

A Strategic Session is a standing Committee of Council for the purpose of reviewing specific municipal matters in an informal meeting setting.

Jubilee Hall, Curling Rink and McArthur Park

Council met to discuss the future development of the Jubilee Hall, Curling Rink and McArthur Park area. The following topics were explored with County Administration:

- McArthur Park is one of the County's most popular recreation areas, and Council requested a Strategic Session in order to discuss short and long-term plans for the downtown space. The session started with a tour of Jubilee Hall and the Curling Rink, both of which have recently undergone preliminary renovations to improve the space for current users—the 2995 Lac La Biche Army Cadets in Jubilee Hall, and the Lakeland Archers in the Curling Rink.

In 2015, \$70,000 was spent to complete these preliminary renovations. New interior lighting was installed in the archery club space. New exterior lighting was installed. The furnace and hot water tank in Jubilee Hall were replaced. The basement of Jubilee Hall was repaired and repainted and washroom facilities were reinstalled. The entrance to Jubilee Hall was repaired and repainted, security was upgraded and all exterior doors were replaced.

- County Facilities staff recommended the following upgrades for the 2016 budget:
  - Flat roof replacement - estimated cost, \$65,000
  - Flat roof structural repair - estimated cost, \$35,000
  - Fascia and peak replacement - estimated cost, \$25,000
  - Front steps replaced - estimated cost, \$25,000
- Jubilee Hall and the Curling Rink were built in 1969, and, as with all buildings from that era, asbestos was used for insulation. The asbestos insulation does not pose a health risk, unless it is disturbed. Because of this, Administration informed Council that any major renovations to the interior of the building would require asbestos abatement (estimated cost, \$125,000), re-insulation with new materials and the replacement of drywall (estimated cost, \$100,000) and a fire code upgrade (estimated cost, \$250,000).
- Council discussed the possibility and associated costs of moving the Lac La Biche Regional Museum and Discovery Centre from its temporary home on the ground floor of McArthur Place to Jubilee Hall.

Some of the estimated costs included:

- Bringing hall up to code - \$475,000
  - Interior renovation with lighting, windows, air handling/climate control for artifacts and archives, increased security, and new roof – between \$500,000 and \$700,000
  - Windows replaced - \$100,000
  - New flooring - \$50,000
  - Ceiling tiles replaced - \$10,000
  - Washroom upgrades - \$15,000
  - Creation of office space - \$20,000
  - Relocation costs - -\$50,000
- Council discussed the possibility of upgrading the existing ball fields at McArthur Park or constructing new ones at the Bold Center.

Facilities staff recommend upgrading existing ball fields over constructing new ball fields at the Bold Center, at least in the short term. Staff estimates that upgrading the existing ball fields will cost a few hundred thousand dollars, depending on what improvements are greenlit by Council, while constructing new diamonds at the Bold Center will likely cost well over a million dollars.

- After Administration's presentation regarding possible short and long-term uses for the McArthur Park area, and their estimated costs, Council discussed all the possibilities. After discussion, Council directed Administration to prepare detailed cost estimates for the following improvements for 2016 budget deliberations:
  - Renovations to Jubilee Hall, including the option of moving the Lac La Biche Regional Museum and Discovery Centre to the hall.
  - Upgrades to the baseball diamonds at McArthur Park.
  - McArthur Park playground replacement.
  - Replacement of park lighting and brick walking trails.
  - Construction of an amphitheatre or gazebo.

Council will debate these and other options for the McArthur Park area during 2016 budget discussions, starting in November.