

REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT:

Major Recreation Infrastructure Project

DATE:

March 8, 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended to the three Councils of Yarmouth County, that;

The scope of Phase 1 of the Recreation Infrastructure project will include an aquatic centre and Indoor/outdoor track and field house. Needs related to curling, and other facilities will be addressed in consideration of future phases.

The Group of 9 will be established as the Project Steering Committee , representing the owners, at this point in the work. The structure of the Project Steering Committee may change as the project progresses.

CAO Comments:

On February 28, 2019 the Mayor, Wardens, Deputies and CAO's met at the District of Yarmouth Municipal office to discuss the many aspects of moving forward with a major recreation infrastructure project.

In anticipation that a funding opportunity is about to become available through the "**Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program**"(ICIP) <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/prog/agreements-ententes/2018/2018-ns-eng.html> , all agreed that it was important to work quickly and efficiently to prepare for the application intake.

Some work was undertaken in 2015 & 2016 that is useful in informing the councils of the needs and interest in the community. Councils were left with important questions, through the work of dmA consulting, requiring further consideration and decision-making; much of which is still necessary and valuable work to be undertaken. Some of this work can be done by the steering committee, and some of it will require the full engagement of councils.

During the discussion of the Group of 9, there was consensus on some important aspects, that form the basis of these recommendations. The elements that are **most valued by our citizens and align with our shared interests in population growth** include the modern aquatic centre as well as indoor/outdoor tracks and a field house.

With approval of the three, councils, the Group of 9, acting as the Project Steering Committee can begin to plan and execute the work necessary for the funding application intake. The form of the steering committee may change later, based on the scope of the project and the results of engagement with other communities.

There is much additional technical and missional work that will begin concurrently and carry on beyond the project application intake, that is required for the application and will also be important to the project success. This includes continuing work on articulating the owners/funders vision and mission for Mariners Centre.

REPORT/DOCUMENT

DETAILS

Key Concept/Issue Defined

The 3 Municipalities met to begin work on a major recreation infrastructure project

The representatives of the 3 councils believe there is strong and broad community support for elements of phase 1 of the project, as recommended

The reps believe application work must be completed with June 30 target deadline, and are recommending they continue as the steering committee, at this time.

Work on governance, vision, operating agreements, capital agreements, service delivery & operations etc will all be addressed. But at this point, time is of the essence in getting an application in before the federal election is called.

Relevant Policies, By-laws and Legislation:

Strategic Relevance:

Desired Outcomes:

Agreement on priorities of Phase 1

Agreement on Appointing the Mayor, Wardens, deputies and CAO's, known as the Group of 9, as the Project Steering Committee, for this phase of the work.

Response Options:

- a)Approval
- b)Reject
- c)Refer back to staff with direction for more information

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

General:

Under the ICIP, there is expected to be an intake of applications prior to the federal election call. If this happens, we do not want to miss the opportunity to have our major project considered. There is some work to be done to be ready, and time is of the essence.

Organizational:

Neither Municipality has the project management resources to lead this work. It is expected that we will need to contract someone through an expedited process to take us from where we are to being application-ready.

Financial

There are agreements necessary between the municipalities on operations, ownership, capital contributions, etc. All agree that this work needs to be done. Based on the ICIP program structure, the Municipalities will be able to use options such as tax rates, reserves & debt to pay their share of the costs. The details are important, but if there is no funding for a new centre the effort is not warranted. The first priority should be applying to ICIP for federal and provincial funding, and then working out the relevant details while we await a response.

Follow-Up Actions:

The Group of 9 have scheduled a meeting, in anticipation of all three councils having dealt with the question of this Request For Decision no later than March 14.

Communication:

Other Comments

Submitted by: CAO Jeff Gushue, CAO Alain Muise, CAO Victoria Brooks for joint consideration.