

NEWS

Green light given to renovation, expansion of Georgetown's Active Living Centre

By Lisa Tallyn
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The renovation and expansion project at Hillsview Active Living Centre (HALC) in Georgetown is a go after Council approved a Town staff report Monday evening.

The recommendation calls for expanding the Centre's lease agreement to include 1,800 sq. ft. of additional space at its Guelph St. location and hiring an architect to come up with a design and pricing for the renovation of the current and expanded space.

Council deferred the report two weeks ago after some members wanted more information from Town staff on whether it would be better to make improvements at Cedarvale Community Centre and relocate the seniors there instead.

Terry Alyman, the Town's Director of Recreation and Parks, said the 2010 Seniors Space Needs Study determined that the Georgetown seniors centre should ultimately be part of a larger community centre and Phase 2 of the Gellert Centre was the preferred location, but that won't be built for some time. He said other civic sites were reviewed and dismissed during the study process including Cedarvale Park Community Centre.

Some of the reasons were the topography to and around the facility, distance of parking to

the entrance, inadequate parking, a multi-level floor plan that's not ideal for seniors, it's not accessible, has no life safety systems, has aged HVAC systems and is a stand-alone facility.

While it would cost about \$41,000 a year less to operate the seniors centre at Cedarvale compared to its current location, the seniors wouldn't even be able to move in there until at least \$3.2 million is spent on interior renovations alone. At the previous council meeting Councillor Moya Johnson and Mayor Rick Bonnette suggested the Cedarvale location was more central to where most of the town's seniors live. Alyman said Monday that 40 per cent of HALC members live in Ward 3, 50 per cent in Ward 4, and 10 per cent in other areas.

HALC president John Lescoe, spoke in favour of the staff report and going ahead with the expansion and renovation at the current location.

"Ideally it would be best to stop spending so much on rent and add to our Gellert Centre, however, if the capital dollars are not available we need to take the opportunity presented to expand the current facilities if we expect the recreation department to meet the needs of the community," said Lescoe.

Johnson said her questions had been answered, and moved the report. Bonnette said after hearing the information it makes sense to support the recommendation.

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