

ARENA DISTRICT COMMUNITY BENEFITS MEETING

Monday, November 4, 2013

Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre

Attendance:

City of Edmonton:

Rob Smyth, Manager, Community and Recreation Facilities
Rick Daviss, Executive Director, Arena District Project Office
Rod Heinrichs, Senior Planner, Arena District Project Office
Roger Jevne, Director of Facility Development
Harry Oswin, Director, Northeast District
Darrell Nordell, Community Recreation Coordinator
Mark Torjusen, Communication Advisor
Daren Dwernychuk, Supervisor Arenas
Jodi Tauber Communications Officer

Edmonton Oilers:

Patrick LaForge, President
Natalie Minkler Executive Director, Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation

Stakeholders:

Ian O'Donnell, Downtown Community League
Jarrett Campbell, Oliver Community League
Reymond Palpal-Latoc, Central McDougall Community League
Tim Choy, Boyle Street Community League
Tory Zenkewich, McCauley Community League
Cam McDonald, Inner City Executive Directors
Richard Liukko, Chinatown and Little Italy Business Association
Brian Henderson, Edmonton District Labour Council
Laurene Viarobo, North East Business Association

- Rob Smyth opened the meeting. Introductions were made and a summary since the last time the group was together on April 30th was shared.
- Rick Daviss provided an update on the arena project as a whole – arena design and new images, community rink, commercial revitalization levy, pile testing update, soil stability and next steps.
- Patrick Laforge spoke on the various programming that would potentially take place in the arena including NHL, WHL, concerts and special events and he indicated he would be happy to hear what others think would work. Introduced preliminary discussions with Norquest College around hospitality training graduates who could be employed at the new arena. The target market for this type of training would be mainly people who are entering the workforce such as single mothers, new immigrants and young adults.

- Rob Smyth reviewed the final Terms of Reference for the Arena District Local Advisory Committee and the changes that were made to the representation from Social Agencies and Labour organizations. This came from feedback at the April 30th meeting. Missions and mandates of groups were closely considered and Terms of Reference reflect findings. Groups are asked to continue sending only one representative from their groups to meetings. Rotating representatives are allowed.
- All participants took part in discussion around, “Are we getting you the right information”. Comments included:

1. Can we get copies of the power point presentation shared tonight?

Slides on the design can be found on the Downtown Arena website (http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/projects_redevelopment/downtown-arena.aspx).

2. Can we have Edmonton Police and Edmonton Transportation at the table?

Representatives from Edmonton Police Services, Transportation and other City Departments will be invited on an as needed basis.

3. Opportunities for both short and long term employment that the Edmonton Oilers discussed is important and worth pursuing.

4. Can we have employment as a standing item for the next few meetings?

This item will be placed on future agendas.

5. Can Norquest College come out and speak about the hospitality training program?

Consideration of this will be discussed further at future meetings once more details are confirmed.

- Rob concluded the meeting by thanking all for their attendance and participation. The next meeting for the Advisory Committee would be sometime in March 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.