

## Future of Curling Update Oct. 19/23

Momentum is building over the past two months as The Future of Curling committee has had many productive meetings;

Sept. 20 – Meeting was held with Kamloops Sports Council and other sports groups we'd invited to explore their facility needs that might fit well into a multi-sport facility. We have kept league curling as the main focus but feel some other sport court space could be added to make better use of new buildings. It should be noted that most other sports are not part of the recognized Recreation Master Plan however knowing their needs might help future planning.

We still have an interest in becoming a centre of excellence for curling that would draw larger curling events to the city.

We were also introduced to DCG Philanthropic, a fund-raising company hired by the Sports Council to begin seeking out corporate and private funding to help pay for all the items in the master plan (Arts Centre, 2 hockey sheets, curling, etc).

Sept. 28 – Meeting was held with Kamloops Sports Council to discuss location options. We are still asking for a downtown venue. Some follow-up discussions have taken place on Sept. 29 and Oct. 12 and will continue.

Oct 13 – Scott Braley of Curl BC chaired a Zoom call with the Future of Curling Committee and David Murdoch of Curl Canada. David provided some valuable insight into facility needs and provided a few great examples of curling clubs he's seen in other countries. A few other suggestions included top level camera and technology equipment, wheelchair curling needs, fitness room, athlete's lounge, daycare (more for a club), coaches viewing, etc.

Both Curl BC and Curl Canada are very supportive of our concept and agreed to attend a meeting in Kamloops if needed at some point to voice their support. Neither are a likely funding source but their support is appreciated.

Oct. 18 – meeting with Kamloops Sports Council and other sports groups who provided more detailed needs for individual sports such as ball hockey, volleyball, pickleball and squash.

Oct. 18 – The first meeting for the Build Kamloops Select Committee was held. There are 4 sub committees that include Finance, User Engagement, Communications and Concept Development. Kevin Ihlen and Randy Nelson are on the User Engagement and represent both curling clubs. Nancy Eld of KCC is on the Finance Committee and Kathy Arnold of MICC and KCC is on the Communications Committee. Each committee has 12-16 members with city staff and community members. 5 city councillors attended the meeting and showed strong support. City CAO David Trawin chaired the meeting. Byron McCorkell has a new role as Deputy CAO and will be leading the overall Build Kamloops groups.

Each of the 4 groups will have an initial meeting over the next month and that should be where more input will likely be needed. We will try to set a meeting up with all the advisors, club executive and the committee as soon as we know more.

Brian Windsor has continued to gather important ideas/details from ice makers, other clubs, internet, etc. to formulate a list of essential items for a new curling centre.

All has been positive so far. Well almost all. There will be challenges along the way and we will try to inform you of everything we can. If you have any questions feel free to contact the Future of Curling Chair, Kevin Ihlen or myself at any time.

Randy Nelson  
Communications – Future of Curling - Kamloops