

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, JUNE 4, 2001**

### **2001 BUDGET – IMPACT BY WARD: COMMUNITY CENTRES SERVICE LEVELS (BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 23, 2001)**

#### **Recommendation**

The Budget Sub-Committee recommends:

That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Commissioner of Community Services, dated May 23, 2001, be approved.

#### **Report of the Commissioner of Community Services**

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Recreation and Culture and the Director of Buildings and Facilities recommends:

That a feasibility study be undertaken to determine the options and costs related to the expansion of the Maple Community Centre;

That a feasibility study be undertaken to determine the community interest and capital costs to provide an outdoor pool at Chancellor Community Centre; and that staff explore the possibility of expanding the Bocce area in partnership with the Chancellor Community Centre Boccifilio Club, to allow for the hosting of National and International tournaments;

That the Dufferin Clark Community Centre undergo some minor interior renovations and re-allocation of space to better meet the needs of the community, and that an outdoor concrete storage hut be provided for the Glen Shields Soccer Club;

That the Rosemount Community Centre, not be expanded; however that staff take the appropriate steps in consultation with the York District School Board to correct the parking problems at that location;

That a "Space Planning and Financial Analysis be undertaken on the G.A.W.C.C. Fitness Centre as recommended in the report undertaken by the JF Group.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Budget Sub- Committee with the results of the Community Centre Task force meetings; and to recommend actions with regard to improving the levels of service.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

On January 29, Council directed staff to establish advisory committees to review the service levels for Chancellor Community Centre, Maple Community Centre, Dufferin Clark Community Centre, Rosemount Community Centre and Garnet A. Williams Community Centre and that the findings be brought to a Budget Sub-Committee. A "task force" was struck at each of the five locations, consisting of representatives of the user groups within each facility. A meeting was held at each location with the task force members, the local member of Council and staff. Extensive notes were taken at each meeting and copies of these notes are attached.

The participants' comments were positive in terms of the types of programmes that were being offered and the staff in the centres. Each Centre had some issues that were specific to the facility.

Some concerns have already been addressed if they related to minor repairs, cleanliness, registration procedures, space allocation etc.

The following is a synopsis of the main issues by location, and an analysis of those issues.

### **1. Maple Community Centre**

**Fitness Centre:** The workout area and the change rooms (particularly the men's) are too small to accommodate the users. There are line-ups for the fitness equipment.

**Swimming Pool:** There is a long waiting list for pool programs, for example the spring session had over 300 children on the wait list.

**Pre-School Rooms:** The demand for pre-school programmes is very high and there is insufficient space to accommodate the community demand. Storage is also an issue for pre-school programme equipment.

**Bocce Courts:** The bocce courts are located in the basement. There is a major leak from the pool deck above the courts. The users are not satisfied with this location.

**Senior Citizens.** The seniors club is growing and will require more space than they currently have at Merino Road. They would like to have additional space in the community centre.

**Arena:** The arena is still in demand, by both minor hockey and figure skating.

Staff recommends that an architectural/structural engineering company be retained to undertake a study to determine the feasibility of expanding certain facility components within the Maple Community Centre.

### **2. Garnet A. Williams Community Centre**

**Fitness Centre:** Exercise area is too small, and there is insufficient equipment. There is not enough space to properly run the power cycling classes. The change rooms are too small and are looking "shabby". There are line-ups for the showers during busy times. Need improved security.

**Arena:** Hockey still growing in the area. Need more storage for hockey teams. Would like an entrance from the east side of building.

### **3. Rosemount Community Centre**

**Arena:** Need fans on heaters to direct hot air on skaters, not just the spectators. Figure Skating participant numbers growing. Would like to offer more skating programmes.

**Parking Lot:** The joint parking area with the school is an ongoing problem. Some renovations to the parking areas are required to manage the situation.

**Future Pool:** No real support for a pool as it would severely impact on the parking, and would likely eliminate the senior baseball diamond.

#### **4. Chancellor Community Centre:**

Bocce Court area: Spectator space is too small, particularly for tournaments. A windbreak is needed on outside door (funds in 2001 budget). Would like a "lounge: area" adjacent to the courts.

Youth: The Youth Room is too small for the numbers (470 youth members). Youth are requesting more equipment such as air hockey, gitonni etc.; as well as extended hours.

Seniors: The seniors would like more space, as their room is crowded during peak times. Some seniors are interested in a pool at that location.

Children: There is a need for more pre-school programmes in the afternoons. There was also a request for more "physical" activities for children in the 4 to 6 yrs. age group.

Parking: The parking lot is often full in the front (Library has most of the spots reserved), requiring mothers with young children to walk a considerable distance. The seniors have also complained about the parking.

#### **5. Dufferin Clark Community Centre:**

Seniors: Thornhill Seniors would like more space, as they currently operate in one very small room. The Garibaldi Seniors are happy with their space. A newly formed Filipino Seniors group would like space in the centre.

Youth: The youth are generally satisfied; would like some gym time for soccer, more equipment in the teen room, and a "weight room".

Soccer Club: The Glen Shields Soccer club requires additional storage space, at ground level.

#### **Conclusion**

The recommendations are based on the comments from the participants at the Task Force Meetings and staff's input as to the need for new/renovated space at the five community centres. The approval of the recommendations will result in the initiation of various studies, which are needed prior to any final decision regarding capital expenditures. It is anticipated that all the studies will be complete in time for the 2002 Capital Budget deliberations.

#### **Attachments**

Meeting Notes

#### **Report prepared by:**

G. Doris Haas  
Commissioner of Community Services, Ext. 8501

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Di Vona  
Chair  
Budget Sub-Committee

# **MAPLE COMMUNITY CENTRE TASK FORCE**

**MARCH 27, 2001**

**7:00 - 9:00 p.m**

## **Community Representation**

Angie Orsi  
Jacqueline Thoman  
Steve Pottins  
Frank Crudo  
Debbie Canini  
Viola DiGaetano  
Domenic Curci

## **Council / Staff**

Councillor Mario Ferri  
Doris Haas, Commissioner of Community Services  
Joyce Epstein, Director of Recreation and Culture  
Domenic Colalillo, Programmes Manager  
Mary Reali, Administrative Manager  
Jeff Peyton, Building and Facilities Department  
Rick Doherty, Building and Facilities Department

## **PARTICIPANT COMMENTS / MEETING NOTES**

- Convenient/close to home
- Lighting in the back is too dark, and parking lot lights need constant replacement/improvement
- There are waiting list for swimming lessons
- The fitness centre is too cramped and crowded
- Bocce courts are in the basement and the users are dissatisfied
- Convert outdoor bocce courts into full year use
- Soccer requesting indoor facilities during the off season
- There are waiting list for those programmes dedicated to preschoolers age 18 months
- Pre-school programmes too crowded
- Lions storage is not efficiently used
- Time allocation for Woodbridge Figure Skating Club is insufficient and they often cannot get on the ice on time
- With the opening of the Sports Village, the C.V.H.A. is concerned that Council will consider that the M.C.C. arena will no longer be required however the arena is essential to the C.V.H.A. hockey programme
- Security is an issue – some wallets have been stolen (C.V.H.A. refs.)
- Observation room needs to be fixed (roof) to be made useable by seniors – cards
- Bowling is being repaired and will be useable April 15/01

- Pioneer Seniors membership numbers are increasing and they will require additional space, possibly the expansion of the Merino Road facility
- Pool is too shallow for a fitness swim for adults however it is great for lessons/aquafit
- There are waiting lists every season for swimming lessons
- It is suggested that swimming lessons be built into school curriculum for use of daytime pool
- There is a major focus on pool staff recruitment and training
- Fitness membership is currently at 1,320 – 1,350
- Useage is an issue rather than the number of members
- Members like the track/walking/jogging – do not want to see it eliminated
- Frustrating to have to wait to use the equipment in the fitness center
- Women's changeroom has only 5 showers and they are overcrowded
- Men's changeroom very cramped
- Look at moving the courts elsewhere
- Expand the hours of the fitness center, consider staying open until 11 p.m.
- Expand weekend hours of operation in the fitness center
- More staff are required in all areas
- Fitness center requires "upgrading" showers, broken lockers, carpeting, mechanical systems throughout
- Pool temperature fluctuates and requires maintenance
- Pool temperature readout is provided to the control desk → inform participants **PRIOR** to useage of the current pool temperature
- Staff stated tha t air temperature is 2 degrees warmer than water temperature
- Atrium needs more glass to make it more inviting
- Some discussion re possible use for area currently being occupied by bocce – if bocce moves
- Amenity furniture such as benches are required for corridors
- Councillor Mario Ferri – hire architect before report goes forward to Council
- Leak in the bocce courts must be repaired as soon as possible
- Need more preschool and children / youth programmes – programmes are good but there is a need for more
- Telephone registration is good
- Need to co-ordinate programmes in order to provide opportunities for older children
- There will be an Impact on programmes as a result of full year maternity leave?
- **"WE NEED MORE SPACE"**
- Sense of urgency for young families – need programmes NOW
- Give Vaughan residents a larger window of opportunity to register by adding an additional week
- Order additional number of brochures for distribution/pick-up
- Eliminate non-Vaughan members from fitness (impact of elimination of Inter-fit)
- Review non-Vaughan's in programmes
- Institute Web registration as soon as possible

# GARNET A. WILLIAMS COMMUNITY CENTRE TASK FORCE

MARCH 28, 2001

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## Community Representation

Cheryl Hayman  
Steve Pottins  
Esther Huberman

## Staff

Doris Haas, Commissioner of Community Services  
Joyce Epstein, Director of Recreation and Culture  
Domenic Colalillo, Programmes Manager  
Mary Reali, Administrative Manager  
Lachlin Pride, Facility Supervisor, Building and Facilities Department  
Bill Brace, Assistant Foreperson, Building and Facilities Department

## PARTICIPANT COMMENTS / MEETING NOTES

- Exercise area is too small, too cramped, too little equipment (fitness center), line-ups in order to use the equipment
- The bikes need to be moved elsewhere to free up space
- Air quality in the fitness center is poor, smelly, poor circulation
- The fitness centre is shabby – needs painting, general “clean up” is needed
- Changerooms are too small. There are Insufficient lockers, toilets, showers
- No “emergency” phones in locker area/fitness center
- If the membership age is reduced to 14 years – classes only is an option
- Another option is limit time that 14 yr. olds be allowed in
- Get members more involved in the fitness center special events
- Parking (close to fitness center door) is an issue – fills up quickly
- During the daytime hours, the number of users is increasing
- Do another survey re access for 14 yrs.+ in the fitness center
- Control desk is too busy to “manage” access to the locker rooms
- Discussion re the “timetable” for construction, participants are anxious for change ASAP
- Eliminate non-Vaughan fitness center members – no new memberships
- There are 850 hockey players in the east branch of C.V.H.A.
- Large dressing rooms are important to the C. V.H.A
- Roof leaks in the arena resulting in an hourly loss for C.V.H.A.
- Doors on the north east are self-locking – currently an emergency exit, it would be helpful if the doors can be accessed from the outside
- There is no warm room in the arena – arena is cold – chairs and tables or bar-type stools need to be added to the arena side of the concession
- Not enough locker room/storage space for C.V.H.A. (rep games)
- Can the area be re-configured to add lockers/cages?

- Same storage area is used by camp and things have gone “missing” from the C.V.H.A. storage
- Move C.V.H.A. filing cabinet into a secure cage area
- First aid supplies are the responsibility of permit group not of the City
- Very impressed with the high quality pre-school and children’s programmes, camps and aquatics
- There should be Increased opportunities for user input when ever possible, e.g. babysitting re-structuring
- Concern re non “back up” generator if there is a mechanical problem e.g. no air conditioning
- Line-up for showers – aquafit and fitness center members using at the same time
- Do not eliminate the track. The members want to keep it.

# ROSEMOUNT COMMUNITY CENTRE TASK FORCE

APRIL 3, 2001

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## Community Representation

Judy Valiquette

## Council / Staff

Councillor Mario G. Racco

Doris Has, Commissioner Community Services

Joyce Epstein, Director of Recreation and Culture

Domenic Colalillo, Programmes Manager

Mary Reali, Administrative Manager

Rick Doherty, Facilities Supervisor, Building and Facilities Department

## PARTICIPANT COMMENTS / MEETING NOTES

### Thornhill Figure Skating Club

- Excellent support and assistance from Building and Recreation staff
- Need to know how to contact Facility staff “after hours”
- Ensure all changerooms are open
- Heaters are now installed and very welcome for spectators but skaters need the benefit of the heaters / fans
- There is a possibility that the Thornhill Figure Skating Club will share in the cost
- Heaters are mounted “closer” to the ice surface at the Thornhill Community Centre
- A display case/mail box for information dedicated to T.F.S.C. would be helpful
- T.F.S.C. Would like additional ice time
- Vaughan participation is growing particularly in Thornhill/Concord
- Can the control desk / Building and Facilities accept deliveries on behalf of T.F.S.C.
- Is there a swimming pool needed at R.C.C.?
- If so, where?
- The original waiting list at D.C.C.C. 200, reduced by 95% due to rescheduling of some classes, most participants have been accommodated
- D.C.C.C. has reached prime time capacity
- G.A.W.C.C. is stable and there are no waiting list
- Parking at Rcc is a huge issue and a major concern of all users
- Additional of pool will impact more on parking
- Pool will impact on baseball diamond
- Thornhill Baseball Club lost a senior, lit diamond at Thornhill Park this season
- The site grading is not conducive to the construction of a pool



- Pre-school programmes are full , there are no spaces available and there are – waiting lists
- All future partnerships must address dedicated parking and entrances → site planning

# CHANCELLOR COMMUNITY CENTRE TASK FORCE

APRIL 4, 2001

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

## Community Representation

Vince Infusino  
Vera Ciardella  
Alex Sabarino  
Joe Savo  
Verinder Sandhu

## Council /Staff

Councillor Bernie DiVona  
Doris Has, Commissioner of Community Services  
Joyce Epstein, Director of Recreation and Culture  
Domenic Colalillo, Programmes Manager  
Mary Reali, Administrative Manager  
Jeff Peyton, Manager of Building and Facilities  
Rick Doherty, Facilities Supervisor, Building and Facilities Department  
Mario Tanti, Assistant Foreperson, Building and Facilities Department

## PARTICIPANT COMMENTS / MEETING NOTES

- There are good staff at the facility
- Fruit vendor is an ongoing problem although he has been charged by By-Law
- Bocce court entrance on the north side of building is a major problem, the snow, and rain blows into the courts
- A windbreak has been approved in 2001 to reduce problem
- Meeting rooms are used for programme and are not available particularly in evenings
- There is no “drop-in” lounge-type room for “adults”
- A multi-purpose type room is needed aside from the gym
- Spectator space in the courts is very limited
- Bocce is being played by men and women and a variety of ages
- Not an adequate “tournament” facility re spectators and food/beverages
- Larger youth room is needed due to the overwhelming number of registered youth
- Youth room should be open every day after school not just Tuesday and Thursday
- Youth need a new pool table, air hockey, gitoni, additional games
- Floor hockey, basketball is popular at the school and community center
- Youth not willing to pay for drop in
- There are currently 470 registered youth members
- Seniors room too small
- Air circulation in seniors room is poor due in part to the number of users
- Staff at the centre are like “family”
- Facilities re clean and safe

- Need for more pre-school programmes particularly in afternoons
- Important to know that waiting lists can be misleading. When classes are full, parents don't bother going on waiting lists.
- Offer afternoon specialty children's/pre-school programmes
- There should be additional scheduled hand-washing for pre-school programmes
- Buy wipes/wash toys more frequentl
- Spot check programmes by supervisor more frequently
- Not enough "physical" programmes for 4 – 6 yr. olds (i.e. Kiddy Karate, J. Bean, Kinder Dance, etc.)
- More programmes for 4 – 5 yr. olds (1/2 day or alternate day kindergarten)
- No swings in the park
- Wading pool would be nice addition to the park
- Hate registration procedures (IVR) \* drop-off is available is participant choses
- Staff are responsive
- A pool is being requested by a number of seniors
- There are times when the parking is inadequate particularly in the front of the building, especially for young families
- Computer programmes would be nice however, security is an issue
- Try reducing the number of hours that the admin. desk is open and evaluate the impact
- Many of the seniors would prefer a larger room for seniors rather than a swimming pool (Joe Savo)
- Adult exercise classes should be tried again

# **DUFFERIN/CLARK COMMUNITY CENTRE TASK FORCE**

**APRIL 11, 2001**

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

## **Community Representation**

Pino Furfaro  
Neeta Khatter  
Sam Cogliano  
Aurelia , Philippine Heritage Band  
Shadi Bhatia  
Terry Ilagan  
Sum Natu Sharma  
Youth Representative

## **Council / Staff**

Councillor Mario G. Racco  
Doris Has, Commissioner of Community Services  
Joyce Epstein, Director of Recreation and Culture  
Domenic Colalillo, Programmes Manager  
Mary Reali, Administrative Manager  
Jeff Peyton, Manager of Building and Facilities Department  
Lachlin Pride, Facility Supervisor, Building and Facilities Department

## **PARTICIPANT COMMENTS / MEETING NOTES**

- Glen Shields Soccer needs more space for offices, storage, meeting rooms
- Glen Shields Soccer wants an extension on the building - accessible from outside/storage "shed"
- Explore basement area for construction of a large cage
- Thornhill Seniors Club – space is very small – need additional space for non card players
- Thornhill Seniors Club is very happy with City of Vaughan
- They use the facility from 1 – 5 p.m. daily
- Encourage fund-raising and have 20 regular members
- Youth – everything is "good"
- Repairs need to be kept up in the gym like no loose or broken basketball rims
- More equipment is needed in the Teen Room
- 25 regular users per day
- Room could be a little bigger
- Hours of operation are good
- Satisfied with the hours in the gym and youth room
- More indoor recreational soccer at an earlier time, current time is too late
- Have soccer instead of floor hockey at 5:30 p.m. Fridays
- Membership weight room for youth would be welcomed
- Fitness center should be added to the centre

- Another room with mirrors for the dance programme
- Staff room is too big and can be divided to be used for other purposes such as a meeting room
- Thornhill Ball Room Dancing is very satisfied
- Filipino organization needs office (first Philippine group organization of Vaughan)
- Space at D.C.C.C. for a line dancing programme
- Space for Filipino seniors is requested
- G. Garibaldi Seniors – no complaints
- Bocce is satisfied
- Glen Shields Soccer needs storage for this summer for generator and B.B.Q.