

April 29, 2019

Mayor Mr. Fred Eisenberger & City Councillors

Hamilton City Hall
2nd floor - 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Eisenberger,

ClubLink Corporation's recent sudden closure of the Glendale Curling Club in Stoney Creek has left our city with approximately 400+ curlers without a club to curl in. Some are able to venture outside of the area, although a great majority of them will no longer have their winter recreation to stay active. As a city, we have a shortage of recreational facilities for curling within the East and West of Hamilton, both lower and Mountain areas, as well as Stoney Creek. The curling rinks that do still exist are dated, ageing, and will not exist within the next 5-10 years.

The opportunity to utilise this infrastructure in its current form would serve to enable the opportunity to continue to program recreational space for Hamilton residents where a clear and demonstrated demand is in place. If anything, the aging population that is supportive would benefit from this location within East Hamilton/Stoney Creek as it is transit supportive and is collocated with the existing community centre. The reuse of these facilities from an ice surface perspective would serve to limit any new proposals where a change in land use may be required such that a planning application would need to be submitted, reviewed, publicly vetted and ultimately debated by Council within the context of the best fit for these communities.

Traditionally, curling clubs have been a private enterprise type business and not a regular fixture within the City's recreational scope. We are hoping to help facilitate changes to this by investing our money into one of your buildings, that may no longer be able to offer hockey or ice surfaces as a viable option. Again, reusing or repurposing the existing infrastructure would be cost effective and provide a much-needed destination point for local and visiting curlers with the additional promise of economic development spinoffs from curlers who come to the area to take part in bonspiels.

We ask today for your assistance in providing a facility, that we can renovate and alter as needed, to form a public/private not-for-profit partnership with the City of Hamilton. The City has had opportunity to entertain such partnerships and has even played an important role in sharing in the community use of such facilities as demonstrated through the soccer facility at Redeemer university wherein the community has opportunity to benefit from the programming which takes place within their community. We would ask for a low rate annual lease back option of 5-10 years (or longer) in length, and the ability to use the facility to create a world class curling and training venue. The financial risk and exposure to the City would be minimal under our model.

We do have a window of opportunity to capitalize on this recent closure and we would like to have the renovated facility up and running by October 1, 2020.

As our population continues to age, we need to provide our seniors recreational activities to keep them moving. Curling is a sport that can be enjoyed life long, and as such can be enjoyed by our senior citizens well into their advancing age. We want to create this facility to provide an opportunity to continue the Canadian heritage of this great sport for youth, adults, and seniors alike. Bringing large professional events into the city to create jobs, drive revenue to local business, create a training ground for our Olympic athletes of tomorrow, and a place that all Hamiltonians can call their own.

We thank you for your time and consideration, and look for further opportunity to engage you with respect to our proposal.

Sincerely,

Brad Hoad

Dave Serwatuk