

**City of St. Catharines
ARENA PARTNERS COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 10th, 2013, 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 5:21 PM.

Present: Kim Bauer; Jim Benson; Councillor Phillips; Councillor Siscoe;
Trish Cardwell; Glen Cyr; Jim Richardson; Phil Baranoski;
Dave Gerow; Jim Denham; Wade Graham; Scott Greenfield;

Regrets: Councillor Williamson; Rick Lane; Kathi Plug; Joe MacNeil;
Murray Nystrom; Tony Penna; Ken Russell; Ken Houtby;
Bill Burke; Wayne Briggs-Jude; Lincoln Fannell;

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES MARCH 13TH, 2013

A motion was made by Glyn Cyr and seconded by Jim Richardson that the minutes be accepted as circulated. **Carried**

Kim B. mentioned that the Merritton arena assessments were emailed out today.

ACTION LIST

Updates:

4 has been provided but still needs to be reviewed

8 completed - remove

9 completed - remove

10 completed – remove

19, 20 and 21 have been provided and Kim B. has sent out emails to contacts without a response

REPORTS AND UPDATES

CHAIRMAN

Kim discussed the article that was in The Standard regarding the Thorold arenas and their assessments that were estimated between 10 and 35 million dollars. It was suggested that municipalities should work in partnership to do their assessments.

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Phillips said that all of the piles are in for the Spectator Facility. Everything is on target as of last Wednesday's meeting and on budget with no cost overruns.

A discussion took place regarding the lease between the City of St. Catharines and SMG, the company that will be running the Spectator Facility. The councillors gave their interpretations of the agreement including the amount per year and per seat.

STAFF

Following up on a request from Councillor Williamson, Jim B. reported on the Thorold arena assessments and the different alternatives that the City of Thorold will be reviewing.

Jim B. also mentioned how valuable this committees' recommendations are especially regarding the arenas and ice programming for the future. Rick would like to have something in writing by August with the committees proposals as to what they would like to support.

Trish said that the Home Show went well and while the ice was out, maintenance was done at Seymour-Hannah. She also confirmed that we will be leaving all 4 ice pads in for the summer months because of the increase in bookings using arenas for their camps. The city will be sensitive with Kiwanis Field users, as they may need the facility, but otherwise if there are no tournaments on the weekends, they will close earlier on Saturday and Sunday.

ARENA STRATEGY REPORT

Kim stated that there were initially three motions from council to produce an arena strategy report with staff's assistance starting back in November 26, 2001. He would like more support from staff to complete this report.

Because of another article in The Standard regarding water charges, it stated that the city will be getting a new management program. Jim B. expanded on the software that the city is looking into purchasing. This will help with the assessments and operations for all facilities, forecasting the needs and consolidating everything to help with more accurate decisions. There were additional supportive comments by both councillors.

Kim led a lengthy discussion as to why the committee's recommendation needs to be done by August and how additional support from staff is critical for compiling data for the report.

Additional dialogue took place amongst the committee regarding ice allocation, ice user facilities being altered, profiling for organizations and the possibility of decommissioning arenas. Both councillors assured the committee that nothing has been decided yet and it wouldn't take place before the Spectator Facility opened.

Phil reviewed some costs with the committee that were provided to him for the report. He is trying to figure out the cost per hour for arena maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim R. will be playing less of a role with the St. Catharines Female Hockey Association because he has been asked to join the executive for the Ontario Women Hockey Association. He will be the Regional Director for the Toronto area. Jim also attended the Women Worlds on Friday, along with 18,000 other people, which was the most watched game ever.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, May 8th, 2013 at 5:15 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting to adjourn at 6:37 PM by Councillor Phillips and seconded by Phil.