

TOWN OF CANMORE

AGENDA

Special Meeting of Council

Council Chambers at the Canmore Civic Centre, 902 – 7 Avenue

Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at 12:30 p.m.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. **Agenda for the June 12, 2012 Special Meeting of Council**

B. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. **Canmore Indoor Climbing Society – Proposal for Town Council support of interim indoor climbing**

Recommendation: That council approves \$7,250 in funding on a monthly basis to the Canmore Indoor Climbing Society to a maximum of \$47,000 to be funded as follows: \$22,000 from Council Grants and \$25,000 from Council Contingency. Funding to be used to sustain community access for indoor climbing until Elevation Place is operational. Access to climbing must be open to all Town of Canmore residents.

C. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Miskow and Town of Canmore Council
902-7th Avenue
Canmore, Alberta
T1W 3K1
May 30, 2012

Proposal for Town Council support of interim indoor climbing

Dear Deputy Mayor Miskow and Town of Canmore Council:

Summary:

The purpose of this proposal is to request support for indoor climbing in Canmore until Elevation Place opens, in the form of a community initiative grant. The goal is to provide indoor climbing space for the town of Canmore to a) maintain fitness b) support the climbing community, particularly our youth, and c) provide opportunity for youth elite, youth development and youth recreational level training between now and December 2012 when Elevation Place opens. The Canmore Indoor Climbing Society (CICS) is requesting emergency financial assistance to fund the transitional climbing needs of local climbers during the interim period before Elevation Place opens.

Who We are: The Canmore Indoor Climbing Society (CICS) is a non - profit group comprised of parents of youth climbers who, much like other sport organizations, have athletes involved in the following programming:

- Recreational
- Youth development
- Elite

If we were to receive sufficient funds to continue climbing for this transitional period, we would also look for ways to open the climbing facility up to the general public.

Reason for project:

To provide an indoor climbing space for the community and youth programs of Canmore until Elevation Place opens for formal programming in January.

Indoor training is important and necessary for both the elite and recreational youth programs. As you are aware, several Canmore elite youth climbers have qualified for the upcoming World Youth Climbing Championship in August in Singapore and require training in an indoor climbing space. Currently there are approximately 20 competitive climbers and over 20 recreational climbers who would benefit from a sustained indoor climbing opportunity from June to December.

In addition, youth summer camp programming, in co-operation with the Town of Canmore Recreation department would allow for past successful camps to be continued this summer.

CICS is concerned about the potential loss of momentum of youth climbing (which has been growing substantially over the past number of years) in our community without a facility for this interim period. As a mountain community, our general population is made up of outdoor enthusiasts. With the reality of the Canadian climate, local rock climbers have a limited outdoor climbing season, being able to reliably climb

outdoors only from June to September, climbing indoors for the rest of the season and on days with inclement weather. Ice or mixed climbers rely on indoor climbing to maintain their fitness through the off season and shoulder seasons. On a more general population level, indoor climbing is a recreational activity that provides physical challenge and problem solving for all levels of skill and enthusiasm.

Proposed program:

- a) Keep the VSION available to the community until Elevation Place opens.
- b) Provide the Canmore Indoor Climbing Society with funds to operate the VSION on behalf of the climbing community.

Projected operational costs: Total ~\$9050/mth x 7 months = \$63,350

- i. Rent \$5000/mth;
- ii. Rental of VSION equipment for 7 months at \$1000/mth
- iii. Insurance \$650/mth
- iv. Utilities/operating costs: \$1000/mth
- v. Staff: \$1400/mth

Pros and Cons of Keeping the VSION Open :

1) Pros:

- a. Supports local economy
- b. Accessible to local climbers who then are more likely to stay in Canmore for climbing needs and become future users of Elevation Place
- c. Supports the local youth climbers of all abilities with no liability implications for the Town
- d. Promotes fitness and sustains the climbing community through this transition phase

2) Cons:

Grass roots movement could emerge/grow to potentially stay open as a bouldering facility past the opening of Elevation Place. However, it should be noted that the facility aimed at this small group of climbers is unlikely to compete (and more likely to complement) with Elevation Place due to their very specific, "hard-core" bouldering needs.

Conclusion:

Climbing is an integral part of Canmore's mountain culture. Indoor climbing provides our town residents an intergenerational meeting place that promotes health, fitness, community and excellence. This proposal is a worthwhile initiative that can support the needs of the diverse climbing community and broader Canmore community in the interim period before the opening of Elevation place.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of partnering with us to promote health and excellence through climbing.

Sincerely,

Steve Frangos
Co-Chair, Canmore Indoor Climbing Society