
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 12, 2002
File No.: 0810-20

To: City Manager

From: Acting Recreation Services Manager

Subject: Recreation Services Branch Centre

RECOMMENDATION

THAT City Council receive the report on the Rutland Arena expansion from the Acting Recreation Services Manager dated January 30, 2002.

DISCUSSION

During budget discussions, Council approved a \$350,000 project to expand Rutland Arena and add a Branch Centre for Recreation Services. Council also requested a report to explain the key objectives of the project and discuss various options staff had considered during the development of the initiative.

It is proposed that \$300,000 be borrowed from the Major Facilities Reserve and paid back over 8 years through NEW revenues (net) from Sports Events programs. Sports Events is a new Community Recreation Coordinator position with the primary assignment in establishing new tournaments, leagues and events with a local and/or sports tourism focus. The remaining \$50,000 will be raised through additional grants, in-kind services and community contributions. The project will not proceed until all required funds are in place.

Key objectives and benefits of the project and Rutland site include:

- **Increased presence in District Park.** Rutland Sportsfields is a major recreation site with our current presence limited to the operation of the Rutland Twin Arena and Rutland Senior Centre. An administrative and program presence will not only improve services but also enhance security within the site.
- **Enhancement to a major facility.** The immediate addition of the expanded area, and future addition of the lobby/multi-use area, will provide a more visible main entrance to the facility and added common space for tournaments and programs use.
- **Services more accessible to community.** The Rutland community is the highest populated area, and having a Branch Centre in this area will provide increased visibility of Recreation Services as well as provide a new way of extending our service and programs within the community.

- **Improved link to arena user groups.** An administrative presence and new resource center will provide an enhanced service and relationship with arena user groups and sport community.
- **Accommodate department growth.** Over the past 10 years Recreation Services has seen steady growth in revenues, registration, drop-ins, programs and services. Staffing levels have increased over time however program staff work space has not. Current lack of work space creates inefficiencies and frustration as staff address work responsibilities.
- **Increase contact with Rutland Sportsfield facilities.** The City has significant contracts with the YMCA-YWCA, Okanagan Gymnastic Centre and Boys and Girls Club. An administrative element on this site will enhance our ability to manage these contracts and maintain a better understanding and coordination of programs and services.

Services to be provided from the Branch Centre include:

- Recreation customer services similar to those available at PRC:
 - Program Registration
 - Facility Bookings and Rentals
 - Information Dissemination
- Sport Kelowna Centre
- Community Resource Centre
- Community Meeting Space
- Branch Centre Administration

There were other locations considered strictly for office space including sites such as Parkinson Recreation Centre, City Park Pavilion, Mission District Park, Martin Education Centre, and others. These alternative locations do not meet the objectives and actually create additional challenges.

Jim Gabriel, Acting Recreation Manager

Attachments

Cc: Director of Parks and Leisure Services
Civic Properties Manager
Financial Plan and Systems Manager