RDN Budget Talks
Q&A

Randy White 21 Dec 2019, 04:44 PM

Q: "The RDN is budgeting to have the curling rink torn down within the next 5 years but I see no plans in Parksville or the RDN to replace the curling facility. Curling is one of the fastest growing sports in Canada and a rink exists in virtually every community in the country. The reputation of RDN recreation management is not good in this area and will be further damaged when this becomes public. Where are the financial plans to rebuild." Attached reference.............. Scope: District 69 Arena Removal and Site Remediation Recreation & Parks Services (RDN Board Resolution # 18-108) RDN owned arena sits on Parksville Community Park land leased from the City of Parksville. Recent city parks planning identified alternative uses for the property that would see the possible need for the arena to be removed at the RDN’s expense. Board direction to fund possible removal and site remediation within the next five years. August 2019 demolition estimate from Herold Engineering - $1,054,000 plus $50,000 in demolition tender engineering consulting fees. $100,000 was contributed to demolition reserve in 2019 and by 2023, $1,270,000 is needed (factoring in 5% annual inflation).

A: Thank you for your question.

The Curling Club Facility is situated on City of Parksville land and the municipality has long term plans for the site that do not include a curling or arena facility at the Community Park. To account for this, funds are being put into reserves for the eventual removal of the facility per the terms of the Lease between the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and the City of Parksville.

The RDN 2018 Recreation Services Master Plan for the Oceanside Area provides the following direction around curling facilities in the District:

RECOMMENDATION #20

It is recommended that District 69 Arena continue to operate as a curling facility for as long as the facility is available. The growth of the Parksville Curling Club and popularity of the sport in District 69 indicates that the facility provides the greatest benefit in its current use.

RECOMMENDATION #21

The RDN should work collaboratively with the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach, and curling stakeholders to determine the best long term course of action for curling infrastructure in District 69. As indicated on the previous page, the City is currently developing a master plan for the Parksville Community Park site which may provide further clarity on the future of the District 69 Arena site (the RDN’s lease of the Arena site expires in March 2018). The future state of the curling facility in Qualicum Beach will also impact the curling landscape and needs in District 69. Ongoing communication between all stakeholders (City, Town, RDN and curling clubs) should occur to determine the most suitable future approach.

Suggested Implementation Tactics and Strategies

• Continue to support the use of the facility in its current use.

• If possible, provide input into the City of Parksville’s Community Park master plan process. Remain current on the status of the project and potential impacts.
• **Collaborate with curling stakeholders to determine long term options and associated costs to sustain sufficient curling opportunities in District 69.**

• **Work with the local curling clubs to identify and pursue provincial and national grant funding for major facility renovations and capital improvements.**

Please find a link to the Recreation Services Master Plan background documents page where you can find the Master Plan: getinvolved.rdn.ca/recmasterplan/documents. The section on Curling starts on page 43 (pdf page 55).

Of note, since the approval of the Master Plan in 2018, the lease for the land where the facility is located was renewed for another 5 Year Term. Also, in 2019 the Curling Cub replaced the chiller at the facility as part of the capital infrastructure replacement program. Under the terms of the Lease Agreement between the RDN and the Parksville Curling Club, the Club is responsible for all capital and operating costs at the facility.