure for the Zero Tolerance Policy
Committee

2. May-8-13

RCS Senior Management will discuss policy regarding end of allotted ice time
when game is not completed

Sandra and Scott

3. Nov-13-13

Signage for locker room time limits

Jim and Sandra