



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: DYNAMYX FACILITY NEEDS SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

On June 12, 2017 Council Members, as indicated below, provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 22/2016 that they intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

In order for Council to debate the motions, the motions must be formally moved.

Moved by Councillor Russell

That Administration's review of the Dynamyx Facility Needs Report be received as information and that Administration explore a potential partnership with Dynamyx Gymnastics through the Infrastructure Development process, and Administration return to Council with a scope of what the partnership means.

Moved by Councillor MacKay

That Administration return to Council by Q3 of 2017 with a report with an examination of Gymnastics funding models so Council can decide if we fund Gymnastics and to what scope.

Moved by Councillor Heron

That Administration arrange a meeting with Dynamyx Gymnastics, Active Communities, St. Albert Soccer Association, and the City of Edmonton to explore a multipurpose privately-owned recreation facility and come back with whatever process administration recommends, whether it be an MOU, Terms of Reference, letter of support, etc. to advance this concept.

BACKGROUND:

Recently, City Council has received presentations from several organizations for facility development including:

- Dynamyx Club for gymnastic space,
- St. Albert Soccer Association for a new indoor and outdoor field space, and
- Active Communities Alberta for a twin arena complex.

In addition, Administration has also been requested past and present to review different scenarios for an expansion of library services in the community.

With so many requests coming from organizations for new facilities and several new facility projects identified in the 10-year capital plan that encompass recreation,

sport, cultural, learning and the social profit sector, as well, subject to Council direction, potentially Administration spaces. Administration is recommending a holistic approach looking at all projects to find synergies and operational alignments.

A wide range of parameters need to be considered for all potential facilities including:

- Stand alone single use or expansion of existing assets/construction of multi-use facilities.
- Operating models such as City direct operation, 3rd party or partnerships.
- Development of facilities on existing City owned land or new procurement of land.

In order to ensure fiscal responsibility and facility development is in alignment with community need, funding (noting the long-term capital financial plan is under development) models need to be assessed and priorities need to be re-evaluated.

Administration must also note that the question to be put on the ballot for an arena, pool and branch library has specific assumptions, such as size and locations, that are limited to the overall holistic view and synergizes if this review is undertaken.

Current Operating Model – Recreation Master Plan

Currently, the City of St. Albert recreation service delivery has aligned to the philosophy and structure outlined in the Recreation Master Plan (2012).

Specifically, *Priority 3: “Invest in Recreation Infrastructure”* identifies strategies for major recreation infrastructure development and identifies specific facilities for enhancement or development over the next several years.

The Funding Opportunity Spectrum, as articulated in the Recreation Master Plan, is used to provide a fair assessment and leverage community resources to ensure that public funds are being used to the greatest public benefit.

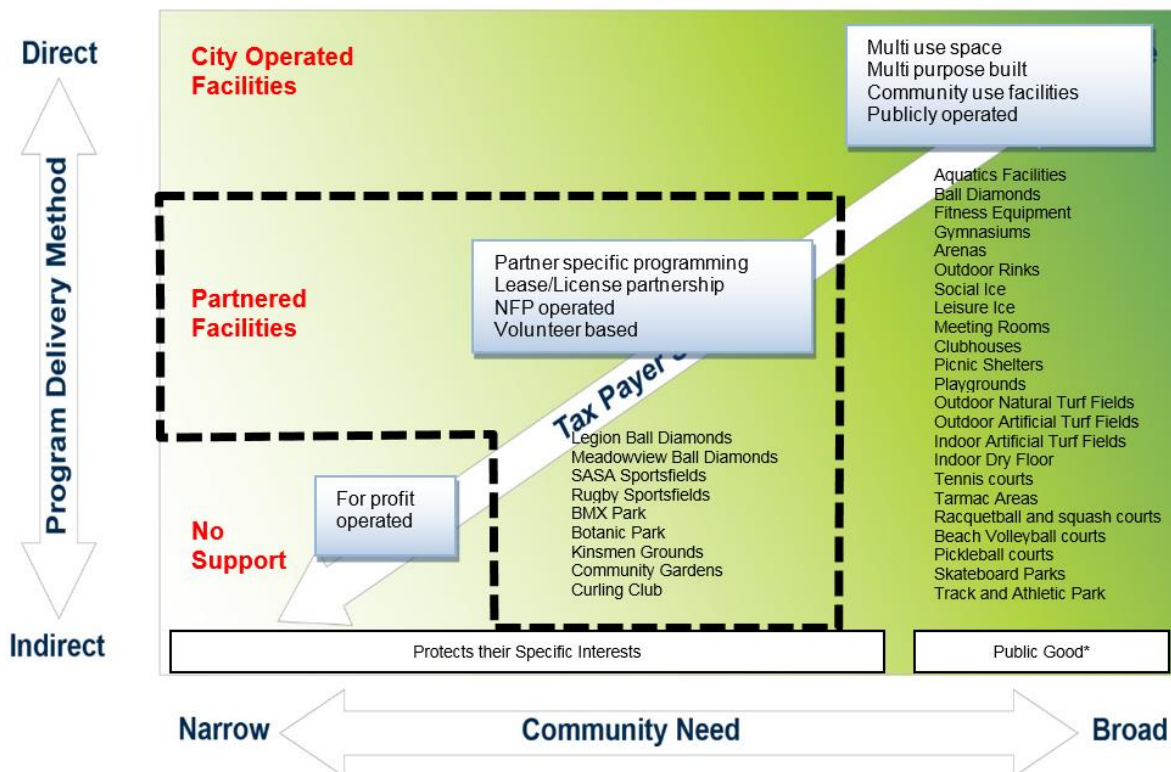
The Spectrum “guide[s] future municipal expenditure on recreation infrastructure development.” It explains that “facilities accessible by the entire community and that are within the City’s “Base” level of service should be a municipal responsibility. Likewise, as recreation opportunities become more specialized and less accessible by the general public, those funds should come from a combination of public taxes, private/non-profit investment and user fees.” (RMP, Priority 4.4: Seek our Innovative Funding Opportunities, p. 38)

The following illustration reflects the principles of the Spectrum and the historic service delivery philosophy around existing partnerships with community associations in the construction of recreation facilities.

This model provides consistency in the City’s provision of land and facilities to recreation community associations, and, as discussed in the Recreation Master

Plan, a transparent protocol for equitably dealing with potential groups outlining the expectations around public investment is key.

Assumptions of the Model include that a facility would be built and operated by the municipality if the operating model of the facility protected the public good and provided for inclusion, equity, sustainability and lifelong participation. The intent would not be to build and/or operate facilities that are exclusively for the primary purpose of a specific interest group.



Moving Forward

The development and operation of public recreation facilities is complex. Administration believes the Recreation Master Plan is a foundational document that provides the philosophy and direction for recreation service delivery in St. Albert.

There are many different methods to fund and operate facilities including: direct delivery, partnership and non-profit operating models. Municipalities chose operating methods and models for facilities that align best to their priorities, policies and historic practice.

Currently, community service facilities that are offered in St. Albert support public good, inclusion, equity, sustainability and broad-based participation. These opportunities are delivered through a combination of tax payer support, community support and user contribution.

Moving forward, Administration will:

1. Work to develop a plan and priority for 2019 budgeting purposes for recreation facilities and other facilities being considered (eg. library, museum, social profit sector) that aligns with Master Plans and Council and Community priorities.
2. Re-evaluate the timing of the Servus Fitness and Aquatic Pool expansion projects, currently planned for 2018 to align with the overall study review.
3. Develop a budget to engage an outside consultant to provide a comprehensive review into all the factors involved in the total project.
4. Continue to work with stakeholders to assess and review projects within the context of an overall holistic plan and approach for new facility development.

Administration would recommend the following motion for Council consideration:

That Administration will provide a report to Council by Q3 2018 recommending a growth plan for facility development including funding strategies, operating models and land requirements.

Report Date: July 10, 2017

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Committee/Department: Recreation & Parks

General Manager: Dale Bendfeld

City Manager: Kevin Scoble