



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: Akinsdale Arena Press Box

On March 28, 2017 Mayor Crouse provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 22/2016 that he intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

That \$85,000 be approved from the Capital Fund Reserve to design and construct a stair access/egress to/from the Akinsdale Arena press box as per IR 567.2017 and that a Project Charter be prepared to have the specific plans documented.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, due to safety issues identified by internal stakeholders, the media box (press box) located at Akinsdale Arena was closed to public access. IR 552.2017 was submitted February 9, 2017, outlining the safety issues identified and the stakeholder feedback process and IR 567.2017 was submitted to Council March 21, 2017, which outlined capital solutions and costs identified to address safety issues with the media box.

Since the closure of the media box, users have been provided alternative solutions to ensure the functions such as music, public address and statistic collection could be accommodated. Through consultation, Recreation and Parks has confirmed that while the interim measures are meeting the basic needs of the user groups, it was clearly noted that the preferred option of all stakeholders is to have the media box returned to operation.

Public Works staff has worked to develop a capital solution to address safety issues noted with the media box and identify costs to remediate these items, which are outlined below.

A reconfiguration of the media box to create stair access and create visibility into the area from floor level is expected to cost \$85,000.00;

- Design fees for reconfiguration - \$10,000.00
- Construction costs for remediation (including permits) - \$75,000.00

Administration could complete this project in 2017, but because of the timelines to await Council approvals, it may not be able to be completed until 2018. Timelines are restrictive, as it is essential to complete the project while ice is out (April – August annually), thereby reducing the impact to the facility users.

If complications arise through the design process, including items like building code issues, budgetary challenges, Administration will report back to Council with alternatives.

The planned remediation to the media box would not meet current barrier free accessibility guidelines.

Report Date: May 1, 2017

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Committee/Department: Recreation & Parks

Acting General Manager: Glenn Tompolski

City Manager: Kevin Scoble