

Good Evening, Co-Chairpersons, Honorable members of the Committee, and gathered citizens,

How the Ontario Community Recreation Center project fits into the City of Ontario Parks Committee Strategic Plan.

I rise as Chairman of the City of Ontario, Parks Committee to support the funding of HB-2410.

In years past, the City had to cut spending to maintain the City pool structure, golf course, and youth programming. Since the formation of the Ontario Recreation District, by a direct vote of the people, the City Administration has worked closely to provide ground and financial support, when possible.

Previous public surveys, incorporated into the Park's Master Plan, indicated a significant need for recreation facilities and programs.

I speak from experience. In 1993, I was intimately involved in the planning of a much larger project in an Idaho town. This basic concept was 96,000 square feet. After the initial city funding, individual citizens and businesses provided significant financial support. Today's 140,000 square foot facility includes 3 basketball courts, 3 pools, running track, weight lifting, cardiovascular exercise, climbing wall, day care, senior center, exercise/meeting rooms, and a physical therapy facility.

HB-2410 will significantly improve Eastern Oregon's recreational opportunities. This concept is in our existing Ontario Parks Master Plan. It will re-open a long dormant pool, provide a multi-purpose field house, and recreational opportunities on a scale previously unavailable. It will have a direct impact on the "livability factor" and help us attract new families and businesses to Ontario. Thus, It will help our economy and citizens in untold ways.

My fellow Parks Committee members and I urge you to vote favorably for HB-2410 as a catalyst for a brighter future in Ontario.