

Administrative Analysis of Dynamyx Gymnastics Club

Preliminary Need Identification – Updated August 1, 2017

The following analysis explores the feasibility of construction of a gymnastics facility through municipal construction/operation or through partnership with the community. The parameters used in the evaluation of the Preliminary Need Identification are a combination of principles from the Recreation Master Plan, New Facility Predictive Model, the Partnership Handbook, Council Policy and historical practices within existing agreements.

Preliminary Need Identification Analysis

Parameter	Analysis of Dynamyx Gymnastics Club Against Parameters
Step 1: Facility Alignment with Service Level Criteria	
Maintains current service levels in context of a growing market.	<p>Gymnastics services are identified in the Recreation Master Plan as receiving community development support; this support is provided in a variety of methods including organizational development, project support, and information. The level of service that each group receives is dependent on their individual needs while working with Recreation & Parks staff. Gymnastics Clubs in St Albert have also received funding support through the Community Capital Program Grant.</p> <p>However, neither historic practices, the City of St Albert Recreation Master Plan or the New Facility Predictive Model have identified gymnastic facilities (infrastructure) as a municipally constructed/operated facility.</p>
Conforms to current recreation functions of the regional municipalities or new functional areas as contained within the broader strategic planning.	<p>Regionally, there are a variety of different models that are used to support gymnastics facilities including private lease, subsidized lease, community partnership, capital grants, etc.</p> <p>There are several communities that offer municipally constructed gymnastics facilities in the region including: City of Edmonton, Sherwood Park, etc., however, the construction of a single use facility does not align with the St. Albert criteria for municipally constructed/operated recreation facilities.</p> <p>Partnership models that have been adopted regionally vary significantly with communities choosing a specific partnership model that works for their municipalities and the associations based on existing and historic practice, available facilities and land, etc.</p>

Analysis of Facility Alignment with Service Level Criteria:

Currently, gymnastics clubs in St. Albert receive community development support and funding through the Community Capital Program Grant; however, the construction of gymnastics facilities does not align with the principles of municipally constructed/operated recreation facilities for St. Albert.

However, there is regional precedence for a partnership between the City of St. Albert and Dynamyx Gymnastics Club. The specifics of the partnership would be unique and the level of support would be based on the development of an agreement that is tailored to mutually beneficial needs within a standard set of parameters and guidelines.

Parameter	Analysis of Dynamyx Gymnastics Club Against Parameters
Step 2: Concept Plan (high level)	
The development occurs on publicly owned or long-term lease land.	Development of recreation facility, either municipally constructed/operated or through partnership historically have been built on publicly owned or long-term lease land.

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The development is dynamic and adaptable.	<p>A key principle throughout the Recreation Master Plan is the need for municipally constructed/operated recreation spaces to be adaptable to existing and future needs of the community. By supporting and designing spaces for a variety of users, the potential for these spaces to meet a variety of existing and future needs is more likely than if spaces are planned for dedicated, single purpose use.</p> <p>The majority of gymnastics facilities include a significant amount of fixed equipment, specific space needs (heights, space requirements), and are not easily adapted. The inflexibility of this facility type would limit the ability to adapt the space for other types of recreation usage.</p>
Priority is on multiuse development before single use.	<p>The majority of gymnastics facilities include a significant amount of fixed equipment which is not flexible to multiple users, due to specific requirements for safe usage (training, insurance).</p> <p>However, several components of the supporting facility elements including trampolines, tumbling areas, studio spaces, matted areas, etc. could be configured so that they are available to different user types as has been done at the existing Dynamyx Gymnastics Club through rentals to dance, theatre, performance groups, etc.</p>

Analysis of High Level Concept Plan:

Due to the amount of fixed infrastructure, a gymnastics facility would not be considered as a dynamic or adaptable to the recreation needs of the community as a whole. And although there is some potential for multiuse of some elements of this type of facility, overall it does not align with the principles of a multipurpose, multiuse development. Municipally constructed/operated recreation facilities in St. Albert align with these two parameters.

Parameter	Analysis of Dynamyx Gymnastics Club Against Parameters
Step 3: Partnership Consideration - Based on parameters for the provision of Land and Facilities for Community Associations	
The City and the Community Association enter into a lease agreement for the use of City Owned land for the Community Associations delivery of community programming.	The Dynamix Gymnastics Club currently hold a lease through the private sector for their facility. The Club is familiar with the typical requirements and commitment of lease agreements.
The Community Association is a Not For Profit Community Association in good standing with the Societies Act.	Dynamyx Gymnastic Club is a non-profit organization in good standing with the Societies Act.
The Community Association is a single representative of the sport/activity for the City.	<p>There is a second gymnastics club in St. Albert, and, as such, if partnership was pursued, Dynamyx Gymnastics Club is not an association that is able to speak in the sole interest of the sport as many organizations in St. Albert do.</p> <p>Historically, all partnerships for recreation facilities that St. Albert has entered into have been done so with the sole representative of the sport/activity for the community.</p>

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The Community Association will provide broad based programming beginner to elite assessable to a broad spectrum in the community.	Based on the Feasibility Report provided by Dynamyx Gymnastics Club and conversations with Club representatives the Club provides programs for beginner to elite and is accessible through user pay system to the broader community.
The Community Association's members/registrants are significantly St Albert residents.	<p>In their Feasibility Report, Dynamyx states that the location of member residency is currently 45% St. Albert, 39% from Edmonton and 16% for other communities. Based on this information, this parameter is not met.</p> <p>This information is based on six-year historical information provided by the Club which has seen very minimal fluctuation year to year. The portion of membership for this Club that is outside of St. Albert represents more than half of those utilizing the facility.</p>
Ideally, the facility will have the ability to host major events to generate tourism.	A gymnastics facility could be used for local events; however, guidelines for national and provincial events require hosting in facilities where no athletes have trained, so events of this scope would not be viable in this facility if the Club had athletes competing.
The Community Association is volunteer based. Some may have some paid office staff but predominately volunteer coaches and program coordination.	<p>Dynamyx Gymnastics Club has approximately 3,000 volunteer hours provided in annually by the membership. In addition, there is a membership subsidy program to exchange volunteer hours at the facility (cleaning, etc.) for birthday packages and recreational classes.</p> <p>The Club has a volunteer board, a large user pay component and paid professional staff who coordinate and deliver the program. The coaching staff is predominantly paid staff due to the high-risk nature of the sport and the requirements for certification and accreditation.</p>
The Community Association relies on grants and sweat equity for the building and further development of facilities. City will not contribute to the further development of the infrastructure.	Currently, the Club funds 100% of the costs for further development of their existing facility.
Operation of the facility will be 100% funded through the Community Association. The City will not provide any ongoing or operational support	Currently, the Club funds 100% of their operating costs for their operations and facility. Dynamyx Gymnastics Club has demonstrated itself to be an extremely financially viable Club operating with significant funds in reserve.
The Community Associations pay all their own utilities and operating expenses.	Currently, the Club funds 100% of their operating costs for their operations and their facility including utilities. Dynamyx Gymnastics Club has demonstrated itself to be an extremely financially viable Club operating with ability to contribute funds into reserve.

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The Community Association must abide by all City Bylaws, Policies, Building Codes, etc.

Should a partnership with Dynamyx Gymnastic Club be pursued the Club would need to abide by all City Bylaws, Policies and Building Codes.

Analysis of Partnership Consideration:

Dynamyx Gymnastics Club meets many of the parameters and presents a strong case for a formal partnership with the City of St. Albert. There are two significant parameters that would require further discussion in order to determine the level of partnership that is pursued.

A potential challenge of partnership is that more than half of the Dynamyx Gymnastics Club membership are not St. Albert residents. Utilizing public resources to support a partnership with a Club in which the majority are non-residents is not consistent with historic practice.

The fact that Dynamyx Gymnastics Club is not the sole gymnastics club in St. Albert and is not an association that is able to speak in the sole interest of the sport could present risks and challenges if St. Albert Gymnastics Club's needs were not represented or if they pursued a similar partner request.

Conclusion

The City of St. Albert builds recreation facilities that can be used by multiple groups, can be adapted to serve various user needs, and provide general public access. Overall, gymnastics facilities do not align with the criteria for a municipally constructed/operated recreation facility; however, Dynamyx Gymnastics Club strongly aligns with many of the parameters for partnership with the City of St. Albert.

Further work with the Club is required to determine the level of support of the partnership. The terms of partnership would be unique and the level of support based on the development of an agreement that would be tailored to mutually beneficial needs within a standard set of parameters and guidelines.