Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – July 7, 2026

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – June 30, 2026

Item No. 9 Budget Referral – Dakota Community Centre Third Indoor Arena Expansion Project

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and submitted the following to Council:

1. That up to $7.5 million in funding for the Dakota Community Centre 3rd Arena & Recreation Centre Expansion Project Proposal (addition of a third indoor arena) be referred to the Strategic Priorities Action Plan Review Process for consideration.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to fulfill the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,
That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Santos,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 30, 2026, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the Council Motion of June 25, 2026, with the following amendment:

- Delete the words “Budget Review Process” and replace with “Strategic Priorities Action Plan Review Process”

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On June 25, 2026, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services:

Moved by Councillor Chambers,
Seconded by Councillor Lukes,

WHEREAS the Dakota Community Centre Complex, located at 1188 Dakota Street, serves as a regional hub for sport and recreation programs and services, meeting the needs of the surrounding community and beyond for nearly 40 years;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the majority of participants in a multitude of Dakota programming and events come from across all catchment areas of southeast Winnipeg and beyond, hosting numerous provincial and national events each month.

AND WHEREAS Dakota Community Centre Complex is operating beyond current capacity to support ice demand for regional programs, along with multiple aging and antiquated support infrastructure issues surrounding the Jonathan Toews Sportsplex side of the multiplex, including:

- extensive waitlists exist for learn to play and learn to skate programs and cannot current meet increasing demand for growth in girls/women's hockey programming.
- significant unmet demands for ice from youth sport (hockey, ringette, figure skating, speed skating, learn to play/skate programs, as well as general use ice for individual self-managed programs.
- current ice utilization of existing two arenas for prime time ice is 95% year round (5,100+) hours and available daily from 6am - midnight 7 days a week.

AND WHEREAS the Dakota Park Campus (on which Dakota Community Centre Complex resides) currently has insufficient campus parking and lacks safe site access/egress and circulation to support all current occupants (DCC, Louis Riel Library; Bowls Manitoba/St. Vital Bowls; Norwood Lawn Bowling; Dakota Water Park and College Jean Sauve);

AND WHEREAS the proposed Arena & Recreation Centre Expansion Project is a future-focus generational redevelopment that includes:

- a new (3rd), fully accessible 850 seat arena
- new efficient Ice plant with redundancy to maintain existing arenas
- modernized/expanded main entry and public gathering spaces;
- redeveloped and expanded commissary, office and strength/conditioning training areas
- enhance multipurpose spaces to accommodate community and cultural gathering and ceremonies.
- extensive site redevelopment to expand parking capacity (172+ stalls) for all campus occupants/user groups as well as significant improvements to site safety and circulation for all vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist traffic on the campus and along the adjacent heavily-used active transportation corridor lining the campus.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS this project has garnered significant attention and government support, including a $7.5m federal investment announced in December 2025 towards the first phase of development for this project;

AND WHEREAS the need for modernized, multiplex arena facilities in the City is well known, given the deteriorating state of many of the City's aging existing one sheet arenas, many built during the 1960's, lacking the safety and requirements of modernized infrastructure for co-ed play. The City of Winnipeg has not contributed to the building of a new public arena or multiplex in over a decade, contributing to the growing shortage of appropriate and modernized ice facilities, with the required amenities to support large provincial and national events.

AND WHEREAS the Centre is requesting support and funding from the City towards the campus/site improvements that will benefit all occupants and users of the Dakota Park Campus; as well as funding support towards the addition of a new modernized arena to further enhance the regional role Dakota plays in serving the residents of southeast Winnipeg and beyond.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that up to $7.5 million in funding for the Dakota Community Centre 3rd Arena & Recreation Centre Expansion Project Proposal (addition of a third indoor arena) be referred to the Budget Review Process for consideration.