



MEMORANDUM

Subject: Walker Sports and Abilities Centre (Canada Games Park) – Indoor Track Program Update

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Geoff Holman, Director of Public Works and Community Services

At its meeting on October 24th, 2024, City Council approved the recommendations in Report PWCS 91-2023 (see attached) approving the rental agreement for the use of the Indoor Walking Track for the 2023-24 season. Additionally, staff were directed to work with the Consortium Partners and the Facility Operator (ASM Global) to give a higher priority for Community Use and Public Programming (see Appendix 1).

The 2023-2024 Rental Agreement provided 8 hours of public access to the indoor track at a cost to the City of Thorold of \$14,396.20.

The exact attendance and address of participants using the track were not collected; however, the Facility Operator has reported that the participation numbers were quite low based on expected use. The Facility Operator has also received a great deal of interest from local user groups (like the Thorold Elite Track Club and Niagara Olympic Track Club) to rent the indoor track to accommodate their expanding programs.

The Consortium members recognize the need to find a balance between financial sustainability and public access to the facility, especially during prime-time hours. As the community and user groups become more aware of how they want to use the facility, the Facility Operators propose adjustments annually.

This year's Indoor Walking Track Program reserves one (1) hour of prime-time access from **6:00pm–7:00pm**, three (3) days a week (**Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday**). The track is also currently available for public use on **Saturdays and Sundays** from **7:00am-10:00pm** (except Sundays from 10:00am - Noon).

The Consortium members have agreed to share the cost of this program through its annual Operating Budget as opposed to a direct rental fee for the City of Thorold. This results in a cost savings of approximately \$10,000 for Thorold.

The proposed solution achieves the objectives of optimizing the use of the facility, generating more revenue from third party users, and maintaining suitable public access during prime-time hours.

Participation in the new programming hours will be monitored by the Facility Operators and reported to the Consortium Operations Committee. Any required adjustments will be presented to the Consortium Management Committee and reported to City Council.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Geoff Holman, C.E.T.
Director of Public Works and Community Services

Appendix 1 Report PWCS 91-2023, October 23rd, 2023.