

Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

Recreation and Culture Strategy
DATE: September 30, 2019



Recreation and Culture Strategy Presentation

WHAT WE HEARD FROM COMMITTEE – AREAS OF FOCUS

AREA OF FOCUS: COMMUNITY NEEDS

How can these priorities be enhanced to support the interests and needs of the community?

What would your committee recommend to consider in the development of the Implementation Plan in this area? (e.g. regular public and stakeholder engagement, prepare site master plans, partnership opportunities, update inventories of places and programs)

Is there anything missing?

- Staff training so everyone feels welcome in facilities
- Consider accessibility at ice rinks (i.e. the centre railing at the GARC curling club was removed and now those in a wheelchair are able to access the ice sheets)
- Vet construction design ideas through those with disabilities so they can catch design flaws before they are too late

AREA OF FOCUS: INCLUSION

How can these priorities be enhanced to support the interests and needs of the community?

What would your committee recommend to consider in the development of the Implementation Plan in this area? (e.g. regular public and stakeholder engagement, prepare site master plans, partnership opportunities, update inventories of places and programs)

Is there anything missing?

- Staff training needed so staff feel comfortable to approach and offer assistance to individuals with accessibility challenges
- Consider populations with sensory challenges
 - What programs or environment can be offered for individuals with autism (i.e. multipurpose rooms with ability to decrease lights and sounds, decrease sensory stimuli)
- Need to ensure all doorways in County facilities are accessible. Sometime the entrance doorways are accessible, however doors inside the facilities are not (i.e. changerooms, washrooms)

- Look at what we can do, not what we can't do
- Specific training for swim instructors and lifeguards for how to work with participants with autism
- Consider accessibility at all events. County run events and community hosted events. Help offer solutions for community hosted events so everyone can still access and participate in events
 - Consider locations of entrances
 - Reserve accessible parking
 - Consider turf or mats for outdoor events so individuals in wheelchairs can still get around
- Look at creating agreements with community organizations to ensure events and programs are accessible for all
- More communication/marketing pieces for Everybody Gets to Play Program. Post posters in facilities and state clearly what the program offers
- Are adaptive programs and sports considered in facility allocation?
 - I.e. How does sledge hockey get ice times? What needs to be considered when booking the ice?
 - How can the County work with the groups that have specialized equipment that might require more time in between bookings?
- Look at solutions in facilities for the hearing impaired. LOOP system. Is this possible in a setting like Festival Place? LOOP system for County Customer Service desks

AREA OF FOCUS: BUILDING CAPACITY

How can these priorities be enhanced to support the interests and needs of the community?

What would your committee recommend to consider in the development of the Implementation Plan in this area? (e.g. regular public and stakeholder engagement, prepare site master plans, partnership opportunities, update inventories of places and programs)

- How can partnerships be formalized so that community groups, sport groups and those the County works with must consider accessibility for their programs. I.e. Both financial and physical barriers
- How can the County assist community groups, sport groups and those hosting events/tournaments/programs in our space to consider accessibility?



At the conclusion of the meeting, we invited the committee to email rpc.engagement@strathcona.ca should they have any further comments or questions.