

## **History:**

The original project committee was approved by the league on March 11, 2003. The committee began assessing the existing hockey rink and parking concerns. The snow-bank rink was not part of the committee's scope and the league will continue to maintain the snow-bank rink.

As the rink had deteriorated to the point of non-repair, posing safety and liability issues, the issue became urgent to the project committee. League records indicated that the hockey rink was built in the 1950's and it has been greatly underused in the past decade. However, maintenance costs steadily increased along with the insurance liability requirements. As a result, the league chose not to have an outdoor hockey rink and the rink was removed on October 12, 2004.

The committee and board of directors concluded that a new hockey rink would not be installed but a different, more viable recreational space with a longer season of usability would be determined. The targeted group for the usage of the recreational space was decided upon and the result was it would be ideally for older youth.

The original intent for parking was to pave the parking lot. This has evolved to the current proposal.

## **Rink Removal Decision:**

During the research process of installing a new rink, the committee concluded that it was not feasible as the new rink had to comply with the insurance requirements at that time which included:

- Members only use – it had to be lockable to avoid non-members from accessing it
- Adult supervision requirements for hockey
- Ensuring hockey equipment requirements
- Increased insurance premiums

Alongside the insurance requirements, the committee also had to consider the following items in maintaining a hockey rink between the periods of 2000 – 2003:

- Poor volunteerism – there was not enough volunteers at that time
- Zero to minimal qualified/trustworthy/affordable paid staff who wanted to do this task
- Minus days of extreme cold and snow, it was a very short season for outdoor ice (2 – 3 months in total)
- Outdoor hockey rinks at other community leagues were only minutes away (Ritchie and Avonmore)

## **Current Plans:**

The conceptual drawings are based on creating a viable recreational space, ideally including an area for older youths. The plans include:

- A multi-use youth recreational area (the size of 2 basketball courts) which will be asphalted and can be used for activities such as basketball, roller/inline/street hockey, “street” soccer, dodge ball, etc. This will be located on the West side of the building
- An enlarged snow-bank rink on the East side of the building

Looking towards future developments within the community with focus on improvement of grounds appearance and usage, the Committee included the following items to the proposed project:

- Convert the current gravel parking to the North side of the building to an outdoor stage/patio with green space
- Pave the existing parking and add more stalls on the school property for use by the hall and school. This will result in paved parking for 54 vehicles (3 of which are accessible parking) and provide a large entrance to accommodate two way traffic
- Addition of shaded seating in various areas throughout the grounds

In response to new Capital Health rules and regulations around wading pools, the City of Edmonton is working with Community Leagues to retrofit existing wade pools to spray decks. The City will be covering the base costs. The spray deck will be appropriate for children from 0 – 12 years of age. The Committee solicited the feedback from the children at Hazeldean Elementary on how the spray deck should look and what they would like to see. As a result, the following features will be a part of the spray deck:

- Water jelly, tot-twister, aqua dome, rainbow, rooster tail, peri-spray, team spray, and bell trio

Alongside with the grounds development of the community hall, there will be also be a Skate Shack Redevelopment project which will include:

- Removing the existing kitchen
- Turning the West entrance into the North Hall main entrance
- Widening the main corridor to meet fire evacuation requirements
- Adding a rubberized multi-use flooring
- Replacing the furnace to reduce utility costs as well as meet code requirements
- Updating washroom facilities and access points to meet barrier-free requirements

This new space will complement the existing small upstairs meeting and the larger South hall. This redevelopment would provide more flexibility by adding a new medium-sized rentable space which would help generate revenue as well providing the community a space for year round activities.

**Phase 1 – Grounds Project:**

- Completed October 12, 2004:
  - Hockey rink removal
- Scheduled for completion during Summer 2008:
  - Spray deck installation with 8 spray features
  - Installation of playground equipment near spray deck conducive for water/sand play to complement the spray deck
  - Relocate Hazeldean Community League sign from city park property to the Southeast corner of the League property
  - Removal of chain link fence which currently runs East-West (between the school and league property)
  - Construct a new chain link fence with pedestrian opening further North of the original one to accommodate new entrance for parking lot and additional one row of parking stalls. New chain link fence will run East-West
  - East and North sides of hall renovations will include excavation, backfilling, and grading to accommodate a larger snow-bank rink during winter months
  - Installation of concrete sidewalk and outdoor patio/stage as well as the re-sod of the entire area
  - Additions of trees, shrubs, etc. for the beautification of the land
  - West side of hall renovations will include excavation, backfilling and grading of site in preparation for 2 asphalt recreational courts
  - Installation of 2 basketball hoops and drawing of suitable line markings

**Phase 2 – Grounds Project:**

- Scheduled for completion Fall 2009:
  - Removal of concrete on South and West side of hall to provide room for new sidewalk construction
  - West side of hall renovations will include excavation, backfilling and grading of land in preparation for an asphalt parking lot
  - Addition of chain link fence which runs North-South from hall to meet up with the East-West fence
  - Contouring hills on park site and re-sod where necessary
  - Additions of trees, shrubs, picnic tables, benches and garbage receptacles as required for the beautification of the land
  - Relocation of sign farther towards the Southwest corner of the League property
  - Addition of Southside front entrance overhang and Northside overhang for patio/stage
  - Addition of shade structure over 2 present picnic tables and adjacent benches in a circle formation or the addition of 3-way benches Northwest of the spray deck on the East side of the building

## What Can You Do?

- 1) Feedback! The committee and Board of Directors welcome all feedback from the Hazeldean community. Anonymous submissions are accepted and reviewed; however, we are unable to use them formally in any grant applications as we are required to validate the input provided was from a member of the community.
- 2) Attend the information session on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Community Hall! Many exciting changes are coming and all the league projects will be reviewed. This is an excellent opportunity to provide your input and be a part of an open discussion.
- 3) Volunteer! These projects can go farther with volunteer labour, materials, and equipment. There are numerous opportunities for you to provide your input and see first hand how your contributions have made our neighbourhood and community a great place to live.
- 4) Letters of support! Funding for these projects is made possible through grants. As such, we must compete with all other not-for-profit groups throughout the province. The ability to submit our grant applications with letters of support from the community at large would greatly increase our chances of receiving the maximum funding available.