

CGP CONSORTIUM - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Hosted by: Niagara Region
Location: Zoom Meeting
Meeting Chair: Ron Tripp, CAO, Corporate Services, Niagara Region
Recorder: Kathy Beach, Executive Assistant, Corporate Services, Niagara Region

Attendees:

Scott Johnstone Brock University
Geoff Holman City of Thorold
Manoj Dilwaria City of Thorold
David Oakes City of St. Catharines

Guests:

Jeff Dixon Meridian Centre
Lara Verdone Canada Games Park
Brian Wilson Niagara Region

Regrets:

Todd Harrison Niagara Region

1. Adoption of Agenda – Approved

2. Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2023 - Approved

3. Business:

a. Statement of Work

(Ron T.)

Ron noted he, Todd and Brian met with the Abilities Centre in Whitby, the facilities that were established for the Pan Am Games, with a specific mandate. Ron reminded the group the name is trademarked, and rather than either changing the name or getting into legal discussions, we are looking at working with them towards a more inclusive mandate for our facility itself.

Ron shared the Statement of Work they provided with the group and noted the starting point would be this assessment, which is based on lead. The document comes from the

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UK but has been adopted here in Canada, as well as a comprehensive assessment of universal accessibility.

Ron is looking for input and comments from the consortium partners as to whether this is something they would like to embark on. Discussion ensued.

Action:

Ron is scheduled to meet via Zoom with the Whitby Abilities Centre on Tuesday, February 21 and has invited the consortium to attend and ask questions. The meeting invitation will be forwarded to the group, however it will likely need to be rescheduled to a better time that suits all four partners.

- b. March Regional Report Update (Ron T.)

Ron mentioned the Region is busy with budgets.

- c. For Consideration from St. Catharines – Totem Pole (Jeff D.)

Jeff indicated the City of St. Catharines have proposed relocating a beautiful, refinished totem pole, rehabilitated this past year and considered an art piece to the Canada Games Park building from its current location at the Rex Stimers Arena.

It was proposed in order to protect it from the elements, the totem pole could be placed outside the building under the overhang, however it is too tall. Engineers are now looking at a possible location inside the Canada Games Park building, which could pose additional challenges.

Jeff asked the consortium about whether to pursue and/or what next steps would be. Discussion ensued.

Recommendation:

City of St. Catharines will take the lead on this project and will be responsible for the cost. Further discussions are required.

Agreed to by consensus.

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d. Leasable Space Update (Jeff D.)

Jeff noted they conducted a deeper dive into comparable rentable spaces in the area which they found rates varied.

He indicated they are in a good spot and will re-evaluate as they deal with annual increases with the Consumers Price Index.

Jeff also mentioned they created a brochure document that will start the process to start talking to users once they have approval from this group. Discussion ensued.

e. Lease Rate (sq./ft.) and Cost Breakdown (Scott J.)

Scott continued the discussion of leasable space and lease rates as shown in the previous agenda item.

f. Indoor Track Hours of Public Use (Geoff H.)

Geoff noted Thorold Council has asked for the consortium to provide a proposal in respect to public access of the indoor track during the winter months. It is recommended public access would be dedicated during the hours of 6:00pm – 8:00pm, and from Monday to Friday. This would apply from January 1 to April 30, and then September 1 to December 31 of every year. They are hoping to have a schedule in place quickly, pending any other commitments already made.

Jeff noted they are working on an allocation policy for the entire building. He also noted it is encouraging to see the public popularity of the track, and that typically the track is rented to high performance groups during the proposed public time.

Recommendation:

For the dedicated hours for public use of the indoor track be considered to start September 1 in order to accommodate the users already booked until the end of the season in early April.

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4. Updates

- a. Independent Operator (IO) Transition

(L. Verdone)

No updates provided.

5. Other

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 1, 2023