

CANADA GAMES PARK OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Page | 1

Date: Monday, March 25, 2025
Hosted by: Niagara Region
Location: Zoom Meeting
Meeting Chair: Geoff Holman, City of Thorold
Recorder: Olivia Vaccaro, Niagara Region

Attendees:

Dave Baldoni	City of Thorold
Brooke Nicholson	City of Thorold
Eric Lamothe	City of St. Catharines
Phil Cristi	City of St. Catharines
Lara Verdone	Meridian Centre
Jeff Dixon	Meridian Centre
Edward Wall	Brock University
Salee Johnson-Edwards	Brock University
Courtney Smith	Brock University

Guest(s):

Regrets: Kathy Beach, Niagara Region

1. Adoption of Agenda – Approved – Agenda item “Track Certification” added by Jeff Dixon

2. Approval of Minutes – March 10, 2025

Motion:

That the CGP Operations Committee Meeting minutes dated March 10, 2025, be
APPROVED.

Moved by Phil Cristi

Seconded by Ed Wall

Carried.

CANADA GAMES PARK OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

3. Business -

a. Potential of Hosting Pow Wow (Lara)

Lara shared a memo she received from the Niagara Regional Native Centre (NRNC) regarding a special event request to host their Pow Wow at Canada Games Park on October 4, 2025.

The event is expecting approximately 300- 500 attendees and will include dancing / performing / spectating and a marketplace vendor fair of approximately 80 booths including food and beverage.

Lara identified the considerations for this event, including parking compression (13 accessible and 286 parking spots), existing tenants, varsity hockey, St. Catharines and Thorold's ice time, and Indoor and Outdoor Track regular bookings and public weekend use.

Two options were presented – Option 1 : Exclusive booking – Limited Venue Operations, and Option 2 : Non-Exclusive booking – Regular Venue Operations. Discussion ensued.

Recommendation:

1. To go with Option 2 subject to finding a resolution for parking, and subject to scheduling varsity hockey for the use of the rinks.

Actions:

1. Jeff will continue to work with the organizers and find solutions to the above-mentioned considerations and will report back to this committee for final approval to book this event.

Agreed to by consensus.

b. Parking Update (Lara)

Lara advised the committee that the parking lot is at capacity most nights and weekends. There was a suggestion from the Mayor of Thorold, for overflow parking to be located at the Niagara Region – and also at Brock on weekends.

CANADA GAMES PARK OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Lara is working on overflow options, planning and signage with the Niagara Region and with Brock. There are some legal components that are still being dealt with from the parking and facilities teams at the Niagara Region, including who would be the legal entity for signing the agreements that are in place. Lara noted that Lot 2 at Brock will also be available for free overflow parking.

Recommendation:

1. For this item to be brought forwarded to the CGP Management Committee for long-term recommendations.

Agreed to by consensus.

c. Track Certification (Jeff)

Jeff indicated that when the building was constructed, it was to include an outdoor track that was certified as World Athletics Class 2, an international association that certifies tracks to be available for different types of competition. This was an initial requirement for the 2022 Canada Summer Games. There is a very short list of tracks in Canada that actually have this certification.

There is a significant cost of just under \$20,000 for a 3-year certification. Jeff noted there is not a big demand for this certification and would prefer to allocate these funds (of \$20,000) to fencing and seating for the track which would be beneficial for future track events. Discussion ensued.

Recommendation:

1. Not to proceed with the track re-certification at this time.

Agreed to by consensus.

4. Other

Whitby Abilities Centre Visit on April 15 (All)

Confirmed - attendees will arrange their own transportation to the venue. Tour begins at 11:00am, followed by lunch and a LEAD Process business meeting to end at 2:00pm.

Next meetings: April 15, 2025 – Site Visit to Whitby Abilities Centre
May 12, 2025 – Next Monthly Meeting