

COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 7 March 2022

Subject: Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Needs
Assessment - Presentation of Report

Boards Routed Through: Community Services Advisory Board

Date: 14 February 2022

Issue:

Council is being presented with the results of the report for the Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment Study.

Background:

Council has committed to ensuring that community facilities such as a new recreation facility and a library meet the needs of Airdrie's growing population. A starting point to planning for new municipal facilities is to engage the community to provide input on their needs. Conducting a statistically reliable Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment is an open and transparent public process that allows residents to participate in shaping their community by expressing their needs.

The City of Airdrie sought experienced research firms to conduct this critical research and the Consultant Team of GEC/HarGroup have significant experience in conducting needs assessments and facility functional programming on a wide variety of municipal projects throughout Alberta and Canada. Some examples of their recent work includes Shane Homes YMCA at Rocky Ridge needs assessment and functional programming, Town of Cochrane Aquatic Center needs assessment and feasibility study, Sport Calgary Facility supply and demand study, Saddletowne YMCA Recreation Facility feasibility study, and the Rocky View County Recreation needs assessment study.

HarGroup presented their research methodology and workplan to Council on September 20, 2021. The plan was executed in November 2021 and the results were tabulated, analyzed and detailed in the attached Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment Study and Presentation of Methodology and Summary of Results documents.

The Consultant team was commissioned to complete the following scope of work:

- Gather input from residents and stakeholders on their recreations needs and preferences.
- Analyze utilization trends of Airdrie's municipal indoor and outdoor facilities.
- Compare Airdrie's inventory of facilities against similar communities.
- Based on the results, identify the highest priorities to address gaps in the municipal offerings for indoor and outdoor amenities.

The purpose of the March 7, 2022 presentation to Council, is for the Consultant to provide an overview of the methodology used to solicit and gather community input, review the results, and present possible allocation of amenities for the new recreation centre in the Southwest and the regional park in the Northeast. The results have been organized into themes of expressed needs. The analysis of needs reveals that there are a very broad range of needs in the community. Managing community expectations will be challenging given the breadth and depth of expressed needs. The results of the Needs Assessment provide the framework for the next stage of decision making and includes a feasibility analysis of the various facility amenities and options to address community needs.

The attached report provides quantifiable data on the expressed needs as well as some considerations for addressing top needs through various physical amenities/facilities. The report will be presented in detail to Council followed by time for members to ask questions of the Consultant about their methodology, the results, and the implications to planning for new facilities to address the expressed needs.

Next Steps

- Recreation Centre Feasibility of Future Recreation Amenities - Indoor and Outdoor - April 2022

Further analysis will be conducted to present information on the various options that could be considered in addressing community needs. Administration is gathering information on the various amenities that could be considered in a new Indoor facility, as well as the outdoor amenities that are desired and that would have the greatest positive community impact when placed adjacent to the new recreation facility and the new high school. A feasibility analysis will be undertaken for the top ranked needs for all Indoor and Outdoor facilities, so that CSAB and Council have comparative data regarding the impacts various amenities could have on addressing expressed needs, the programming and service impacts for the community, the projected operating costs, as well as recommendations for Indoor facility priorities.

For example a top expressed community priority for Indoor facility is a new aquatic facility. There are different opportunities for programs, events and uses, depending on the mix of the aquatic features and amenities. A feasibility analysis of various amenity composition options within the Aquatic component of a multi-use facility, such as a 10 lane, 25 meter pool versus an 8 lane, 50 meter pool or a leisure pool versus a wave pool will be undertaken.

It is planned that the Feasibility Analysis of various recreation amenities will be presented to Community Services Advisory Board (April 11) and Council (April 19). It is anticipated that Council will provide direction on the mix of amenities and priorities

for phasing by middle of May, so that Administration can have cost consultants complete cost estimates in advance of the 2023 Capital Budget process.

- Northeast Regional Park

Community Infrastructure will avoid duplication of work and harmonize recreation amenity planning for the NE regional park, with the work that Community Services is doing. The Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment Study is also the base for the amenity's considerations for the NE regional park. A separate report will be presented to CSAB and Council with the Feasibility Analysis done for the NE regional park.

Overview of New Recreation Project Schedule

The high-level planning schedule for the Multi-use Recreation Centre the following baseline schedules reflect the anticipated project phases and timelines:

- Land Acquisition and Land Development Base Schedule:

Task Name	2021		2022				2023				2024				2025				2026			
	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Land Planning																						
Land Development																						
Off-Site Infrastructure																						

- Project Planning, facility design and construction:

Task Name	2021		2022				2023				2024				2025				2026			
	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Rec. Facility Needs Assessment																						
Analysis of Potential Amenities																						
Determination of Site Amenities, Priorities & Phasing																						
Project Planning & Site Master Planning																						
Functional Program																						
Concept/Schematic Design																						
Detailed Design																						
Construction Commencement																						
Facility Open																						

Alignment with South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and AirdrieONE:

N/A

Boards Routed Through:

The Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment report was presented for information to the Community Services Advisory Board on February 14, 2022.

Overall, the presentation of the report was received with excitement. There were general questions regarding:

- How the top expressed needs will help to determine the amenities that are priority to be build.
- The art organizations that were contacted, as the City is working in developing an Arts Council. The art organizations contacted were:
 - o Airdrie Regional Arts Society – The organization has dissolved and as such has not respond the Survey
 - o Nose Creek Players – Did not respond to the Survey
 - o Airdrie Film Society – Did not respond to the Survey
 - o Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra – Responded to the Survey
 - o Nose Creek Valley Museum – Responded to the Survey
 - o The survey was also responded by three private music businesses and two dance private businesses.
- CSAB members were not aware that the existing disc golf course in Airdrie was temporary.

Alternatives/Implications:

N/A

Communications Plan:

The results of the Survey will be posted in the City's website along with the key dates for the future deliverables that are being done. As part of the feasibility study there will be further communication with the sport, recreation, and culture organizations.

Recommendation:

That Council accepts the presentation of the Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Facility Needs Assessment Study for information.

Michelle Lock / Claudia Usuga
Director of Community Services / Community Facilities Project Coordinator

Presenter:	Michelle Lock
Department:	Community Services
Reviewed by:	Claudia Usuga
Attachments:	#1 – City of Airdrie - Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment Study - February 2022_R1 #2 – Future of Recreation - Methodology and Summary of Results - February 2022
Appointment:	Jon Hartenberger / Principal, HarGroup Management Consultants Inc.