

City of Kenora Minutes

**Of a Committee of the Whole of Council
Monday, December 14, 2009
3:30 p.m.**

Present:

Mayor L. Compton, Councillor W. Cuthbert, Councillor C. Drinkwalter, Councillor D. McCann, Councillor R. McMillan, Councillor J. Parson, Councillor Van Walleghem.

Staff:

Bill Preisentanz, CAO, Karen Brown, Sharen McDowall, Colleen Neil and Joanne McMillin, City Clerk.

Also Present:

Consultant, Jack Harper & Associates

Presentation of Draft Report – Recreation Review

Those in attendance were introduced to Mr. Harper and he provided a Power Point presentation on the Recreation Review that his firm is currently working on. He noted this Thursday a public meeting will be held at the Kenora Recreation Centre and he expects receiving feedback on the review that will influence the direction that they are currently proposing. Mr. Harper reviewed the highlights of the review with Council, noting that the overall 'wish list' equates to approx. \$20 million dollars with about \$600,000 in operating implications.

Arenas

Conclusion is that our arenas are well used. The Preferred option is one arena for every 7,500 people which for Kenora equals two arenas to meet the core service goal.

Recommendations:

JM – invite proposals for future use, and not pay the cost of bringing it up to a modern arena facility.

Keewatin – develop a strategy to transfer operation to community based management over the next 1 to 3 years.

Thistle Arena – good site for future twinning; developed in partnership with senior levels of government, the private sector.

Ball Diamonds

Need for fewer/better fields. Not a large enough area to amalgamate sites to one complex/area.

Cost implications is a budget increase to \$5 million dollars in capital budget; disposition of existing sites could offset cost of new development.

Community Clubs

Current condition assessment was done of all clubs within the City about one month ago. Clubs indicated they are underfunded to do the things they

need/want to and that they rely totally on volunteers to operate; programs are geared to a seasonal-use basis.

A description of the clubs with respect to interior and exterior conditions was reviewed, noting that the Rideout Club was described as the 'best kept' with only minor upgrades needed over the next few years.

Community based clubs should be encouraged for JM and Keewatin, and to increase financial support to the Clubs/assist the Clubs with volunteerism, etc.

Tennis Courts

In reasonably good shape – those at Kenora RC regarded as Class 1 courts.

Portage Bay and Rabbit Lake to be examined; in terms of tourism potential may attract more users if they were upgraded.

Mr. Harper then reviewed the summary of all strategies and advised this report will be presented to the public on Thursday.

Population growths were referred to and the changing complexity of our community.

It was noted there has been no public consultation/survey work carried out at this time.

Mr. Harper indicated the tennis courts at the Yacht Club were not factored into the report; does not want to necessarily upgrade to compete with other existing/private facilities.

Rat Portage First Nations Community and its proximity to Kenora was referred to and that they may establish an arena if they secure funding; it was noted this is the type of opportunity the City should be pursuing without having to do it all on its own.

The consultant is not proposing to simply twin the Kenora ice surface if the other issues in Keewatin and JM cannot be resolved, explaining that 'community engagement' is the key to the whole proposal.

Councillor Van Walleghem thanked Mr. Harper for his presentation and the meeting closed at 4:41 p.m.