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HERE'S WHAT COUNCIL BOUGHT

Here is what town council approved Tuesday night:

- ▶ Two ice pads costing \$17 million on Weldon Road to open by September 2009. A fire hall will be built at the same site.
- ▶ Funding for 19 on the Park, the \$3.3-million arts centre going into the old town hall set to open in 2008.
- ▶ A \$7.7-million tender for the widening of Main Street, a project estimated to cost \$11 million in total.

New arenas too small: councillor

From page 1.

whether there would really be a continuing demand for hockey in the future.

Many new Canadian youngsters enjoy hockey and many of the adults want to learn to skate, said Rob Lockhart, consultant with the Rethink Group, which analyzed what kind of facility would be needed.

Councillor Phil Bannon wasn't impressed. He wanted to see more seating to accommodate spectators for Stouffville District Secondary School's two hockey teams and Stouffville Spirit Jr. A games.

The two arenas which have seating for 300 each, "don't meet the needs of the community," Mr. Bannon said.

Compared to the new arenas he visited in Newmarket and Aurora, "we are just playing catch up," Mr. Bannon said.

"Everyone would like a 1,000-seat arena," Tom Graham, director of leisure services, said.

DEVELOPERS WON'T PAY

He noted that Angus Glen in Unionville and other arenas have around 300 seats "and it works out fabulously," he said.

"This is going to be a very good facility," he added.

People don't necessarily sit in the seats, he noted, and prefer to watch from the heated lobby. The design concept has not yet been started.

Asking for a larger facility to be paid with development charges "won't wash with developers," Mr. Graham said.

Additional funding would have to be found for a larger facility.

Councillor Susanne Hilton also raised concerns about what would happen if demand for hockey were to fall off in future because of the changing population in town.

That's unlikely to happen, Mr. Lockhart said.

However, if it were to happen, the ice pad could be turned into an indoor soccer facility.

The arena and an adjacent fire hall are to be built at the same time on an eight-acre parcel of land.

19 ON PARK

The anticipated \$3.3 million price tag for the 19 on the Park arts centre is a 50/50 proposition. The town will provide 50 per cent of the money while the remainder will come from community fundraising and government grants. A Nov. 8 fundraising event brought in more than \$300,000.

Naming rights for the building can also raise more funds.

The town's hydro reserve, which stand at \$850,000, is being made available as back-up funding, should other sources, such as government grants, fall through.

WIDER MAIN STREET

The tender for the widening of Main Street, also awarded Tuesday to Miwel Construction Ltd. of Stouffville, will cost \$7.7 million. That total should rise to \$11 million when remaining land acquisition and landscaping, tree planting, streetlighting and intersection improvements are included.

The road will be widened to four lanes from Hwy. 48 to Ninth Line in several stages. There will be decorative centre medians at the A & P and Houston Ford, as well as centre turn lanes.

The Miwel contract covers most of the project.

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