

**From:** [Karin Fritzlar](#)  
**To:** [Executive Committee](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] My comments for 2025.EX20.5 on January 28, 2025 Executive Committee  
**Date:** January 24, 2025 4:04:41 PM

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the January 28, 2025 Executive Committee meeting on item 2025.EX20.5, Moss Park Arena - Governance and Operational Transition Plan

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

As the Vice Chair of the Moss Park Arena Board of Management, I thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on the motion regarding Moss Park Arena Governance and Operational Transition Plan. As a dedicated volunteer on the board for the past three years, my involvement stems from a lifelong connection to community arenas. I grew up skating in a small-town rink, not unlike Moss Park Arena, and I am committed to ensuring that adults and children of all ages and backgrounds have access to the joy and opportunity that skating provides.

Moss Park Arena is more than a facility—it is the heart of a vibrant and special community. It is a place where children build confidence, families come together, and friendships are forged. Transitioning it to City management would risk losing this spirit, turning it into just another line item in a large system.

### **A Strong Record of Community Service**

The City staff report demonstrates the exceptional work being done at Moss Park Arena to serve the local community. Key highlights include:

#### **Free Programming:**

- Our house league is the only free hockey league in Canada. It offers free equipment and ensures that all children, regardless of background, can participate and feel welcome.

#### **Ice Time for Local Users:**

- A significant portion of ice time is dedicated to local residents and organizations, making skating and hockey accessible to the community we serve.

#### **Community-Centered Approach:**

- The arena's programming reflects a deep understanding of and commitment to the community's needs, developed through decades of close relationships and trust.

These programs are not just services: they are lifelines for families and individuals who rely on the arena for recreation, connection, and growth.

### **Concerns with the Motion**

While I understand the Councillor's desire to ensure effective governance of city arenas, the motion includes several inaccuracies that detract from the reality on the ground:

#### **Local Representation:**

- The claim that our board lacks local representation is simply not true. Our board includes members who live in and care deeply about this community, despite neighbourhood residency not being a requirement to serve. It is also unclear how a City-run arena would increase local representation. In fact, one might argue that it would reduce representation of the community, as there would not be a dedicated set of staff for the arena.

#### **Lack of Communication:**

- Since the initial motion was brought forward in May, the Councillor has not attended board meetings or responded to any of our emails to raise his concerns directly. If concerns had been shared beforehand, we would have addressed them openly and collaboratively.

#### **Unproven Allegations:**

- The motion includes claims that are not substantiated by facts. The staff report itself refutes many of these points, particularly regarding our community programming and accessibility.

This motion has cast doubt on the board's efforts, despite the report affirming that we are meeting and exceeding our responsibilities. This is very discouraging as we are all unpaid volunteers, giving up our time and energy to serve the community.

### **The Value of Local Management**

Transitioning Moss Park Arena to City management would fundamentally change its character and impact.

#### **Loss of Community Connection:**

- The current group of employees are deeply embedded in the community, fostering strong relationships and understanding local needs of this special neighbourhood. City management, with rotating staff, cannot replicate this connection.

#### **Increased Costs:**

- The report estimates this change would cost taxpayers \$3 million over 10 years—an unnecessary expense given the arena's success under its current model.

#### **Loss of Heart and Soul:**

- What makes Moss Park Arena special is its people: the volunteers, staff, and families who have created a warm, welcoming environment. Turning it into a city-

run facility risks losing that human touch, leaving it as just another line item in the budget.

### **A Call for Collaboration**

I am proud of the work Moss Park Arena has done to enrich our community, and I believe there is room for constructive dialogue to address any concerns while preserving the arena's unique role. Rather than targeting Moss Park Arena, broader discussions about governance frameworks could benefit all city arenas without jeopardizing the success of one that is thriving.

Moss Park Arena is more than an arena—it is a community institution, a source of joy, and a symbol of inclusion. I urge the Executive Committee to consider the findings of the staff report, which confirm the arena's value and effectiveness.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of those who care deeply about Moss Park Arena and the community it serves.

Sincerely,  
Karin Fritzlär  
Vice Chair  
Moss Park Arena Board of Management