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Town of Aurora

Motion

Notice given July 4, 2023

Re: **Air-Supported Courts Dome in Aurora**

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: **Councillor Ron Weese and Councillor Rachel Gilliland**

Date: July 11, 2023

Whereas the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan shows an inventory of one under-sized municipal gymnasium at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex with a single, full-sized gymnasium planned for the Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre in 2024; and

Whereas according to the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the current per capita provision of gymnasium space is 1:64,100 with future per capita provision of such gymnasium space suggested to be 1:36,500; and

Whereas both the Town and Local Sport Organizations (LSOs) permit selected school gymnasiums, but access to schools has been increasingly challenging as schools expand their programming and restrict access; and

Whereas the existing inventory of indoor gymnasiums owned and operated by local School Boards is insufficient to meet the needs of growing indoor courts/gymnasium training; and

Whereas municipalities are increasingly including gymnasiums within new recreation centres to accommodate many growing sports and recreation activities that require indoor gymnasium space; and

Whereas the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan states that existing Town-owned gymnasium time is well utilized, however, 'little time is available for Community use'; and

Whereas land inventory is low, and the Town would benefit by investing in the feasibility of utilizing a multi-use design approach to gain highest, best use of additional recreation gymnasium space; and

Whereas Local Sport Organizations are increasingly required to permit appropriate training facilities outside of Town to operate programs for Aurora residents because of the lack of availability of indoor gymnasium space; and

Whereas there is no central, Town-owned facility with sufficient capacity to offer multi-gym competition space to meet the needs of the Town's Sport Tourism Strategy; and

Whereas air-supported sport domes devoted to indoor courts training are feasible to build and maintain and cost efficiencies continue to improve; and

Whereas a multi-use air-supported gym facility offering multiple courts would attract high level tournament events, benefiting our local economy, athletic growth, and overall community programming needs; and

Whereas the Town has successfully implemented public-private partnerships for the development and operation of sports facilities;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That staff be directed to report back with the feasibility to provide a multi-gymnasium, air-supported structure that will provide sufficient additional indoor gymnasium space to meet present and future needs; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That staff be directed to explore options for location, funding, and operation of the structure, including public-private partnerships in keeping with the Town's public-public and public-private partnership strategy; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That staff be directed to consult with Local Sport Organizations to identify specific needs for the courts dome that will meet training and competition needs as well as sport tourism opportunities; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That staff be directed to include location and partnership options for an indoor sports court facility within the current sports field review; and
5. Be It Further Resolved That staff be directed to include funds in 2024 and 2025 as part of the 2024 Budget and 10-Year Capital Plan.