



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special Meeting of the Bowie City Council was held on Monday, April 9, 2018 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

QUORUM:

In attendance were Mayor Robinson, Councilmembers Esteve, Gardner, Marcos, Trouth, and Woolfley; City Manager Lott, Assistant City Manager Mears, City Attorney Henry, City Clerk Hernandez, City staff, the Press, and the Public.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Indoor Sports Facility/Ice Rink Revisit – City Manager Al Lott summarized the purpose of the session and chronology of the project. Staff is looking to get a decision and/or direction from City Council related to the construction of the new ice arena/indoor sports facility. On June 19, 2017, City staff informed Council that the potential costs for the facility were estimated between \$36,145,000 and \$38,856,000; staff also presented feasible courses of action for Council's consideration. At the conclusion of the June 19 discussions surrounding the project, Council directed staff to accomplish the following and provide results at the September 18, 2017 Council Meeting: 1) Obtain a cost estimate to renovate the existing ice rink; 2) Obtain a cost estimate to maintain the existing ice rink for the next five years.

On September 18, 2017, staff presented to Council the cost estimates requested. It will cost the City approximately \$22,400,000 to renovate the current ice arena to like new condition or approximately \$2,000,000 to maintain the facility for five years considering its current condition. Bowie City Council directed staff to proceed with the construction of a two-rink ice facility at the Church Road location. Since then staff has proceeded with the two-rink facility and have accomplished the selection and contract of a project manager and architect/engineering services; developed conceptual cost estimates for construction; confirmed the overall program for the new facility; completed a survey, Natural Resource Inventory and geotechnical evaluation of the site; coordinated with Prince George's County Department of Permitting and Enforcement requirements for Church Road improvements and storm water management; determined utility extension and connection requirements; developed and presented a schematic design for the new building including site layout; updated the cost estimate based on schematic design and made initial contact with MDE and ACOE to determine extent of wetlands on site.

MAYOR G. Frederick Robinson **MAYOR PRO TEM** Henri Gardner

COUNCIL Michael P. Estève ♦ Courtney D. Glass ♦ James L. Marcos ♦ Isaac C. Trouth ♦ Dufour Woolfley **CITY MANAGER** Alfred D. Lott
City Hall (301) 262-6200 FAX (301) 809-2302 TDD (301) 262-5013 WEB www.cityofbowie.org

At the March 5, 2018 City Council meeting more than 15 Bowie residents participated in the Citizen Comments phase of the agenda to request that the City Council include basketball courts in the current construction. Because of this citizen input, City Council asked the City Manager to bring the entire issue back to Council for discussion and possible reconsideration at a future meeting.

Mr. Lott presented to Council options Staff has prepared for consideration this evening by Council for the direction on how to proceed with this project:

- a. Proceed with the two sheet ice arena
- b. Proceed with the two sheet ice arena and initiate a project to construct a five/three court basketball facility elsewhere
- c. Cancel the project altogether and initiate a project to maintain the current rink
- d. Proceed with the original plan for five courts and two rinks at a cost of \$38,500,000 to \$40,500,000
- e. Proceed with a plan for three courts and one rink at a cost of \$23,072,000
- f. Proceed with a plan for two ice rinks and no courts at a cost of \$24,401,000
- g. Proceed with a plan for five courts and no ice rinks at a cost of \$16,500,000
- h. Refer the decision to referendum in 2018 or during 2019 City elections
- i. Completely renovate the existing ice rink at its present location at a cost of \$22,400,000

Staff recommends option b or option e in that order.

City Manager Lott introduced Rev. Jonathan Weaver, Pastor from Greater Mt. Nebo AME Church. Rev. Weaver proposed to have some sort of collaboration with the City on property that will be developed by the Richard Allen Community Development Corporation, to have a recreational facility built.

Public Hearing:

1. Kimberly Watts, Wildflower Lane (Huntingtown) – Spoke in support of the 2 sheet ice rink.
2. Joseph Loschiavo, President Bowie Hockey Club – Spoke in support of the 2 sheet ice rink.
3. Debbie Moon, Commissioner of the Chesapeake Bay Hockey League – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
4. Wilma Crider, Willow Creek Road – Spoke in support of additional courts.
5. George Albaugh, Manship Lane – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
6. Shani Bagley, Heatherstone Drive - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink and urges Council to choose option B presented by staff.
7. Lina Younes, Bracken Court – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink and recommends converting current ice arena to courts facility.
8. Lisa Couture, Conor Drive (Stevensville) – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
9. Alex Couture, Conor Drive (Stevensville) – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
10. Christine Brinton, Main Street (Grasonville) - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
11. Jennifer Seekford, Tornado Lane (Owings) - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
12. Andrea Christiansen, Grason Lane - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
13. Pat Achimovic, Chalford Lane - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
14. Monica Roebuck, Mont Clare Lane – Spoke in support of doing multi use complex with ice and courts.
15. Amy Brumley, Katheryne Village Sq (Annapolis) - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
16. Abigail Snyder, York Lane - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink and recommends converting current ice arena to courts facility.
17. Christina Hart, Old Meadow Way (Centerville) - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
18. Rom Mascetti, VP Maryland Student Hockey League - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
19. Solomon Comissiong, Woodwalk Terrace – Spoke in support of additional courts.

20. Lawrence Washington, Peach Walker Drive – Spoke in support of additional courts.
21. Amira Comissiong, Woodwalk Terrace – Spoke in support of additional courts.
22. Elijah Williams, Post Lane – Spoke in support of additional courts.
23. Ny'Lah Jennings, Running Horse Place – Spoke in support of both the ice rink and basketball court complex.
24. Carrie Bridges, Hoven Lane – Spoke in support of 1 sheet ice rink and 3 basketball courts.
25. James Howard, President South Bowie Boys and Girls Club - Spoke in support of 1 sheet ice rink and 3 basketball courts.
26. Kristina Mayo, Woodmore Road – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink and suggest Council choose option B presented by staff.
27. Reagan Mayo, Woodmore Road - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
28. Kennedy Mayo, Woodmore Road – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink, convert current ice arena to courts.
29. Rev. Cory Wilson, Bowie Resident – Spoke in support of courts.
30. Kevin Holmes, Bates Drive – Spoke in support of dual complex to accommodate both ice and courts.
31. Tim Adams, Dunwood Valley Drive – Spoke in support of building a sport complex for both ice and courts.
32. Denise Tyler, Gov. Bridge Road – Spoke of making a decision that is inclusive of the entire community and not just one sport.
33. Adria Schneck, Rees Lane – Spoke in support of 3 court, one ice sheet facility.
34. Corey Beasley – Spoke in support of courts.
35. Chris Lawson, Palatine Place – Spoke in support of both options but preferably more courts.
36. Leon Rivers, Elenoir Court – Spoke in support of more courts.
37. Bill Schmidt, Sarah Lane – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
38. Rhonda Billingslea, Durham Road – Spoke in support of the 3 courts and one sheet ice rink.
39. Antonio Lindsey, Pleasant Hill Lane – Spoke in support of multi-use complex.
40. David Naves, Dunstable Court – Spoke in support of multi-use complex.
41. David Nash, Canterbury Court – Spoke in support of multi-use complex.
42. Patrick Ricucci, Heatherstone Drive – Spoke in support of putting the issue to referendum so that residents can vote on it.
43. Dean Wallace, Oak Lane – Spoke in support of multi-use complex and put to referendum.
44. Brian Suddeth, Brunswick Lane – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
45. Linda Bailey, Medina Lane – Spoke in support of one ice rink and courts.
46. Mike Hickey, Leisure Way (Crofton) – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.
47. William Greene, Old Stage Road - Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink, convert current ice arena to courts.
48. Karen Geary, Knowledge Lane – Spoke in support of 2 sheet ice rink.

Attached to these minutes are fifteen written comments that were received by the City Clerk.

Since there were no more speakers signed up to speak, Mayor Robinson declared the public hearing to have been held.

Councilmember Marcos thanked everyone for their comments, Bowie cares about the youth and it is not Council's intention to choose one sport over the other.

Councilmember Trough commented that on the feasibility study that was done, it stated the need for courts, 2-sheets of ice one being NHL regulation size and one Olympic size. At no time did they agree to have both sheets be NHL size.

April 9, 2018

Councilmember Woolfley recommends looking into the possibility of constructing the facility under a bubble like the one that is located at Holy Trinity. It was built at a much lower cost and it is being used for various sports and tournaments.

Councilmember Esteve's main concern is the dollars and cents. He supports the 2 sheet ice rink because it will save the City some money.

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner stated that cost is the driver, not preferring one sport over the other. Would like staff to explore Councilmember Woolfley's recommendation of the bubble project.

City Manager Lott responded that staff could explore the bubble possibility but it will be at a cost; however, staff needs direction from Council to either proceed with the current project as previously approved or stop in order to take a different direction.

Mayor Robinson asked if staff could come back to Council within 30 days with a course of action for the construction of additional courts in another City owned property while continuing on the ice rink project.

City Manager Lott responded he would need 60 days.

Councilmember Marcos made a motion to proceed with current 2-sheet ice project as currently defined by Council and have staff look into possibilities of doing up to 5 courts. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Councilmember Woolfley asked Councilmember Marcos if there is any opportunity in his motion to also, while they are proceeding, to investigate the bubble on the ice at the same time. Councilmember Marcos replied that he does not think the bubble is a good option for the ice, he is open to have staff explore on saving money as we move forward. Motion died 3-3 (Gardner, Trouth, Woolfley).

Councilmember Woolfley made a second motion to have staff pursue researching a bubble for the ice in addition to bubble solution for basketball to work in parallel with current project and come back to Council within 60 days with the numbers. Councilmember Esteve seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-2 (Robinson, Marcos).

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner moved to adjourn the Special Council Meeting. Councilmember Trouth seconded the motion and it carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Awilda Hernandez, MMC
City Clerk

Awilda Hernandez

From: Tanya Becraft <tanyaalp@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 1:26 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Bowie Ice Arena - we need two sheets of ice

Hello

I was dismayed to hear that after all of the planning and meetings etc, the City of Bowie is thinking about changing the plans and making the new ice arena one sheet of ice and basketball courts.

As you are aware, the current rink only has one sheet of ice. Only having one sheet of ice makes it difficult to juggle the ice hockey practice and games, learn to skate, figure skating practice and competitions and public skate.

The demand for two sheets of ice is there. Calvert and St. Mary's Counties do NOT have their own rink and Tucker Road burned down and has not been rebuilt yet. In addition to the Bowie residents, skaters come from all of the DC area to use our rink. These parents shop, eat and get their gas in Bowie which brings additional revenue to the City of Bowie. Other rinks in the DC area are trying to figure out how to build additional sheets of ice.

I understand that there is a need for basketball courts and as I understand the current rink floor cannot sustain the freezing and refreezing but would be fine for other activities. Why not repurpose the current ice arena for basketball courts?

The rink has bleachers, locker rooms, showers, offices and a snack bar. It also has ample parking and is conveniently located.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Tanya Becraft

Awilda Hernandez

From: Carli Jenkins <jinx3041@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 2:59 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez; chris@sk8brinton.com
Subject: Support for a new 2-rink ice arena

Good afternoon,

I am writing today in strong support of proceeding with plans for a 2-sheet ice arena in Bowie. First, let me introduce myself. My name is Carli Ragoo. I am a 4-time National synchronized skating champion, a former Team USA international competitor, and 3-time World Championship participant. I currently coach for DC EDGE, a private club that rents ice all over the DMV area for its 15 competitive teams. I also grew up skating at Bowie Ice Arena, but took my training to other rinks as I became more competitive because Bowie could only offer freestyle training sessions one evening per week. Many current skaters find themselves in a similar situation, traveling an hour or more to train at rinks that accommodate their need for more ice time.

As a coach of skaters ages 6-22, I have the distinct pleasure of partnering with a pool of very talented and highly trained coaches in our area. But we all seem to face the same problem: lack of ice time to train our students. I have seen many talented skaters leave the sport and seen many coaches choose to travel to rinks outside of our area due to lack of sufficient ice time at our local rinks. I regularly travel to Wilmington, DE, Baltimore, and Fairfax for test sessions and better ice availability. A 2-rink complex would solve the problem of coach and skater attrition, and would benefit the local economy by both retaining local skaters and drawing skaters from afar who are looking for more ice time and better training facilities.

To be clear, coaches are very willing to travel to any rink that can provide sufficient ice time for their skaters. Should the City of Bowie proceed with its plans for 2 sheets of ice, there will not be a shortage of patronage. One sheet of ice is simply not enough to meet the growing demand in the area for local and traveling skaters. Two sheets of ice, and the additional ice time that would provide, will allow local group lesson programs to grow and will attract coaches of elite skaters to the city of Bowie.

While I am sure there are many demands on the funds and resources set aside for this project, I want to reiterate that skaters and coaches can and will fill the extra ice time with 2 rinks. I strongly support the plans for a 2-rink complex, and look forward to bringing my patronage back to my hometown of Bowie.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to voice my opinion. I appreciate the consideration.

Most sincerely,

Carli Ragoo
Figure Skating Coach
DC EDGE Synchronized
Skating Teams

Awilda Hernandez

From: Sharon Field <srslapshot@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 8, 2018 7:49 PM
To: cglass@cityofbowe.org
Cc: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: IN FAVOR OF the new 2 sheet ice facility
Attachments: letter re 2 sheet ice rink facility.docx

Dear Councilmember Glass,

My husband and I have been Bowie residents for almost 30 years, raising two children here in the Old Stage development. Thank you for representing our District 3 on the city council. As YOUR constituents, we sincerely hope you will represent OUR wishes in regards to the proposed two sheet facility for the new ice arena. In the attached letter, we have outlined many reasons as to why the council needs to stick with the two sheet facility they APPROVED last September, instead of going back on what they have already decided.

Unfortunately, we have heard that you are not in favor of the new two sheet facility, and would like to see it go in a different direction. The ice area has been our family's home for over 20 years, and we can guarantee you that a 2 sheet ice facility is what the city NEEDS. Our daughter grew up skating there and coaches figure skating there now, and we have witnessed first hand that her team is a diverse group of wonderful young people who live and represent the city proudly at national competitions. It will be a shame if the national winning team has to go represent other rinks and hang their banners somewhere else.

Please read our attached letter and share with your fellow councilmembers. We already spoke at a meeting last year in favor of the 2 sheet facility and along with many ice rink supporters, will again be at the hearing on Monday. We hope that you make the right decision for the city of Bowie and decide to continue forward with the 2 sheet ice facility that was ALREADY APPROVED. We look forward to a productive meeting and will represent our ice rink family proudly.

Thank you for serving our community,

Sharon Field

14011 Pleasant View Drive
Bowie, MD 20720
301-262-8275

Hello, my name is Sharon Field, and along with my husband Rod, we have been residents of Bowie for almost 30 years. One of the reasons we chose to live in Bowie was the ice rink community. My son played hockey for the Bowie Hockey Club his entire childhood, while my husband volunteered his time to coach. My daughter also grew up figure skating at Bowie, and now coaches there.

Our family spent more time at the ice rink than we did our own home; through the programs it offers, my children learned the value of perseverance, teamwork, and discipline. The programs are very successful, and therefore, keep growing. The ice rink has undoubtedly outgrown itself, and the skating community is in desperate need of a new, 2-sheet facility. When my son played hockey, practices often had to be at other rinks, and my daughter had to skate at many other rinks because ice time was so limited at Bowie. As a result, parents were frequenting businesses in other towns, instead of supporting Bowie shops and merchants.

The ice rink also does not have the capacity to support adult ice hockey leagues; adult men and women have to go to other rinks to play ice hockey. In turn, while at other rinks, they often make connections and begin taking their children to other rinks to skate and play hockey. Thus, having a two sheet facility would expand what the rink can offer and therefore make more money.

In addition to adult hockey leagues, there would also be room to schedule broomball games, which is a huge money maker among college students. Students at Bowie State University would undoubtedly come to play broomball on Friday or Saturday nights, thus again, expanding the city's ability to make more money.

Lastly, a two sheet facility would mean the rink could host larger tournaments and competitions, thus bringing more money in for the city. With larger events comes more people who will spend more money in Bowie. They will be staying in Bowie hotels, eating at Bowie restaurants, and shopping at Bowie stores as many people come from far distances to compete for a weekend. One sheet of ice CANNOT support major events such as these.

There have been rumors flying around that at the last council meeting, some members made ugly claims that only "white children ice skate" and the residents of Bowie do not need two sheets of ice because "black people don't skate." The fact that arguments have sunk as low as to bring race into the pictures disgusts me. My daughter coaches at the ice rink now, and has a VERY diverse skating team. Their group lesson program, which is a majority of city residents is VERY diverse as well. We never pay attention to the color of children's skin because to us, that does not matter. However, we can firmly say that the team is composed of skaters of all ethnicities, backgrounds and skin colors.

Since some people believe more basketball courts is what is needed in the community, a great option would be using the current ice rink building as an additional court space. The floor can easily be changed over, there are nice stands for viewing, a snack bar area, locker rooms for

teams, and it is within walking distance of the Bowie gym on Northview Drive. This seems like the most logical solution if more court space is desired.

According to the 2010 Census, the city of Bowie has 54,727 residents. One sheet of ice simply cannot support a city of that size. As Bowie residents, we hope that a new generation of skaters, including our future grandchildren, will make memories at a new and improved facility in Bowie. Otherwise, these skaters will ultimately have to go somewhere outside of the community to find the "home away home" our children found at the Bowie Ice Arena.

Thank you for your consideration of the two sheet facility. We sincerely hope the council continues forward with the plan for two sheets of ice that they have ALREADY APPROVED.

Awilda Hernandez

From: Charlene <ms_charlenejohn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 8, 2018 8:00 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Support two sheets of Ice project

Good evening,

I am emailing to show my support for the two sheets of ice.

Ms. Faulkner

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED
APR 09 2018

Bowie City Clerk's Office

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of the construction of a new ice arena in Bowie as approved by the City Council last year. Clearly, there is a need for this facility. Our current arena is obsolete, overcrowded, and does not allow for an expansion of ice sports in the area. Moreover, the proposed facility is expected to be self-sufficient and will probably result in a return on investment.

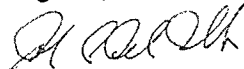
I understand that this project is being re-evaluated. Some have argued that this is a boutique project that should be downsized to a one-ice sheet arena, perhaps in favor of more indoor basketball courts. I have also heard that ice skating is considered by some as elitist. These arguments are incorrect. There are multiple public indoor and outdoor basketball courts in the city, plus all the courts available at most schools. A casual drive around several open courts show that they are mostly unused. In contrast, the Bowie Ice Arena is always overcrowded. Two basketball courts serve, at the most, a score of people, whereas an ice sheet during public session serves over 100. I would argue that a new indoor basketball facility would indeed be a boutique project.

The Bowie Ice Arena serves people from all races, ages (from toddlers to septuagenarians), and walks of life. It hosts multiple figure skating teams with participants from 6 to 50+ years old, and multiple ice hockey divisions with players from 5 year olds to adults. The crowded public sessions offer inexpensive access to ice skating to a cross section of our community. All these services are offered in one obsolete, single ice sheet arena.

Ice skating can indeed be an expensive sport, but the Figure Skating and Hockey clubs at the Bowie Ice Arena manage to maintain low costs through fund raisings and volunteerism. Additionally people can skate during the many public sessions for about the same cost of going to the movies.

The need for a new ice arena is clear. The economics are favorable, and the City Council has already spend time and money in this project. I urge you support this project.

Regards,



Carlos E. Del Castillo
12415 Stafford Ln.
Bowie, MD 20715

Awilda Hernandez

From: Mayra Berrios <mayraberrios@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 8, 2018 11:53 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: In support of new ice arena: City council meeting April 9

Dear City Councilmembers,

It is your responsibility to take sound decisions to ensure a high quality of life in our city. The Bowie residents are growing tired of outdated views regarding the direction that the city should take in the future. This is why the effort to recall councilmembers and other functionaries is gaining support. The recent controversy over the new Ice Arena complex provides a perfect example. I am writing to you to voice my support for the Ice Arena Complex as already approved and underway. I have been a resident of the city for 12 years, who learned to skate as an adult, as many others that I have met, and my daughter also practices the sport.

The ice arena offers classes, not only to children as soon as they can walk, but to adults of all ages. Even though winter is over, if you visit the arena during a public session, you still will see skaters of different ages and races practicing, exercising, having fun, or simply relaxing while skating. While other ice arenas around prioritize the rent of private ice time, our ice rink gives back to the community with its daily public sessions, in which it is common to see couples and whole families skating, and new people being introduced to the sport through the birthday parties, especially during cold weekends. Aside from a visit to any of our state parks, I cannot picture many other activities that can claim all these benefits, especially at the affordable price that the Ice Arena offers. In a time of hectic lives and evolving views about the world, if we want to nurture a vibrant community, I believe that the councilmembers should focus in providing the citizens with activities that have the potential to offer enjoyment and exercise to a large range of ages at once. After all, families and communities that exercise and have fun together, stay together.

The services of the Ice Arena not only impact the city socially; there is a good return on investment. The Ice Arena offers classes, public sessions, and tournaments of both figure skating and hockey. Citizens can also celebrate birthday parties there, which also help as free advertisement. To eliminate one sheet of ice to build basketball courts will simply transfer the current situation of inability to grow operationally to a new local, which defies logic. I certainly do not approve the use of my tax money in that way. The suggested basketball courts could be built in the existing ice arena building, or separately, in the areas where they are needed. I actually propose the latter, so the existing ice arena could be used to develop a rollerblading arena to continue profiting from it, following the same system. The necessary structural changes will be minor compared to the ones needed to convert the building into a basketball facility, and it will keep money that currently goes into the neighboring county in our city. The Bowie Ice Arena simply needs a second sheet of ice to continue positively impacting the region. The Ice rink has rejected offers for tournaments and other activities that could bring more revenue into the city, because of lack of space. It makes no sense to limit its growth when it is an institution that has stayed committed to its mission of serving the community at the same time that provides private ice time, both with revenues to the city.

Two sheets of ice will additionally allow us to stay competitive in the region. We already attract people from Anne Arundel and Calvert counties, and having to close for a year to repair the existing sheet will be a huge set-back for the already well established program. Coaches and team members from the figure skating and hockey teams will simply go to Odenton, where a lot of our citizens are already beginning to look for entertainment, as that area has begun to connect its facilities in a more creative and practical way. It is disappointing to hear councilmembers saying that their only interest is to serve the citizens of Bowie. I believe that a progressive mind should view our neighbors as potential sources of revenue. In the same way that our Baysox Stadium, Home Depot and Lowe's attract neighbors into our area, two sheets of ice will increase our capability to attract even more people, especially because the neighboring ice rinks either close for longer months, or they devote a greater time to private ice time than service to the public.

It is also sad that the race card has been introduced into the renewed discussion. The fact that in the past some sports tended to exclude some groups does not mean that this is our present, and certainly should not guide our future. The fact is that the figure skating teams in the city are already quite diverse. If you visit the arena during public sessions or classes, you will see that more minority groups are not only learning to skate, but discovering the many positive aspects of the activity. I am, myself, a native from Puerto Rico, who learned to skate as an adult, and I can testify of the changes occurring in the ice skating culture. I believe that the adults who have used the race card in order to get basketball courts

for their children do not have the right attitude to move on into a better future, and I expect a better analysis of this situation from the City Council.

Cordially,

Mayra I. Berrios

12415 Stafford Lane,

Bowie, MD., 20715

Awilda Hernandez

From: Laila Gutzmann <gutzmannl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 11:28 AM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Cc: Christine Brinton; Christine Brinton
Subject: Support for City of Bowie's new ice rinks

Dear Ms. Hernandez and City of Bowie Council Members:

In advance of tonight's public hearing to discuss modifications to the proposed new ice arena, please add my support to proceed with the original plan to include two sheets of ice.

Two sheets of ice are needed, not only to maintain the current hockey and figure skating programs, but to grow them into the future. Ice time is a valuable commodity. At the current one rink facility, users often encounter crowding issues. Simply put, there is not enough ice time to meet the needs of today's, let alone tomorrow's, skaters.

The City of Bowie has a tremendous opportunity to build for today and the future by moving forward with the proposed, and previously approved, plan to include two sheets of ice at the new sports facility. Bowie's hockey and figure skating programs have a reputation for excellence. The coaches and staff are dedicated to providing the highest level of training and competition. Local skaters, as well as those from surrounding communities, are proud to be part of the Bowie Ice Arena community. They welcome and support program and facility growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the original project. I trust that you will ultimately make the best decision for all City of Bowie residents and facility users.

Sincerely:
Laila Gutzmann
1320 Sundee Drive
Edgewater, MD 21037
410.798.0104

Lifelong skater, hockey mom, and figure skating mom

Awilda Hernandez

From: MARIAN RATCLIFFE <jmratcliffe@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 12:54 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez; Dufour Woolfley
Cc: Michael Esteve; John Ratcliffe
Subject: A Bowie Family's Support for the Approved New Ice Rink (with two sheets of ice)

Good Evening Bowie City Council,

I am writing an email in support of the New Rink with two sheets of ice. I had written an email in September 2017 for support of this new venue (please read the email below to read my initial support of this project) The Bowie City Council voted and approved the New Sports Complex with two sheets of ice at this Council Meeting. My family was overjoyed. This is what we had been working towards for many years.

As a Bowie Resident, I assumed once the Bowie City Council had **VOTED** and **APPROVED** the New Ice Rink with two sheets of ice, the project would move ahead (which it has). I am upset to read that there could be a reconsideration on the **APPROVED** New Ice Rink. This has been a very long process. Studies have been performed and submitted. Many discussions and debates have taken place over the years to bring this to a final conclusion. Once again, I assumed it had been concluded. Everyone who has worked tirelessly over the years for this New Ice Rink, assumed it had been concluded and approved also. We did not realize that our presence was needed at the March Meeting to, once again, fight for our Ice Rink. I assure you, if I had known, I would have been there (as would have many other supporters).

Thank you for support for the New Ice Rink with two sheets of ice! This will be a great benefit to the City of Bowie and to the Figure Skating, Lean -to-Skate and Hockey community of our area. Yes, our **AREA!!!** Will Bowie residents skate here, absolutely. Will Anne Arundel County residents skate here, absolutely. So will residents from Southern Maryland, the Eastern Shore, DC and Virginia. They will also shop and eat in Bowie. With two sheets of ice, Bowie will be able to host National competitions for both figure skating and hockey. Hotels will be used for these events, since usually they are held for several days. As new hotels and restaurants are being built in Bowie, this could also be beneficial to them.

Thank you for your consideration!

John and Marian Ratcliffe

"M" Section of Bowie

----- Original Message -----

From: MARIAN RATCLIFFE <jmratliffe@comcast.net>

To: ahernandez@cityofbowie.org

Cc: John Ratcliffe <jmratliffe@comcast.net>

Date: September 18, 2017 at 7:02 PM

Subject: A Bowie Family's Support of a New Sports Complex (with two sheets of ice)

Good Evening Bowie City Council,

I am writing this email in support of the New Sports Complex. Our Family has lived in the "M" section of Bowie for 16 years. We took our daughter to a Tall and Small Class when she was 2 years old at the Bowie Ice Arena. Little did we know that day 13 years ago, that our little girl would fall in love with figure skating? She is a member of both the Bowie ISI Team and the Bowie Figure Skating Club. Both of these teams skate out of the Bowie Ice Arena. It has been an incredible journey. Throughout these 13 years, figure skating and hockey has become very popular in Bowie. I am very proud of this. The only problem, both sports are competing for ice time. Not only is this a constant problem, but the ice arena is aging and will either need to be renovated or replaced. The arena opened three weeks later this summer due to aging equipment, on top of the two months the rink is closed for yearly maintenance. This forced many members of the team to find alternated facilities to practice their skating. Skating is just not a winter sport, a lot of skaters practice figure skating and hockey all year round (my daughter included). This is the time of year that they work on their new programs and skills.

Based on what the teams and my daughter has experience over the years, Bowie needs a new two ice rink facility. This will allow both figure skaters and hockey players the ability to practice year round and to practice more than one night a week (as with the current facility due to space). If the Bowie Ice Arena is shut down for a major renovation, it will need to be closed for 18 to 24 months. Our teams and skaters would need to find other facilities to skate in during this time. We will also loose team members to these other facilities.

In addition to our daughter that figure skates year round, we have a son that has autism. He is semi non-verbal and attends Kennedy Krieger School in Baltimore. I would love him to skate also. As of now, there are no special classes for children with special needs due to size and timing issues. It would be incredible if we could have a Special Olympic figure skating team in Bowie.

Thank you for your consideration! We are proud to live in Bowie. We look forward to our children having the ability to skate in a new facility.

Awilda Hernandez

From: Joann Prosser <joannprosser@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 2:21 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Cc: Gene Ferrick; Mayor; James Marcos; Henri Gardner; Michael Esteve; Dufour Woolfley; Courtney Glass; Isaac Trough
Subject: For Tonight's Special Council Meeting, Mon Apr 9th, in support of the two sheet ice arena

Good afternoon,

This email is sent via the Bowie City Clerk for tonight's (Mon, April 9th) Special Council Meeting in strong support of the two sheets of ice within the new ice arena. My husband, Gene Ferrick, and I are tax paying, voting residents of Bowie. We live at 3104 Alma Lane.

Please accept this email in strong support for continuing with the plans to build the ice arena with two sheets of ice.

I have attended each of the previous City Council meetings discussing the sport complex plans. Unfortunately, I cannot attend tonight's meeting.

As I have mentioned at previous meetings, the ice arena is a unique aspect of the Bowie community. It has provided my kids the opportunity for fun summer campus, and my son has engaged in a positive sports community as an ice hockey player. The aging one sheet arena jeopardizes this opportunity for future generations of Bowie kids, and a one sheet replacement facility would severely restrict future viability of hosting tournaments.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or at the number below.

Thank you for your continued support,

Joann Prosser & Gene Ferrick
301-218-8462

Awilda Hernandez

From: Beth Heiner <aheiner07@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 2:26 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Letter of Support for Two Sheet Ice Facility

Dear Ms. Hernandez and Bowie City Council,

We are writing to you in order to provide support for the continuation of the two sheet ice facility project in Bowie. Unfortunately, we are not able to attend tonight's special meeting regarding this project.

However, this project is very important to us as our daughter is a figure skater who is always in need of more ice time than what is available in the overall area. She and her teammates are high level competitive figure skaters who will skate on as much ice time that is made available to them. They need to skate twice a day as much as possible in order to just maintain, let alone grow their skills within figure skating. They struggle to find enough quality ice time required for this demanding sport and instead end up struggling on over-crowded freestyle sessions. There is no doubt that 2 sheets of ice are needed to support the growing figure skating programs (ISI, USFS, singles, pairs, dance, and synchronized, etc. skating programs) in the overall area.

In addition, we are not Bowie residents, but live in the Northern tip of Calvert County, a county that does not have a rink at all. Bowie's current and proposed rinks' locations are the closest for most people in our county and are well supported by many many figure skaters and hockey players within our county. Furthermore, my daughter and some of her figure skating friends who do not live within Bowie/Prince George's County actually attend schools in Prince George's County and would easily use ice time made available in the mornings before school and afternoons after school, as the current and proposed new rinks are by far the closest rinks for them (within 20 minutes of school).

Overall, on a daily basis, we see the continual growing need for more ice time across all skating disciplines in Bowie, Prince George's County and in the neighboring counties. There is no doubt in our mind that all programs provided within a two sheet ice facility would be well attended and supported.

Thank-you for taking time to read our letter and we certainly hope that the City Council will vote in favor of allowing the current two sheet ice facility to continue to move forward as previously approved.

Sincerely,
Beth and Bill Heiner

Awilda Hernandez

From: Amir Haan <go2sk8@sk8amir.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 4:06 PM
To: Michelle; Baldus, Margee; Bill; Heiner; Brandon, Andrea; Brillantes, Zenith; Chase, Aretha; Clites, Chris; Colquitt, Wendy; Cruz, Cathleen; Giuliana; Haan, Amir; Heiner, Beth; Jett, Hannah; Johnson, Michelle; Lindsay Mother Jenn Student; Lisa Julianna's mother; Reyhan Yazici; Sanders, Wendy; Smith, Robin; Smitka, Loren; Stevenson, Thomas; Tressel, Rorie; Vicha; Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Two Ice Rinks at Bowie

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Amir Haan and I own property at Bowie, MD.

I am professional skating coach and owner of Washington Skating Academy LLC.

I would cast at least 3 voices in support of dual ice rink. My daughter figure skates and my son plays AAA at Rockville, MD and Arlington, VA.

We must travel to Rockville, Kettler, Arlington, Navy, Gardens and Waldorf to practice, because there are almost no freestyle sessions and very basic hockey program at Bowie facility. The figure skating and hockey programs can not grow and excel, because, there are limited number of professional coaches enrolled. Professional coaches need more ice time to make living from coaching, therefore, the existing current hockey and figure skating program at Bowie are very basic. I need to travel 50 miles from my house to enroll my kids in robust and developmental hockey and figure skating programs? My kids deserve to have two ice rink facility where they reside, and where their parents pay taxes.

One sheet ice rink can not support successful hockey, figure skating and even public session. Moreover, Bowie Ice Arena is even not all year around ice rink. There is no ice April-July. It is laughable and deplorable at the same time.

My family supports two rink ice facility.

Thank you,

Haan Family

Awilda Hernandez

From: Lisa Scroggins <LScroggins@roomandboard.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 5:42 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Ice Rink in Bowie

To Whom It May Concern,

The letter is to support the new facility in Bowie with two sheets of ice. My daughter figure skates here at least a few times each week. This rink is the closest to my home in Upper Marlboro. Often times, due to the lack of ice we are forced to travel to Piney Orchard, Navy, Waldorf and even Kettler in Virginia.

Two sheets of ice are needed to adequately fill the need based on all ice sports in Bowie. We are in full support of two sheets of ice at Bowie Ice Rink.

Thank you,
Lisa Scroggins
(301) 237-2318

Sent from my iPhone

Awilda Hernandez

From: Rosalie Griffith <rose1364@me.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 5:45 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Indoor Sports Facility/ Ice Rink Project

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinion regarding the above project. Most people are aware the benefits young people experience when involved in sports. The University of Missouri- Children's hospital researched the benefits which include: increase in academics - sports requires memorization and repetition the same skills needed in the classroom; teamwork teaches problem-solving skills, and sports increases self-esteem. In general the ability for sports to be offered will help increase the overall academic achievements of our youth, a goal all school systems are continually bidding for.

Ice skating in general helps child learn balance and coordination, which can lead to students excelling not only in skating but in other athletics. Figure skating in particular is a way to employ dance skills, gymnastics, and speed into a program that is enjoyed by spectators. But figure skating is not just a sport for one or two. Synchronized skating offers skaters the challenge of working along side a minimum of 8 other skating doing specific formation in unison. Currently the Bowie figure skating team tries to offer this opportunity to skaters from age 4 to adult, however this continues to be a challenge as ice time is often not available for the time needed to train for these programs, we have at least 4 teams on the rink at a time, which not only decreases our ability to fully train but can be dangerous with the various levels on the ice at the same time. Other area teams have designated ice times for each level. In addition to synchronized skating, the team offers another opportunity for skaters - the production team, which is basically theater on ice.

On a personal note, I have a child who figure skates and it has been the best opportunity. As a youngster I enrolled her in many activities offered both at school and outside, but it wasn't until she took skating lessons that she went from a child who struggled in school and socially (due to her learning difference) to a child that was confident and outgoing. Skating has offered opportunities that as a single parent I could never afforded her alone. She has traveled to Nebraska to participate in State Games (was the flag bearer for Maryland in the opening ceremony), got to be a part of the Stars on Ice production in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and continues to compete all over the country. But more than all of that I see a young woman with a passion to help others learn the sport.

I request that you come to current rink look at the skaters (they are currently getting ready for a district competition at the end of the month). I know if you see them you will see the benefits of the sport and the need for the additional resources I which to train.

Respectfully,
Rosalie Griffith, PhD

Sent from my iPad

Awilda Hernandez

From: Teri Greene <greenet90@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 6:23 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Bowie Sports Complex and Ice Arena

Dear Mrs. Hernandez,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Bowie Ice Arena and the City Council's consideration of a new sports complex.

As residents (born and raised) in Prince George's County, for over 50 years, we have a long association with the ice arena dating back to our junior high (middle school) years in the 1970's. As a working Mom in 2004, it was actually a coworker who lived in Anne Arundel County who highly recommended the summer camp program for our two daughters age 4 and 7. Year after year since that time and now into their young adult years the rink has been a place for our daughters to expand their athletic skills, make new and lasting friends, volunteer and hold part time jobs. The ice arena provides a diverse platform not only for young figure skaters and young hockey players but adults of all ages, families, friends and visitors from within and outside our community who enjoy these sports or simply the relaxation of a public skate session. Being "on the ice" is the only athletic platform within our City where you can see members of our community separate or coming together to skate unlike field sports or basketball which cater to a smaller and more limited set of participants. The other sports also have newer and more modern facilities than the ice arena has had in many years.

While we were very happy to hear about the new sports complex, as tax payers and prudent business professionals, we are concerned about the amount of money that has been spent to date on surveys, meetings and architectural designs especially given an ongoing debate about the merits of a sports complex and new ice arena. Consequently, we ask the Council to consider the lasting investment a new ice arena and its programs will have in the future of our community and the far reaching audience of children, parents and families of which we have been so blessed to participate in for so many years.

Respectfully yours,

Bill and Teri Greene
14417 Old Stage Road
Bowie, MD 20720
240-832-3014/240-832-7146

Awilda Hernandez

From: ARETHA <ajbchase@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 7:55 PM
To: Awilda Hernandez
Subject: Two Ice Rinks

To whom it may concern:

Two Ice Rinks will make figure skating and hockey easier, because each will have their own rink.

Thanks,
Aretha Chase
Figure skating mom