

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL

OBJECTIVE

To provide Council with information re. the rec hub town hall events held in August.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report of the Special Projects manager dated September 20, 2021 be received;

AND THAT staff be given direction to pursue a building type and scope of work for the rec hub;



Steve Antunes
Special Projects Manager



Daniel Gagnon
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND

In late spring of 2021, Council directed staff to hold Town Hall events to both educate the public on different building types, the scope of the Rec Hub Project and to gather feedback. Invitations to the events were posted on the city's website, social media page and mailed to every residence in the city.

The invitation included a survey (attached) on preference of build type along with a section for comments. Residents were able drop off completed surveys at City Hall and the Library. For residents that could not physically drop off their surveys, an option to submit electronically was also available.

Staff held a virtual event on August 18 via zoom and a live in person event at Collins Hall on August 19 (presentation attached). Initially scheduled for the 11th and 12th, these events were delayed after a sizable storm caused power issues throughout the city. Both events were hosted by Mr. Gagnon and Mr. Antunes. Attendance was low at both events even though multiple mediums for contacting residents were used.

Staff received 41 electronic and 31 paper responses. These were received both pre and post event. The following is a breakdown of responses:

Pre-event:

Pre-engineered – 21

Traditional build – 16

Neither/no preference - 6

Post-event

Pre-engineered – 21

Traditional build – 4

Neither/no preference – 4

Some responses also included comments and these will be shared with Council members directly as respondents were not made aware that their comments would be posted publically.



ANALYSIS

The presentation to attendees broke down the different build options and the cost differences between the two types. They were informed that a traditional pool, arena and walking track would cost roughly \$29M with 7-8% soft costs (\$2.3M) while a pre-engineered build would be roughly \$18M with 2-3% soft costs (\$540K). It was noted that build time on a pre-engineered structure was also much less.

Staff shared not only information on the types of buildings available, but also that council may readdress the scope of the project. This included phasing in facilities. Phase 1 of the project could be an arena/walking track build with the pool to come later. Staff are waiting for a response on funding for upgrades to the pool, therefore extending its lifespan and allowing the municipality to put off that build. It was expressed to attendees that an arena/walking track only build would be in the neighbourhood of \$8-10M.

Staff now requires council's direction to move forward. The costs staff shared at the town halls were very high level and will need to be drilled down further in order to have an accurate cost for the rec hub. To do this, several questions would need to be addressed:

1. Construction Type. Pre-engineered or traditional
2. Build a pool, arena and walking track or just an arena/walking track?
3. Funding options. Wait for government funding or self-finance?

Once direction is given to staff, a more formalized quote can be obtained allowing the project to move forward.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial impact will vary based on the type of construction chosen.

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Replacing our aged recreation facilities ties in directly to our strategic plan.

SUMMARY

Staff is seeking council's direction on building type and scope to move forward with the Recreation Hub.

