

Savannah Price

From: noreply@citypa.com on behalf of Prince Albert Minor Hockey, Trevor Redden et al
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Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 2:00 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Steuart Arena closure
Attachments: PA Hockey Steuart Proposal 041420256de9e912-15f5-4ea0-a993-b75bc2f86824.pdf

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On behalf of Prince Albert Minor Hockey, we respectfully request the opportunity to speak at the upcoming, Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025, at 4pm, City Council meeting regarding the future of the Steuart Arena. As a long-standing community organization dedicated to the development of youth through sport, we are deeply concerned about the potential closure of this facility. The Steuart Arena has been a cornerstone for minor hockey in Prince Albert, providing affordable ice time and access to the game for hundreds of young athletes and their families.

We would appreciate the chance to present our perspective on the arena's importance to Council, players, coaches, and the broader community. We believe there is a path forward that can preserve this vital community asset, and we are eager to work collaboratively with City Council to explore this solution.

Trevor Redden
G.M. PA Hockey

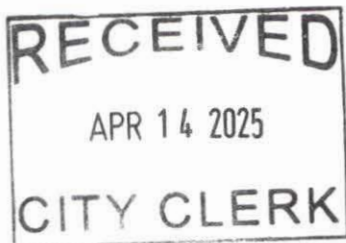
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City Council

Executive Summary

PA Hockey strongly urges the City of Prince Albert to maintain Dave G. Steuart Arena as an operational ice surface.

While the Lake Country Co-op Leisure Centre will add two rinks, evidence clearly shows that total facility needs, considering minor hockey growth, population trends, tournament demands, and seasonal unreliability of natural ice arenas, and travel safety concerns, still require Steuart Arena to ensure sustainable recreation capacity.

Maintaining Steuart Arena:

- Keeps recreation dollars local
- Reduces family travel burdens and winter highway risks
- Protects tournament hosting opportunities
- Supports affordable community recreation
- Aligns with the City's Strategic Plan and Official Community Plan priorities

Key Arguments for Continued Operation

1. Significant Outflow of Bookings and Revenue

In the 2024–25 season:

- 1053 hours were booked *out of town* (Birch Hills, St. Louis, Northern Regional Recreation Centre)
- Families spent \$153,212 at external facilities
- If booked locally at City rates, they could generate \$161,295

➤ Over \$150,000 per year in potential revenue leaves Prince Albert due to limited ice availability.

Additionally, all those hours booked out of town mean putting local families on highways throughout the winter, creating unnecessary travel risks in often challenging driving conditions.

2. Projected Additional Usage if Ice Availability Improves

If more local ice were available, PA Hockey conservatively expects these additions:

- 282 additional hours annually from non-AA teams (one extra practice per month)
- 135 additional hours annually from AA teams (two extra practices per month)
- Total = 417 hours
- Additional \$63,905 in potential annual revenue

Additionally, our U13A, U13B, U15A, U15B, and U18A teams, comprising 14 teams, participated in a shortened 16-game schedule during the Tri-City Hockey League's inaugural season. All teams have expressed strong interest in expanding to 20 or more games next season and moving forward, which would significantly increase the need for additional ice time to accommodate these added home games.

➤ Combined, these factors represent over \$225,000 annually in potential local facility revenue and growing scheduling demands without considering any other growth.

3. Rapid Growth in Registration and Population

- Minor Hockey registration has grown approximately 10% annually post-COVID
- City's population growth suggests increasing future demand
- City's own reports show prime time ice already fully booked

➤ Steuart Arena is essential to meeting current and future recreation demand.

4. Steuart Arena Supports Tournament Hosting

- Steuart absorbs regular programming, freeing prime facilities for tournaments
- Natural ice arenas (East End, East Hill, Crescent Heights, West Hill) are seasonal and weather-dependent
- Unseasonably warm weather can make them unusable
- Visiting teams provide negative feedback on playing at natural ice arenas

➤ Maintaining Steuart ensures reliable ice for programming and tournament success.

5. Broader Community Recreation Needs

- Public skating, recreation hockey, figure skating, speed skating, and skill development groups rely on accessible ice
- Without Steuart, access for non-competitive users would be severely restricted

➤ Preserving inclusive recreation supports community wellness.

6. Facility Condition and Cost Considerations

- Roof repair estimated at \$575,000
- Councillors have suggested potential repairs are closer to \$360,000
- We understand there have been other recent quotes obtained for closer to \$100,000
- 57% cost recovery rate comparable to Kinsmen Arena
- Seasonal operation (September to March) could reduce costs

➤ A one-time investment now preserves an irreplaceable recreation asset for the future.

Conclusion and Request

Closing Steuart Arena would:

- Result in lost revenue
- Increase family travel, cost, and highway risks
- Limit tournament hosting opportunities
- Restrict affordable recreation
- Undermine strategic recreation goals

We respectfully request the City to maintain Dave G. Steuart Arena as an operational ice facility and include it in strategic recreation planning moving forward.

Prepared by:
PA Hockey
April 2025