



ACTION

**Kenora Event Centre Committee
Minutes**

March 3, 2015

5:30 p.m.

Kenora Recreation Centre Upstairs Meeting Room

PRESENT: Ruth Illman
Andrew Koch
Corey Stacinski
Rory McMillan, Councillor
Dan Reynard, Councillor
Colleen Neil, Recreation Manager
Kerri Holder, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Judy Bain
Patrick Lessard
Chris Van Wallegghem
Megan Derouard, Recreation Programmer
Heather Kasprick, City Clerk

Councillor Reynard called meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**A. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature
Thereof:**

- 1) On Today's Agenda**
- 2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance**
None

B. Confirmation of Minutes:

Moved by R. Illman & Seconded by R. McMillan & Carried -

That the Minutes of the last meetings of the Kenora Event Centre Committee meeting held December 16, 2014 be confirmed as written and filed.

Discussion:

It was asked to clarify that the Stantec report only addresses phasing in of the project and fully supports a full build.

C. Items:

- 1. Old Business**
 - a) Work Plan Review**

It was noted that the old work plan was sent out as information for the new members and now the new Committee needs to consider developing their work plan and focus. The Committee may want to adopt some of the old work plan however the next steps will depend on grants and other developments. It was decided that the work plan will be put on hold for now.

b) Funding Applications

No new information was available about the NOHFC and FedNor applications. Colleen spoke about the delays with the applications, noting it was expected that responses would be received by now. It was noted that the NOHFC application had been sent out of the region as there were conflicts declared by local representatives. Both applications sit at stage two now.

There was discussion about Federal funding granted to other communities for recreation centres recently. It was noted that although these grants had been give out, there has been no change to the funding requirements, meaning still no funding for ice surfaces alone.

Colleen reported that an application to the TransCanada's Community Investment program has been submitted for \$25,000 and it has passed through the local representative for further consideration. There was concern about the impact of the energy east action on this application. It was noted that TransCanada has invested locally, specifically as a major sponsor of the Kenora & District Chamber of Commerce business awards.

It was mentioned that the Committee will need to determine what can be done next if there is no word on the funding for the business case by the April meeting. It was decided that in the short term, the group should focus on the work plan development in terms of fundraising. This funding is for the business case not the actual building.

2. Funding Possibilities for Business Plan

It was noted that further fundraising is not the preferred route for the Committee however may be necessary to fund the business case. There was discussion about the Just Add Ice fundraiser last year and whether the members of the subcommittee would be willing to do this again this year for either the business case or for the final project. Councillor Reynard asked if there were debriefing notes from the fundraiser to review. Colleen will check on this for next meeting.

Following up with various community groups that saw the presentation last year was mentioned as some had indicated to contact them when support was needed. It was suggested to send formal letters with a specific asks (either dollars or in-kind contributions) to those willing to be involved at this stage.

There was a question about the money raised in the two coin drops. Colleen reported that they have been emptied once since put on display last winter and \$1,000 has been collected so far.

3. Junior A Hockey Club Proposal

Some Committee members had attended the Junior A Hockey Club presentation that was held on February 17th and shared their impressions

C. Neil

and concerns about the information presented. There was discussion about how a junior hockey program would impact this project. The timeline to sort out details and begin spring training camp was mentioned as a challenge. Colleen reported that she has met with Kevin McCallum to see what they are looking for. There are many questions about the business plan and marketing and more information is needed to make the decision to bring the team on board. Colleen will provide updates to the Committee. It was suggested to keep this item on the agenda.

4. Saskatchewan Arenas

Andrew shared that he is involved with a junior hockey program in Melville, Saskatchewan and recently that community built a new event centre. He provided a brief description of the layout and thought it may be helpful to discuss the process taken there. He also noted that neighbouring communities, Moose Jaw and Estevan, have built new event centres. There was discussion about the population sizes of the Saskatchewan towns in comparison to those used in the Stantec report which were all located in southern Ontario. It was thought that the Saskatchewan towns would be more comparable to Kenora for future studies. It was agreed that this Committee could benefit from discussions with community leaders about the lessons learned during their projects. It was suggested to make a consultation or site visit part of the new work plan. Andrew offered to set up meetings with those communities.

There was discussion about the success of the recent curling event (2015 Travelers Northern Ontario Men's Provincial Championship) held at the Kenora Recreation Centre. It was suggested to gather feedback or testimonials from the athletes about their experience, as well as from local businesses about the economic impact of the event. These letters of support could be used later when needed. It was further suggested to ask for letters of support from participants at all events held at the Kenora Recreation Centre. The OFSSA Girls' Hockey tournament was mentioned as the next significant event drawing attention to the facility.

5. Next Steps

- 1) Fundraising letters to various community groups
- 2) Testimonial/support requests to event participants
- 3) Review Just Add Ice fundraising event debrief, if possible

6. Next Meeting Date

- April 7, 2015

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

A. Koch

C. Neil