



Delegation Request To Appear Before Township Council

I/we would like to appear as a delegation at the Council meeting on

February 11th, 2019

(Council meeting date requested)

at the ►

- ☐ 4:00pm Regular Afternoon Meeting
☒ 7:00pm Regular Evening Meeting

Name of delegate or organization wishing to appear

Valley Ball Hockey Association

1 Topic

The topic of discussion is (be specific, provide details, and attach additional information, if required)

Request to reverse the decision to keep ice in George Preston Arena over spring, and ensure that both George Preston Arena & Aldergrove Credit Union Community Centre remain dry floor locations over spring for 2019, and future years.

A decision to keep ice in George Preston for 2019 will negatively affect over 1,500 minors and families in Langley by cutting short the sport (Ball Hockey & Lacrosse) they have grown to love, and pushing them outside to less than adequate facilities.

2 Additional Information

Purpose of presentation

- ☐ Information only ☐ Request letter of support ☐ Request funds ☒ Other **Reversal of decision**

Desired resolution

Reverse the decision to leave ice in George Preston for Spring, & guarantee future usage

Activities to date relative to the matter

See attached documentation

3 Meeting Location

Fraser River Presentation Theatre, 4th Floor
 Township of Langley Civic Facility
 20338 - 65 Avenue, Langley, BC V2Y 3J1

Office use only

☐ Approved ☐ Declined ☐ Other

Applicant Informed





Valley Ball Hockey is a non-profit association based out of Langley which supports over 1,200 minors between the age of 5-18 years old playing indoor Ball Hockey. We've been running our association for over 30 years, and have called George Preston our "home" for spring ball hockey as far back as when it was called the Langley Civic Centre. Our association has been consistently growing year after year, and currently has approximately 1,200 players, 75 teams, 150 volunteer coaches, and over 50 paid referees many of which are as young as 13 who look to us as their first job.

Valley Ball Hockey is heavily involved in the community with running initiatives like "Giving Back to the Community" where we collect gently used equipment and help bring less fortunate kids and families into sports. And we support programs like KidSport, and Jumpstart, and have close relationships with local Real Estate Agents, Wolfe Mazda Group, Martini Construction, Purdy's Chocolates, Otter Coop, Boston Pizza, and even Aldergrove Credit Union. We support kids from all walks of life and even had Township Counselors children play in our association both now and in the past.

From a Township revenue observation, in 2019 we paid the Langley Township \$41,000 to rent dry floor space, and just over \$200,000 in the past 5 years. Although that may not sound like a lot, to us it is as we keep our registration fees low and are considered one of the most least expensive sports in Langley so that young kids can have an affordable sport to play during spring, and promote healthy lifestyle and team comradery by staying involved in sports.

The decision to leave ice in George Preston for spring will effectively remove this location from our ability to use it for 7-week period in which we've used it in the past. Thus causing a detrimental effect on our association's ability to provide the quality sport we are known for.

This also affects other spring sports such as Lacrosse, which adds approximately 400 additional minors and families to this decision. We are reaching out to try and understand how this decision came to be, and who was involved in making this decision. At no time was the "dry floor" user groups consulted with, or given any time to provide input, prior to the final decision. We are now left with very short notice to restructure our association and accommodate this change. This could force us to cancel games, turn away children from playing, or even refund registrations for current players and reduce our size if we do not find an appropriate resolution.

Reducing dry floor space in Langley, in favor of ice to support out of season sports, when there is already a large number of ice surfaces operating in Langley like Langley Twin Rinks & Sports Plex, pushes Township families, who are already actively involved in the community, away.

We would like council to overrule this decision to run ice in George Preston for spring, and return George Preston back to its original schedule, allowing spring sports to use the facility as a dry floor. We would also like a guarantee that both George Preston and Aldergrove Credit Union Community Centre will remain "dry floor" during for spring of 2019 and years to come.



Important Facts:

- Sporting associations were given notice of the decision to leave ice in George Preston on January 11th, 2019 via email from Keith Holloway. At this stage, Valley Ball Hockey was well into preparations, and already reached 950 registrations for the 2019 season not giving us enough time to plan for the drastic change.
- Valley Ball Hockey was advised in fall of 2018 by Keith Holloway that at no time is George Preston moving to ice all year round and so there was no need to worry. But, at the same time, a posting on Langley Rivermen's website dated November 8th stated they will be running spring training camps out of George Preston for 2019 seems to contradict that statement.
- When the floor allocation meeting was called on January 31st, it became apparent that the intention was to move towards moving spring sports out of the building, and force them to play outside. At no time in the history of Spring Ball Hockey has it been considered as an "Outside sport".
- A new outdoor rink was built beside George Preston, assuming to accommodate sports to move outside, however it was built with severe deficiencies such as no glass around the boards, inadequate score clock, no seating for viewing, and more. If associations are to move outside, the future of spring sports will decline rapidly as the quality of the arena's that kids play in will be considerably lower.
- At the allocation meeting we asked "who was going to be using the ice during spring" and the response we received was the Langley Rivermen will be running programs & also they were looking into running community programs like "Learn to Skate". It seems as though the Langley Rivermen were the driving factor, and it was quite shocking to hear that a "*non-profit, youth association, who's season is during spring*" was given a lower priority than a "*private sporting team, who is out of season,*" are more important in the Township's eyes. I might add the Langley Rivermen look to have a roster of 23 players and only 3 of them from Langley.
- Valley Ball Hockey was advised by the Langley Rivermen that they had already had ice available to them at a different facility prior to this decision, which supports the notion that this change was not necessary. It seems the negative effects on Township families was not recognized prior to this decision being made. The schedule could have stayed the same, allowing the Langley Rivermen to operate as normal, and let spring sports and kids continue use the dry space as we have for many years.



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- During the allocation meeting, a suggestion was offered to seek out other locations for dry floor space even going so far as to say *"Why don't you go to Abbotsford and see if you can secure more dry floor time inside their arenas"*. That statement seemed very strange for us to be advised by the Langley Township to suggest we take our Langley Township families to that city. It would force us to say to our Township families *"Abbotsford is a willing to work with us more than our own township and so we are looking at leaving Langley to move towards Abbotsford...."*
 - We've always been led to believe that George Preston is a public facility, and for such a dramatic change like this to happen, without consulting tax payers, township families, or current user groups seems shocking almost to the point of appalling. Moving towards supporting a private hockey team, instead of the 1,500 Township families who have been a part of the Township for so many years without letting them be a part of the decision process just seems wrong.

I sincerely hope that Mayor Jack Froese, and the current Langley Township will listen to the concerns of Valley Ball Hockey as we stand for Over 1,500 Langley families who wish to continue enjoying spring sports as we have for many years.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Craig McDougall
VBHA – President
604-657-2001