

Proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the County and Sherwood Park Crusaders Hockey Society**Report Purpose**

To provide Council with a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and the Sherwood Park Crusaders Hockey Society (the "Crusaders") relating to the Sherwood Park Event Centre.

Recommendation

THAT the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sherwood Park Crusaders Hockey Society, as set out in enclosure 1 to the July 19, 2022 Legislative and Legal Services report, be approved.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 6 - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents
Goal 3 - Cultivate economic diversification, within the petro-chemical industry and beyond, through a business-friendly environment

Report

The Crusaders reached out the County to seek municipal support for a proposed Event Centre which has links to both the Recreation and Culture Strategy and Tourism Strategy. This Event Centre would support additional indoor ice rink space in Strathcona County for prime-time winter ice rink usage. Usage in winter is over 90% capacity, which includes prime-time use of indoor rinks Monday to Friday 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and daytime use on the weekends. Daytime ice time throughout the week tends to be available. The Centre may also fulfil the needs of adult hockey teams and leagues, hockey academies and elite sport organizations who are looking for ice in the region but may not be specifically linked to Strathcona County organizations.

The County has an existing 10-year capital plan, and this Event Centre is not contemplated within it. On May 17, 2022, Council asked Administration to continue to work with the Crusaders to explore possible partnerships and funding opportunities that might be available to them. The Crusaders would like to actively pursue grant funding and a foundational piece they require is some level of support from the County. Administration has worked with the Crusaders to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support their efforts to obtain grant funding.

The MOU is non-legally binding and outlines the parties shared understanding of when the County may consider a future request from the Crusaders for financial support for the Event Centre project.

The MOU states the County would consider financial support for the Event Centre project if the Crusaders obtained a certain level of funding independent from the County, subject to Council approval and County processes as follows:

If the Crusaders secure funding or financial support independent from any actual or potential County funding or financial support in an amount equal to or greater than 60 million dollars or 66.6% of the total design and construction costs for the Event Centre project, whichever is greater and provide to the County evidence of this funding or support satisfactory to the County, the County agrees to consider

providing funding or financial support to the Event Centre project in an amount up to a maximum of the remaining Event Centre project total design and construction costs or 30 million dollars, whichever is less.

The MOU states any future support would be conditional, including conditions such as additional agreements between the County and the Crusaders governing the support, community access and ice time requirements.

The Crusaders have advised they would sign this form of MOU. The MOU would be in place until December 31, 2024.

Council and Committee History

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| May 17, 2022 | THAT enclosure 4 of the May 17, 2022 Financial and Strategic Services report (the Sherwood Park Event Centre), be referred back to Administration to engage with the Crusaders Organization to explore possible partnerships, external funding opportunities (including any available grants), or other feasible opportunities to support the development of the Sherwood Park Event Centre, and provide an update to Council or Priorities Committee by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022. |
| April 11, 2022 | THAT Administration prepare, for Council's consideration by May 17, 2022, an analysis of possible options for the Crusaders Organization event centre proposals. |
| February 22, 2022 | THAT Administration arrange, as soon as practicable in April, for a Council facilitated planning session to address prioritization of capital projects. |
| January 25, 2022 | After a presentation to the Priorities Committee, the following motion was moved:
THAT the January 25, 2022 Sherwood Park Event Centre Proposal report be referred to Administration to work with the Crusaders organization to complete an analysis of the proposal, including an analysis of the economic impacts and benefits, in the February 22, 2022 Capital Project report. |

Other Impacts

Policy:

Legislative/Legal: The proposed MOU, if approved, evidences the County's commitment to its terms, but it is not a legally binding agreement.

Financial/Budget: to be determined

Interdepartmental:

Master Plan/Framework:

Enclosure(s)

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| 1 | Strathcona County and the Sherwood Park Crusaders Hockey Society Memorandum of Understanding |
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