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CANADA

6 Jul 2021

Members and Chair  
Community and Protective Services Committee

re: Recognizing the impact of hosting the COVID-19 assessment centres at Oakridge Arena and Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre

Dear Colleagues,

It has now been 16 months since the COVID-19 assessment centres opened at Oakridge Arena and Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre. As you will recall, particularly in the first phase of the pandemic, the establishment of these very necessary testing centres resulted in not only the loss of community recreation facilities (an issue that has affected so many recreation facilities) but also substantial impacts in the neighbourhoods where the testing centres are located, especially in terms of unusually high volumes of traffic, including very long queues before the appointment system was implemented.

To recognize the significant impact that the testing centres have had on the local host neighbourhoods, we believe it is appropriate to engage those residents in a discussion about outdoor or indoor recreation upgrades in those areas. For example, and to give a sense of the scale we are contemplating, the wading pool in McMahan Park could be upgraded to a splash pad.

As the councillors representing residents in these two areas, we are therefore seeking support for the following motion:

- a) That Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to consult residents, especially those close to the COVID-19 assessment centres, about priorities for new recreational amenities or upgrades to existing recreational amenities in the general area.
- b) That Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to explore potential provincial and federal funding opportunities for recreational infrastructure and to report back with recommended new or upgraded recreational amenities in the general area of both testing centres, along with a recommended source of financing.

Sincerely,

Steve Lehman  
Councillor, Ward 8

Jesse Helmer  
Councillor, Ward 4

Ed Holder  
Mayor