

From: Mark Perry
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Niall Lobley
Subject: Kilsyth Arena

This letter is in support of the conversion of the Kilsyth Arena into an Indoor Turf Facility by Ontario Sports Development (Martin Sasak). I am the President of Owen Sound Minor Soccer and have been involved with minor soccer since 1999. My 3 sons all played in Owen Sound. I coached for 14 years and have been the on Soccer Board for close to 12 years now. I am also a Georgian Bluffs resident. [REDACTED]
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Owen Sound Minor Soccer has for many years been looking into getting an indoor facility for soccer but costs tend to be a bit prohibitive to put in a turf field and a dome. We have worked with the City Of Owen Sound on this and nothing has come of it at this point. We presently have 940 children registered for outdoor soccer this year and around 20% of them are from Georgian Bluffs. Our Indoor Program ran this pas winter full swing for the first time since the pandemic hit. A Indoor Board was put together very quickly last fall and a season organized with over 200 children registered. That would look to increase. There is also an Adult Indoor league as well with 6-8 teams and an outdoor league that has been growing greatly over the past few years with close to 20 teams.

Owen Sound Minor Soccer is in full support of this moving forward. We are by far the largest sports organization in the area and would be the main supporter of the facility. Martin has said he needs around 40 hours a week of bookings to make it viable. Minor soccer would easily provide 15 hours a week and more. Right now we play in gyms in the winter Monday to Thursday from 6 pm to 9 pm. Then there are Rep team practices and the adult league.

On top of that Owen Sound Minor Lacrosse, Field Lacrosse and Rugby would make use of the indoor turf facility. In talking to a teacher as well in the past week he said that he could see schools booking the facility for use as well. There is also lawnbowling, Ultimate Frisbee and more who could use the facility. I believe in moving forward that we could draw on the outlying area for bookings. Minor sports from places like Southampton, Port Elgin, Sauble Beach, etc would likely use the facility as they would have nowhere else to go. Kilsyth is a strategic location for towns like that to make use of it.

I know a couple of the stickler points would be spending around 1.5 million dollars over the next few years in renovations to keep the arena operational and handing over the running of a public building to a private contractor. Regarding the 1.5 million dollars council would have to spend most to this anyway to keep the facility in good condition for use so the decision would be whether you are going to keep it open at all and close it and possibly having it used a lot more with indoor turf in it. Secondly, I understand turning running a public facility over to a private person could be an issue but Owen Sound Minor Soccer has been in a position like that for many years with Owen Sound. The Kiwanis Soccer Complex, with its 7 fields, building with canteen, washrooms and changerooms plus lighting on one field and irrigation system, is a city park that is run by Owen Sound Minor Soccer. We do all the bookings and get all the revenue from the bookings for the Soccer Complex. We have a 6-8 page agreement with the city regarding the running of the soccer complex and who fixes what when things break down. This has worked extremely well over the years now. We have had a great partnership with the City of Owen Sound in running the Kiwanis Soccer Complex.

It would be great to have this Indoor Turf facility in Kilsyth. Owen Sound Minor Soccer would be happy to help out in anyway to make this happen and throw our support behind Ontario Sports Development Proposal to convert the Kilsyth Arena into a Indoor Turf Facility. I believe it a very viable plan presented by Martin Sasak

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Perry (pronouns: (he/him))