

# Falmouth Ice Rink Proposal

## Background:

11/18/08	PACPAC Meeting	Ice Rink concept introduced by staff
1/20/09	PACPAC Meeting	First Presentation from Ice Rink Committee
3/17/09	PACPAC Meeting	Ice Rink Committee asked back to clarify some items
3/31/09	Special PACPAC Meeting	Began to formulate recommendation to council

**PACPAC Recommendation:** The Parks & Community Programs Advisory Committee supports the concept of the Falmouth Ice Rink Proposal and recommends the Town Council hear the full proposal.

The Ice Rink Committee has promised a “net neutral” cost to the town but is interested in a long term lease such as the one with Family Ice. The Ice Rink Committee is also aware that there will be a need for a zoning line change to accommodate the proposed building.

The Ice Rink Committee has been very cooperative with regards to Town/Staff input and needs, i.e., saving/reorienting the existing parks maintenance building or incorporating adequate storage and resources for the parks department into the proposed building. They have also stated they will not impact the Village Park great lawn or gazebo area and will integrate the outside of the proposed building to enhance that area.

As with any proposal, there are pros and cons and PACPAC has identified the following:

### PROS

- Added rink time for school teams (i.e., high school/middle school JV/Varsity – both girls & boys)
- Proposed use for daytime programming
- Added storage capacity

### CONS

- Losing drop-in FREE rollerblading from dusk to dawn
- Outdoor “pick up” hockey (boards)
- Outdoor walking track
- Warming hut (ambiance of birthday parties, Tree Lighting cookie decorating, etc.)

**Questions generated from PACPAC:** After several meetings, PACPAC generated a list of questions for the Ice Rink Committee to consider in order to be better prepared for their council presentation.

1. Will this be a practice rink or a recreation center and will the "indoor turf option" be a future idea and/or phased in?
2. How will the influx of traffic and parking issues affect the neighborhood and local businesses? Have you made contact with Wal-Mart?
3. Have you considered a survey (informal) of abutting neighbors?
4. Will community space be made available to FCP and schools at no cost? i.e., spring sports, rain date sites for summer concerts
5. Will Falmouth sports/FCP have priority schedule and times for life of building?
6. Falmouth will lose an area where "spontaneous recreation" occurs during the mid-day - How can that be accommodated? i.e., lunch-time hockey shooting on goal both ice and roller
7. In this financial climate have you thought about perception of an "additional amenity that already exists"?
8. Have you done a feasibility study regarding fundraising in the current financial climate? The committee expects that the council will want to see or hear about this aspect.
9. Can you more clearly define your relationship with Family Ice?
10. Can you more clearly address the issue of the maintenance garage and your proposals?
11. Will the sidewalks and walking paths be saved? A lot of people drop by to walk around the current rink and follow the sidewalks through the path to the Legion Field paths and/or to the new Tidewater Development.