

STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: Infrastructure & Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: May 26, 2009
REPORT NO.: DOR.09.027
SUBJECT: Curling Club Facility Working Group
PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt – Director of Recreation

A. Recommendations

THAT Council approve staff report DOR.09.027 “Curling Club Facility Working Group” and direct staff to establish a working group with a mandate to determine the feasibility and potential of a Curling Club Facility being developed comprised of one member of Council, Town Staff and Curling Group Representatives,

AND THAT, this working group will report through the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee.

B. Background

In late 2007, Town Staff was approached to discuss the possibility of a curling facility being constructed in the Blue Mountains. At the February 14, 2008 meeting of the former Recreation Committee correspondence was received from Alex Maxwell, Murray Johnston, Grant McMurchy, John Ardiel, Gerry Williams, and Gerald Eagles requesting permission to investigate the potential of re-establishing a curling club facility. Staff has been working with this group as a source of information.

A Delegation attended the April 28, 2009 Infrastructure and Recreation Committee. The group comprised of local residents Alex Maxwell, Tim Richardson, Gerald Eagles, Grant McMurchy, Krystin Rennie and Bill Remus presented a proposal to the Committee seeking official designation from the Town to go forward with their proposal for the development of a Curling Facility. The proposal also identifies that a formal business plan would be presented at a later date to provide justification and feasibility of this type of facility.

The Town is developing a Multi Use Facility Feasibility Study that is currently in draft form. Town Staff is working with the consultants to ensure that the study reflects the demographics and wishes of the community and is consistent with other Town Studies that affect the development of any additional facilities.

The recommended working group would operate similar to the existing Sustainable Snowmobile Trail working group, with representatives of stakeholders as well as Town Staff and one member of Council.

The curling club facility would be reviewed as a standalone facility as well as a component of a potential Multi Use Facility. As suggested in the April 28, 2009 proposal, the committee would contemplate a long term lease agreement that would have the Curling Club being responsible for all programming and operational costs of the curling facility during the curling season, and in turn would be responsible for programming and operational costs in the non ice season. This working group would provide reports to the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee through the Director of Recreation.

The Group would provide a proposal in a final report to Council.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs

Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community

D. Environmental Impacts

Sustainable and efficient best practices will be considered in all aspects of planning.

E. Budget Impact

Staff Time will be required for working group

F. Attached

- 1) April 28, 2009 Curling Club Proposal

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

Signature

For more information, please contact:

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PROPOSAL

To: TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

In March of 2008 a committee of residents of the Town of the Blue Mountains (the "Town") was formed with the objective of activating the old Beaver Valley Curling Club (the "Club") whose charter was recently wound up. This would be done by an application to revive or a newco. The Club had operated for many years in the Town where the parking lot for the Post Office is now located. It was a two sheet rink. The proposal for the new rink would have four sheets with a concrete floor that would be covered with a rubber substance known as sport floor that could be used in the off season for basketball, badminton, fitness, etc... It is our intention to construct an environmentally friendly building taking into account all available systems. Curling has become very popular since it became an Olympic sport and we anticipate that the Vancouver 2010 Olympics will stimulate significant interest in a new curling club. Initial discussions with members of both the Collingwood and Meaford rinks have been encouraging.

The proposed building would include a kitchen, spectators lounge, bar, washrooms, locker rooms and a meeting room. The kitchen, locker rooms, washrooms and meeting room would be constructed with security features so that during the period when the curling lease is not active the facility could be utilized by others, such as baseball and soccer teams, as well as clubs like the Thornbury Yacht Club and Beaver Valley Athletic Association.

The committee members are as follows:

1. Alex Maxwell
2. Tim Richardson
3. Gerald Eagles
4. Grant McMurchy
5. Mike Hammond
6. John Ardiel.
7. Dan Barill
8. Krystin Rennie
9. Bill Remus

We call the committee the Beaver Valley Curling Club Committee and we are seeking official designation from the Town to go forward with this proposal for the development of the facility and the revival of the Club or incorporation of a new not for profit Ontario corporation.

Our committee would contemplate a net lease of the building for six months for curling uses under which the Club would pay all operating expenses. We understand that the site would be exempt from realty taxes.



We are available on short notice to discuss this proposal in more detail. We understand that if we get your designation to proceed with the curling club that a formal business plan is expected such that there would be no operating costs to the Town during the term of the lease. We would expect that the lease would run for about 50 years and that the facility would be used for curling for about six months of each year.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal.

Dated this day of April 2009 by the Beaver Valley Curling Club Committee

Per:



Alex Maxwell
Chair