

Report

City of Merritt
SPECIAL Council Meeting
August 4, 2020

File Number: 1850

To: Scott Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Sky McKeown, Recreation & Facilities Manager
Date: July 27, 2020
Subject: Merritt Curling Rink Roof Options

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council support a \$40,000.00 gas tax funded, financial partnership investment with the Merritt Curling Club and the TNRD on the curling building roof replacement project.

Background:

The curling building is owned, operated, and maintained by the Merritt Curling Club membership and the City owns the land that the building is situated on. The Merritt Curling Center is an important recreation asset for the members within the community, particularly older members who enjoy the social aspects of curling specifically. It is home to various curling leagues and hosts provincial competitions. The club also hosts several social fundraising events through the season and is strongly supported by other non-curling citizens as well.

The original building was built in 1959 and renovated in 1972.

Earlier in the year, members from the Curling Club approached the City Management Team regarding this possible project. At that time, the Facilities Manager requested that a building condition assessment be completed with the results to be reviewed. Results from that assessment have now been received and shared with the Curling club.

Options / discussion

The financial commitment would only be used if the Curling Club is successful in obtaining the Provincial matching grant that they will be applying for.

Financial / Risk Implications:

This would be a proposed \$40,000.00 City investment to be combined with another \$40,000.00 commitment from the Curling Club and a further \$40,000.00 commitment from the TNRD (Gas Tax Fund). Combined, this \$120,000.00 commitment would be used to apply for a provincial matching grant of a further \$120,000.00. This \$240,000.00 would be applied to the estimated entire cost of replacing the current roofing material on the entire building.

A possible risk of not having this roof replaced would be that the aging building would continue to suffer from current and future roof leaks causing possible rot and mold. Further to that, if the building does not receive a new roof covering then the clubs ability to maintain the building could be exceeded and because the building is situated on City property, the entire building may one day become City property with the entire costs to repair or demolish being borne by taxpayers.

Strategic Plan Reference:

2011 OCP: Well Managed City Assets
2017 Parks Recreation, and Culture Master Plan – Although the building is not City property, it is maintained and used by a group of individuals who are embracing the more Contemporary Community Development Model that most municipalities are pushing towards. This group has continued to make sound financial decisions when it comes to planned building repairs and maintenance. They have continued to look within their own membership to use their skills and abilities to complete most of the volunteer labor which is required to upkeep a building of this size.

Attachments:

Pg. 23 of the 2020 City of Merritt, Curling Rink Facility Condition Assessment.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sky McKeown
Recreation and Facilities Manager**