



**Date: September 4, 2012**

**City Council  
Committee Report**

**To: Mayor & Council**

**Fr: Colleen Neil, Recreation Services Manager**

**Re: Recreation Facility Strategy Recommendations**

**Recommendation:**

**That** Council approves the establishment of an Event Centre Committee; and further

**That** staff be directed to develop a terms of reference for the Event Centre Committee to be submitted for approval at the October 2012 meeting of council; and further

**That** the Clerk be directed to advertise for committee members and those eligible will be brought forward for approval at the November 2012 meeting of council.

**Background:**

In January of 2010 the City of Kenora received a report recommending that they adopt facility planning principles that act as a guide for future public recreation facility development in the City of Kenora. Eight (8) principles were recommended.

*1. Core Recreation Facilities and Services*

*The City will develop recreation facilities and services that meet the broadest range of community needs and achieve significant public good.*

*2. Accessibility and Affordability*

*Facility development will emphasize both accessibility and affordability.*

*Facilities will be barrier free in design, strategically located to serve the public and operated in an efficient and effective manner with user rates and fees structured to ensure that all residents share equally in the benefits of recreation participation.*

*3. Economic Sustainability*

*The City will ensure long-term economic viability and sustainability in the planning and development of new recreation facilities.*

*4. Partnerships and Strategic Alliances*

*In an effort to maximize available resources and minimize competition and duplication, the City will explore appropriate partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors in the planning, management and development of recreation facilities.*

*5. Integrated Combined Facilities*

*Where appropriate, complimentary facilities will be developed in an integrated fashion to achieve economies of scale, limit land use and provide a more dynamic recreation experience for the users.*

*6. Efficiency and Effectiveness*

*The City will ensure that before new facility development is contemplated, existing facilities of a similar nature are used to their capacity. Priority for facility development will reflect the extent to which facilities are flexible and adaptable to accommodate changing leisure needs over time.*

*7. Facility Classification System*

*The City will develop facilities that serve a broad range of recreation needs. A facility classification system will be adopted that reflects the quality, diversity and variety of required facilities and the proximity and accessibility of the population to facilities on a neighbourhood, community and city-wide basis.*

Category suggestions are:

- Core Facilities (eg: arenas, swimming pools)
- Partnership Facilities (eg: community clubs)
- Non-Core Facilities(eg: ski hill, golf course)

#### 8. Design

*The design of new facilities will comply with energy conservation and environmental standards and with aesthetic design principles appropriate to the neighbourhood in which they are located. The design will ensure safety and security issues are minimized, and participant comfort and customer service are maximized.*

Also at this time, a Gap Analysis was conducted to determine the extent to which the present supply of arena and ice facilities met the demands for the users in the City of Kenora for both present and future considerations. With the consultant's 2010 analysis; the conclusion was that a third public arena in Kenora is needed and could be supported economically. The development of a event centre also has programming benefits for ice and non-ice events. A twin arena/event centre can more effectively host large tournaments that attract visitors to the community and stage a multitude of special events. Multiple funding options and an analysis of such options should be considered in rationalizing the supply, ownership and operation of an event centre to meet local recreation needs and tourism and economic based objectives.

With this vision it was further recommended that the City of Kenora appoint a committee of community leaders to examine the potential of developing a twin arena/special event facility at the site of the Kenora Recreation Centre in cooperation with senior levels of government, the community and the private sector.

#### **Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

CAO  
City Clerk  
EDO  
Recreation Services Manager