

RECOMMENDATION:

None

PREVIOUS COUNCIL/COMMITTEE ACTION

May 3, 2016 – Healthy Community Committee:

A staff report recommending that the City of Port Coquitlam decline the offer to bid to host either the 2020 or 2022 BC Winter or Summer Games was brought to Committee and a letter was sent to the President of the BC Games Society indicating the City declined to submit a bid on the Games.

REPORT SUMMARY

A letter from the Chair of the BC Games Society was received on February 10, 2020 inviting the City to apply to be the host of either the 2024 or 2026 BC Winter or Summer Games. Following a review of the bid requirements, an application will not be submitted for this intake because the City of Port Coquitlam does not have the facilities to host an event of this magnitude. A bid to co-host with a larger neighbouring city or cities would be the only feasible means; staff reached out to the City of Coquitlam and confirmed that they will not be submitting a bid for 2024 or 2026.

BACKGROUND

On behalf of the Provincial Government, through the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, the BC Games Society has formally invited British Columbia communities to bid to host the 2024 BC Winter Games/2024 BC Summer Games or the 2026 BC Winter Games/2026 BC Summer Games. The Bid Package is attached (Attachment #1). Submissions will be accepted by the BC Games Society until September 18, 2020.

The first BC Games were hosted in 1978 in Penticton. The Society estimates that there is between 2,500 – 3,700 competitors, plus 500 non-competitors (coaches, officials, etc.), participating in the Games. The Games are typically held in late July (BC Summer Games) or late February (BC Winter Games) over a four day period. The 13-15 year old athletes compete in 15 to 21 different sports using a zoned selection requirement. The core BC Summer Games sports include: athletics, lacrosse, sailing, triathlon, basketball, soccer, swimming, and volleyball. BC Winter Games core sports include: badminton, gymnastics, cross-country skiing, curling, speed skating, ringette, hockey, and figure skating.

The City previously accepted the invitation from the City of Coquitlam's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to be a supporting partner in the bid process for the 2016 or 2018 BC Summer Games. Unfortunately, the bid was unsuccessful.

DISCUSSION

As in previous years, the BC Games Society provides financial support ranging from \$600,000 (BC Summer Games) to \$525,000 (BC Winter Games) for the administration and operation of the Games (see Attachment #1). The selected host community is responsible for local fundraising initiatives and sponsorship (approx. \$100,000) supplemented by a number of contributing corporate agencies throughout B.C. as outlined in the bid package. In recent years, most host budgets for the Games have been between \$1.2 to \$1.5 million. In order to achieve a break-even budget, minimum funding required from the host communities is in the range of \$110,000 to \$150,000, in addition to contributing staff time, which includes the fulltime secondment of a staff lead as well as other in-kind services. There would also be costs incurred for significant facility infrastructure improvements necessary to meet the Games standard specified for each sport (i.e. facility upgrades would be needed to address the lack of spectator space for gymnasium based sports). With the completion of the Port Coquitlam Community Centre scheduled for Fall 2021, more amenities will be available, however, the City would still not have the facilities needed to host sports such as track and field, curling, or skiing, and would also not have a stadium or large amenity for the opening ceremonies.

There would be potential to co-host with Coquitlam, if they were interested, in order to satisfy the bid requirements for BC Summer Games. Respective Council resolutions would be expected from each municipality representing a combined total of the funding and in-kind commitment to meet the requirements noted above. Staff consulted with the City of Coquitlam and confirmed that they will not be submitting bids for the 2024 or 2026 BC Winter/Summer Games. The bid process takes place every four years. If Council wishes to pursue the opportunity for a regional Tri-City Summer Games, the next application cycle will be in 2024 for the 2028 and 2030 Games.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of hosting an event is in the range of \$635,000 - \$900,000. This amount does not include significant capital projects that may be required to enhance facilities in order to support the core sport events. The funding available from the BC Games Society is up to \$525,000 for the Winter Games and \$600,000 for the Summer. In recent years, most funding contributions from host communities have been in the range of \$110,000 to \$150,000, plus staff time and other in-kind services.

ATTACHMENTS

Att#1: Invitation to Host the 2024 or 2026 BC Winter/Summer Games

Att#2: 2024 or 2026 BC Winter/Summer Games Bid Package

Att#3: Draft Letter to the Chair of BC Games Society

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