



Subject: *East Hants Curling Association - Summary of Council Decisions*
To: Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee
Date Prepared: 9/13/2021
Related Motions: C21(192)
Prepared by: Adam Clarkson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture
Approved by: Kim Ramsay, CAO

Summary

At the Regular Meeting of Council in June 2021, Council directed staff to prepare a background report on the history of the East Hants Curling Association (EHCA).

Financial Impact Statement

This report provides a summary of the history of Council decisions with the EHCA for the past 15 years.

The Curling Association has a \$1,700,000 financial request in front of Council for the Capital construction of a stand-alone curling facility.

A curling facility is not identified in Council's financial or strategic plans.

Recommendation

That Council receive and file the report for information.

Recommended Motion

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommends to Council that they receive and file the report "East Hants Curling Association - Summary of Council Decisions" dated September 13, 2021.

Background

Council Chambers online “What’s New” for July, 2021 (item number 9) has a summary of previous Council motions, staff reports and presentations by the EHCA for the previous 15 years.

The following chart is an overview of interactions between the EHCA and Council since 2009.

Date	Topic	Council Decision
January 2009	EHCA Presentation	Staff report on viability of facility
April 2009	Staff report on viability of facility	Received and placed viability report on file
2009 - 2010	Lantz school site as land for facility	Received and place agreement on file
July 2010	Request for Council member on EHCA board	Declined request
March 2011	Funding request for facility	Received and place on file
January 2012	Presentation by EHCA on funding request	To be considered during budget
February 2012	Council to commit \$600,000 to facility	Commitment made with various conditions attached to funding
February 2013	Funding agreement extension	Extension of funding agreement
March 2015	EHCA funding request for \$829,000	Deferred to staff report
June 2015	Staff report presented	Funding for facility not approved
June 2018	Grant to EHCA for equipment	Council approved \$38,798
March 2019	Expression of interest for Milford pool building for curling facility	No formal proposal received by deadline
June 2019	Grant to EHCA for equipment	\$4,800
July 2020	Presentation by EHCA for funding	Motion for staff report on viability defeated
January 2021	Request to meet corridor councillors	Council declined request and agreed revisit in 6 months
July 2021	Revisited request to meet corridor councillors	Council invited EHCA to make a presentation in September and directed staff to prepare an update report

Discussion

As identified in the background, there have been various funding requests by the EHCA and subsequent staff reports on the viability of a stand-alone curling facility in East Hants over the past 15 years. There are currently no financial reserves identified to contribute to a capital campaign.

In 2018, the EHCA commenced operations out of the East Hants Sportsplex. This service has been well received by the community. It provides additional revenue to the East Hants Sportsplex while also helping to maximize ice usage. Additionally, Council has provided multiple financial grants to the EHCA to support equipment purchases with their operations out of the East Hants Sportsplex.

Should Council request additional information on the need of a standalone curling facility staff would:

- Review the business model presented by the East Hants Curling Association
- Complete a feasibility and needs analysis for a stand-alone curling facility
- Compare and contrast infrastructure models for capital construction
- Review funding sources (currently no municipal reserves identified to pay)

The above list would take substantial staff time to complete.

East Hants Strategic Plan 2021-2024

As part of Council's Strategic Plan, the goal of Strong Communities identifies long-term strategic planning for parks, recreation and related facility needs of the community as an objective. Determining a need for a curling facility would be part of the scope for future strategy work. Including it during this stage would allow for a comprehensive review and prioritization of long-term municipal facilities.

Alternatives

1. Direct staff to complete a review of a standalone curling facility that would include:
 - Analysis of the business model presented by the East Hants Curling Association
 - Feasibility and needs analysis for a stand-alone curling facility
 - Compare and contrast the infrastructure model for capital construction
 - Review funding sources (currently no municipal reserves identified to pay)
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Conclusion

Staff have provided a summary of the Council decisions with the EHCA over the past 15 years.

Recommendation

That Council receive and file the report for information.