



## **BACKGROUND**

Surrey's preparation as a Venue City for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games require that we provide a turnkey space to VANOC which will serve as the Games Preparation Centre. Staff has discussed with VANOC representatives their expectations for the Games Preparation Centre in Surrey as a basis for determining the scale and design of the building. Staff was advised that the facility is to be divided into rooms that can accommodate training for small to medium sized groups of volunteers. Further, VANOC requests that they have access to at least 5,000 sq. ft. of the facility by the spring of 2009, that it be located near transit and be designed with the objective of the facility becoming a legacy community facility following the Games.

VANOC has advised that the building as an "Olympic legacy facility" will be allowed to have attached to it on a permanent basis a large plaque that recognizes its role and prominence in staging the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

## **DISCUSSION**

To meet the expectations of VANOC and to ensure that the facility is recognized as a strong legacy in Surrey following the Games, it is proposed that the legacy building be designed as a multi-purpose recreation facility. The building should include:

- customer service/reception area;
- community lobby space;
- youth and senior lounge space;
- multi-purpose rooms;
- literacy space; and
- a double gymnasium.

The facility will be approximately 21,000 square feet in area. It is recommended that the facility be designed to accommodate future phases that could include fitness, weight and cardio areas.

It is further recommended that the legacy facility be located in Tom Binnie Park given its proximity to the Skytrain and its central location in the Surrey City Centre. Appendix A illustrates the proposed location for the facility within the Park.

There is an existing recreational facility in Tom Binnie Recreation Centre, which consists of an elementary size gym with a poured polyurethane surface floor, a pre-school program space and an open youth lounge area. It is 5,900 square feet in area and was built in 1980. Parks, Recreation and Culture staff program the space for youth programs, and several partnership programs such as the iR3 program with the Surrey Board of Education. The design of this current facility limits its adaptability in relation to offering programs to meet the growing community needs in the City Centre/North Surrey community. Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report and the commissioning of a new multi-purpose recreational building on Tom Binnie Park, the existing facility will be demolished.

As part of the current Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan development process, the need for additional recreation space in the City Centre Area was identified. The existing facilities at the North Surrey Recreation Centre include a pool and weight room, a double sheet ice arena complex and three small multi-purpose rooms. Although this is a very busy facility it does not fully meet the needs of the community it serves. Further, the North Surrey Recreation Centre is located on a very valuable “high density” development site and the recreation centre use in its current configuration is ultimately not the highest and best use for that site. The proposed facility at Tom Binnie Park will ensure that high quality recreation space continues to be available in North Surrey when re-development of some or all of the current recreation centre site occurs in the future.

To meet the timeline requested by VANOC, the facility construction would be staged to enable occupancy of the multi-purpose space in advance of the gymnasiums. The legacy recreation centre would offer a variety of programs to meet community needs. The program offerings would include, but would not be limited to:

- prenatal health classes;
- pre-school;
- literacy enhancement;
- child minding and children’s programs;
- family oriented programs and events;
- youth leadership development;
- a variety of adult programs;
- positive parenting;
- partnership programs with non-profit organizations and agencies in the community; and
- other programs and activities.

### **Next Steps**

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, a consulting team will be retained along with a construction manager. A public open house will be organized as soon as possible to seek community and stakeholder input into the proposed facility. It is important that the design of the facility be distinctive so as to serve as a suitable “legacy” of Surrey’s involvement with the 2010 Olympics.

### **Budget**

It is estimated that the cost to construct the proposed 21, 000 square foot facility will be \$10.5 million. The funding will be required over the 2008 and 2009 budget years. It is recommended that the City’s Legacy Fund be the source of funding and that it be repaid over time from other sources.

### **Timeline for Design and Construction**

Subject to Council approval of the recommendations of this report, it is expected that the multi-purpose space will be designed, constructed and ready for occupancy by the spring of 2009 with the gymnasiums ready for occupancy by the fall of 2009.

## CONCLUSION

A component of the agreement between Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC) and the City of Surrey is the provision of a turnkey Games Preparation Centre that ultimately will be an Olympic legacy building in Surrey. Staff recommends that a new multi-purpose recreation centre facility be constructed in Tom Binnie Park to house the Games Preparation Centre prior to the 2010 Games and be used to provide additional recreational opportunities in North Surrey after the Games. Provision of additional multi-purpose recreation space in the City Centre is identified as a need in the draft Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan.

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Attachment: Appendix A

Appendix A

