

EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES 7
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
10 SEPTEMBER 2019

EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE DU
PROCÈS-VERBAL 7
COMITÉ DES FINANCES ET DU
DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE
LE 10 SEPTEMBRE 2019

OTTAWA STADIUM UPDATE

RIDEAU-ROCKCLIFFE (13)

Stephen Willis, General Manager of Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development provided a PowerPoint presentation, which is held on file with the City Clerk. Dan Chenier, General Manager of Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services, Marian Simulik, City Treasurer and Peter Radke, Director of Corporate Real Estate accompanied Mr. Willis and were on hand to respond to questions.

Councillor Dudas read the following motion:

WHEREAS there have been published reports that the Ottawa Champions are in discussions to sell the team; and

WHEREAS the Ottawa Stadium is an important facility for sport and community usage, attracting over 100,000 participants in 2019 from all areas of the City, including Ottawa Champions baseball games, University of Ottawa and Carleton University baseball activity and community events and championships; and

WHEREAS it would be prudent and beneficial for the City to assess the impact of the launch of the Confederation Line and of the Stage 2 expansion on the continued viability of this centrally located sport and community facility; and

WHEREAS staff are of the opinion that the lands located adjacent to the Ottawa Stadium should see a significant increase in value once Stage 2 is completed; and

WHEREAS Council has already carried a report that identified the Ottawa Stadium as a redevelopment opportunity in the next 7 to 15-year timeframe;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Finance and Economic Development Committee recommend Council approve that, should the Ottawa Champions enter into an agreement of purchase in sale, staff be mandated to:

- 1) *Meet with the prospective purchasers of the team to review the financial viability of their proposal to continue baseball at the Ottawa Stadium and to ensure protection of Ottawa taxpayers, including:*
 - a) *The new ownership group's capacity to enter into a long-term lease (7 to 10 years);*
 - b) *The new ownership group's capacity to cover any and all prior arrears which may have accrued at the end of the 2019 season;*
 - c) *Include in lease negotiations the City's ability to redevelop strategic parts of the Stadium lands once LRT is fully implemented;*
 - d) *Identify the appropriate cost recovery and revenue sharing model that minimizes costs to taxpayers;*
 - e) *Delegate to staff the authority to negotiate a lease agreement in time for the 2020 season; and*
 - f) *Report back to the Finance and Economic Development Committee and Council for approval of the lease before the start of the 2020 season; and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to work with all interested members of Council, local and national community groups and stakeholders to identify opportunities for increased community usage of the Ottawa Stadium, including opportunities to increase public and community usage of the facility, including the opportunities for increased community usage outside of the baseball season and opportunities to attract a more diverse mix of sport uses, including increased college and university access, lacrosse, cricket and other community sport options.

Committee discussions and questions to staff included, but were not necessarily limited to: the steps taken by staff to compensate the money that is owed to the City; consideration of renting the stadium to other organizations during the baseball off-season, and; the value of the property after Stage 2 is complete.

It was requested, prior to consideration of this item at Council on September 25, 2019, that Transportation Services/Finance Services staff advise if the tenant has made the August payment.

After discussion, the Committee approved the following motion and Direction to staff:

FEDC Motion No. 7/3

Moved by: Councillor L. Dudas

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 - a) The new ownership group's capacity to enter into a long-term lease (7 to 10 years);**
 - b) The new ownership group's capacity to cover any and all prior arrears which may have accrued at the end of the 2019 season;**
 - c) Include in lease negotiations the City's ability to redevelop strategic parts of the Stadium lands once LRT is fully implemented;**
 - d) Identify the appropriate cost recovery and revenue sharing model that minimizes costs to taxpayers;**

- e) Delegate to staff the authority to negotiate a lease agreement in time for the 2020 season; and
- f) Report back to the Finance and Economic Development Committee and Council for approval of the lease before the start of the 2020 season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to work with all interested members of Council, local and national community groups and stakeholders to identify opportunities for increased community usage of the Ottawa Stadium, including opportunities to increase public and community usage of the facility, including the opportunities for increased community usage outside of the baseball season and opportunities to attract a more diverse mix of sport uses, including increased college and university access, lacrosse, cricket and other community sport options.

CARRIED

DIRECTION TO STAFF:

Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development staff to provide a report to the Finance and Economic Development Committee regarding an analysis on additional use of the stadium during the baseball off season.