

Curling Club/Leisure Activities Plan

I have been asked to be the spokesperson for the group for this meeting – likely because of seniority.

In the far distant past, I was a member of the committee that worked with consultants to develop a Recreation Plan for Collingwood Township. In the opinion of many we developed a good plan with some excellent recommendations. Unfortunately, because of the internal politics of the Collingwood Township Council, that plan sat on a shelf and gathered dust.

When the Town of the Blue Mountains did their Leisure Activities Plan in 2007, I was again asked to be a member of the committee. It is true that that plan did not push for a curling club. However it did emphasize that the Town needed to create partnerships. The curling club proposal is an excellent opportunity for a partnership.

That Leisure Activities Plan is such a good model that the University of Western Ontario uses it as a model in one of their courses.

It is also true that there is very little said about a curling club in the recently completed Feasibility Study. Traditionally, curling clubs are not part of multi use facilities – they are almost always “stand alone facilities”.

In January when the curling club proposal was brought to this committee, the motion that was passed did not (in our opinion) give the curling club group any permission to go ahead.

We also feel that there was some misunderstanding about the survey results that had been done to generate the number of people interested in a curling facility. Not everyone signed a sheet that had the question about where they might be presently curling. There were certainly more than 12 curlers on the list. I know that I had collected close to 40 names of curlers on the sheets I submitted.

Tonight we are asking for:

1. approval in principle of the facility to allow us to apply for Federal, Provincial and business grants when they might become available,
2. a high priority for the submission,
3. use of the town as signatory for grant approval &
4. partnership with the town.

We are looking at funding so that we can keep the cost to the town minimal to zero. Our group is made up of people interested in the community. Some of them are long time residents who were active in the planning and construction of Moreau Park, the Beaver Valley Community Centre and the Arena. That involvement in those projects (plus some grants) helped keep the cost to the Town and Township less than originally scheduled.

It is our understanding that if grants become available the group needs:

- to be construction ready (we believe that we are),
- have permits in place (the town could expedite that),
- have conceptual drawings (we believe that we will have that),
- firm pricing (we believe that we will have that).

The group would also be applying for Trillium Grants and would need the town to sign as co-applicants.

We need your approval and support in order to carry on with grant applications when they become available and even in order to do any fund raising.

We have removed the request for the \$2.5 million from the Town's Development Charge Funds and would plan to build when sufficient dollars were raised through grants, donations and other sources BUT we cannot do anything without the approval from this committee and the council.