

**City of St. Catharines
ARENA PARTNERS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 13th, 2012, 5:15 PM
Meridian Room, Seymour-Hannah Sports and Entertainment Centre
240 St. Paul Street West, St. Catharines, ON**

MINUTES

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

Present: Kim Bauer; Rick Lane; Phil Baranoski; Jim Benson; Trish Cardwell;
Scott Greenfield; Ken Houtby; Joe MacNeil; Tony Penna;
Jim Richardson; Glen Cyr; Councillor Williamson

Regrets: Councillor Siscoe; Councillor Phillips; Murray Nystrom; Kathi Plug;
Ken Russell; Bill Burke; Wayne Briggs-Jude; Lincoln Fannell; Dave Gerow

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES DECEMBER 5TH, 2012

A motion was made by Glen Cyr and seconded by Joe MacNeil that the minutes be accepted as circulated. **Carried**

ACTION LIST

No changes.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

CHAIRMAN

Kim apologized to Trish for the harsh treatment at the last meeting. Important issues were discussed, but it's nothing personal.

Kim apologized to Phil that his items did not get on the Agenda. Moving forward with this issue, Agenda items must be submitted by the end of the day of the previous Wednesday, before the meeting.

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Williamson, mentioned that we need a solution to Bill Burgoyne arena, where you go from the benches to the ice; there is an extremely large step down to the ice. Jim Benson mentioned that TES and RCS are looking at a resolution for this issue that is within the budget.

STAFF

Rick's staff is reviewing ice allocation and prime time ice usage, making sure that the correct ice pads are being used for the summer ice rentals. Rick also reinforced that nothing has been decided yet about the future of any arenas.. Items will be vented through the committee before it goes to a political level. Rick and Kim discussed what they want for the mock allocation so it gets done correctly because it is so time consuming. Lead hands have been entrenched at the arenas and things are running much better. Thanks to the council who are so supportive of the RCS department.

Councillor Williamson reiterated that Merritton arena is still being treated separately.

PRIVATE MEETING REVIEW

Kim has some challenges for Rick to review regarding the data for the mock allocation presentation. Kim wants to make sure that all the data is factual and Rick agrees, which is why Wayne Briggs-Jude was so involved in the collection of the figures. An informative discussion took place.

Rick did confirm that Merritton arena does have to be factored in because they have an agreement with the city which is in affect for the next couple of years.

Phil would like the costs for the arenas updated. Rick said that Chris Elliott who oversees the budget for RCS, will evaluate those facility costs with Jim Benson, Jon and Scott, and provide Phil with the data.

Jim Richardson confirmed that the Spectator Facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2014. Rick said that the target date for closure of a facility, if necessary, would probably be the Spring of 2015.

Jim Richardson also asked specific questions about assured ice time in other facilities and moving users into different ice spots that aren't their first choice. Trish did remind them that in that scenario they would go back to the Ice Allocation Policy where the organizations would discuss the situation amongst themselves, using the policy guidelines. Tony did say that he feels it is usually the Adult Hockey Leagues that are affected.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the new Spectator Facility, the possible closure of other arenas, tournament times, guaranteed ice in other local arenas and why Merritton arena is not regulated by the city.

NEXT STEPS

Kim reminded the committee that we tried to implement an Arena Strategy Policy 12 years ago. He would like the committee to focus on getting this accomplished. All action items below were assigned for the next meeting, except for the ones assigned to Phil, which are due at the April meeting.

ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – total number of hours allocated by each renter	Trish
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – the history of prime/non-prime rates dating back to prior to the concept of Seymour-Hannah	Trish
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY- analysis of 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. hours, by whom and for 7 days a week; for now and for the mock allocation	Trish
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – summary of the mock allocation	Trish
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – condition assessments for the arenas	Rick/Jim B.
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – provide Phil with a history of capital work done in the arenas from 2008 to present; updating his current statistics	Rick/Jim B.
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – motion made on November 2001	Trish
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – motion when council agreed to keep Haig open	Trish
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – motion when council agreed to build spectator facility	Trish
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – growth of female hockey, both adult and youth, in St. Catharines	Jim R.
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – growth of female hockey provincially	Jim R.
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – growth of female hockey nationally	Jim R.
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – growth of PWHL	Jim R.
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – growth of college hockey in Canada and US	Jim R.
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – the history and growth of St. Catharines Recreational Skate (about 1 page with numbers)	Kathi
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – statement from the Falcons on what location they prefer	Joe

ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – statement of preferred location from Brock and their long term plans	Murray
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – current budgeting of facilities	Phil
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – history of capital expenditures	Phil
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – contact for ringette for Kim Bauer	Trish
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – contact for speed skating for Kim Bauer	Trish
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – contact for sledge hockey for Kim Bauer	Trish
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – statistics on boys hockey	Committee
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – statistics on new ice arena programs	Committee
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – statistics on new Canadians	Committee
ACTION:	ARENA STRATEGY – statistics on the growth of the Winter Club, locally, provincially and nationally	Committee

Councillor Williamson suggested looking at the demographics as well.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Kim asked the committee if Wednesdays are still good for the meetings and it was confirmed that the meetings will continue on the second Wednesday of each month, the next one being during March Break.

A discussion took place about putting the cost of an evaluation for RCS facilities into the budgets, so that we can have five year plans for the arenas.

NEW BUSINESS

Phil had a list of concerns for the various city arenas that he would like resolved which he submitted in writing to the city. Kim would like to see these issues either addressed at the Arena Partners Committee meetings or done personally through a request with the city, but not both. Rick concluded that he would have staff look into these problems and produce an appropriate time frame for the budget to have these issues resolved.

Jim Richardson had a few issues regarding the Meridian Room costs and internet hookup which Trish answered. He also asked Rick some questions regarding the SMG organization and how the Spectator Facility will run.

Joe MacNeil wanted to thank the city staff for doing such a great job with keeping the Jack Gatecliff arena open for the Junior B game during the snow storm. Rick said that it was a tough decision to keep that arena open, as well as Seymour-Hannah, for the Brock game, but it seemed to work out well. Councillor Williamson suggested that a letter of appreciation be sent out to the city staff on the committee's behalf.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 13th, 2013 at 5:15 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting to adjourn at 7:45 PM by Councillor Williamson and seconded by Phil Baranoski.