

# “Decide the Fate of the Hall”

Feedback from the Tuesday, March 3, 2020  
Ramsay Community Association General Meeting

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Sunday March 15, 2020

## Introduction

The Ramsay Community Association (RCA) General Meetings (GM's) are held the first Tuesday of every month at the Community Hall, with an average attendance of 10-15 community members. Due to low attendance, the RCA Board of Directors (BOD) delivered flyers and posted information to the website prior to March 3, 2020's GM, to engage and inform community members of the following:

"The purpose of this update is to inform and invite feedback from community members regarding the state of the Ramsay Community Hall, located at 1136 8<sup>th</sup> st SE.

Despite best efforts of volunteers over the years, the Ramsay Community Association's (RCA) main revenue streams, including facility rentals and casino funds, have been declining. This coupled with increased expenses in maintenance, insurance and structural issues at both the Hall and the Rink, has resulted in an unsustainable financial position.

As reported regularly during the monthly RCA General Meetings, there has been a focus on acquiring grants, reducing expenses and identifying ways to diversify and grow revenue, but it has not resulted in enough to stay ahead.

**In summary, without a long-term plan to increase revenue, we will lose the Hall.**

If you are interested in joining the conversation or are passionate about keeping the Hall in the community, please bring your ideas and feedback to the next General Meeting on Tuesday, March 3 at 7pm at the Hall."

### **The purpose of this report is to:**

1. Share quantitative data from the meeting's attendance
2. Share the qualitative data from the 4 idea boards posted at the meeting, including:
  - a. Thoughts on the Future of the Hall
  - b. Revenue Generation or Change of Use Ideas for the Hall
  - c. Initial Impressions on the Beverage Hall Idea
  - d. Special Event Ideas for Future
3. Summarize results and draw conclusions, where possible.

\*Please note, some original comments have been summarized or categorized for ease of organization and analysis. Raw Data has been saved for verification. If you attended the meeting, and feel your suggestions have been misinterpreted, please email [secretary@ramsaycalgary.ca](mailto:secretary@ramsaycalgary.ca)

## **Part One: Qualitative Data from Meeting's Attendance**

### **A - Attendance from Flyer:**

50 people signed in and chose the following reason(s) for attending:

1. Flyer: 32 people or 64%
2. Email: 5 or 10%
3. Social Media: 5 or 10%
4. Other: 9 or 14% (Board Member, word of mouth or in regular attendance)

**Therefore, 64% of the March 3, 2020 GM attendance was due to the flyer.**

### **B - Flyer Reach:**

850 flyers were delivered. Using a conservative assumption of 1.5 community members per household, the flyer reached approx. 1275 people.

**Therefore, 2.5% of people who received the flyer attended the meeting, 97.5% did not.**

### **C - Flyer Hours:**

Creation, collaboration, printing, distribution coordination: approx. 2hrs

Combined time to deliver: approx. 8hrs

**Therefore, 10 hours brought in roughly 32 additional people, while informing the community on current challenges.**

In summary, while attendance at the March 3 GM was four times the average, it is still important to understand the number in relation to overall community population.

That said, numbers don't always paint the full picture and despite quantity, the quality of the feedback was excellent. It was extremely encouraging to see plenty of new faces, ideas and offers to help.

**Part Two:**

**Idea Board A: Thoughts on the “Future of the Hall”**

Item #	Original Comment	Category
1	Community owned community run	Keep Hall
2	Community hub	Keep Hall
3	Gathering place	Keep Hall
4	Worth keeping once it's gone you won't get it back	Keep Hall
5	The hall is a great resource for that a sense of community	Keep Hall
6	It is very important to do whatever we can to save it	Keep Hall
7	Need more info – willing to assist	More Info Needed
8	Knockdown building and create an inter community park and playground with washrooms change rooms/space	Return Hall / Change of Use
9	Give it back to the city	Return Hall
11	Ditch the hall and use the Alexander center, no wait eighth street is closed	Return Hall (?)
12	Find a developer who would assume the property in exchange for a smaller more efficient hall built elsewhere at their expense	Return Hall / Change of Use
13	Housing on top	Change to Structure
14	Windows in basement	Change to Structure
15	Larger hall with parking underneath	Change to Structure
16	Need a big Deck for summer	Change to Structure

In general, the comments that could be summarized in support of keeping the Hall, revolved around a sense of community and concern with losing an asset. Comments related to changing its use or handing it back, were generally in response to financial sustainability and current lack of use from community members.

When looking at attendance percentage in relation to Ramsay population, coupled with the number of submissions to this idea board, there is not enough data to draw a clear conclusion regarding overall community opinion.

What can be taken from this small sample, is that there is no shortage of community spirit. It might be safe to assume that those in support of handing back the Hall, would be OK if it remained as long as it became financially sustainable and benefitted the community. A question for those concerned might be; could we create a similar sense of community without the Hall? For example, from the space at the rink, or from RCA organized events outside of the Hall, including local businesses?

**Part 3:**

**Idea Board B: “Hall Revenue Generation or Change of Use Ideas”**

<b>Idea</b>	<b>Summarized Original Comments</b>		
1	Sub Basement	13	Rent it more
2	Odd Jobs in the Hood	14	Make it easier to Rent
3	TV Studio	15	Solar Garden
4	Farmers Market	16	Safe Injection Site
5	Premium Child Care	17	Showcase Local Businesses
6	Art Cooperative	18	Bike Repair
7	More Casinos	19	Tool Library
8	Cannabis Edible Diner	20	Bike Repair
9	CSA to Depot	21	Neverland Artist Workshop
10	Food Trucks, Commissary Food Hall	22	Mobile Adventure Program
11	CPR Train Museum	23	Partner with Local Biz on products that give back
12	Children's Revolution Project		

Relative to attendees, the number of ideas put forth was encouraging.

This list will serve as a tool for upcoming planning and engagement discussions.

Those who included their information may be contacted and asked to put forward more comprehensive information in order to flesh out the feasibility of their ideas.

In general, this provides excellent insight into what some community members would support exploring further.

**Part 4:**

**Idea Board C: “Initial Impression on the Beverage Hall Idea”**

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Original Comment</b>	<b>Summary</b>
1	I like the basic idea, needs more info – can definitely be helpful in this area	More Info Needed
2	Is the capacity large enough brewery great idea I have a little historical information	More Info Needed
3	If I wanted to live next to a bar I would live in the beltline	Not Interested
4	I'm concerned about people infiltrating the community & taking away a family friendly feel	Not Interested
5	Email from Attendee, concerns with competing local biz, investment, out of scope of a CA	Not Interested
6	I like pubs	Interested
7	I love the brew pub idea	Interested
8	Great escape great idea on the brew pub any thoughts on snack food?	Interested
9	I like the idea of if for community gathering and generating community funds	Interested
10	love the idea. Interested in being involved with the creation	Interested
11	I love the great escape	Interested
12	awesome idea	Interested
13	Like the brewery idea making music evenings with that would love to see pictures of the history	Interested
14	Spin off idea for brew pub	Interested
15	Great idea for a brew pub could you utilize students at Olds college part of an internship	Interested
16	Great idea to tell the history of Ramsay	Interested

The meeting minutes provide the detail presented to attendees before asking for their input on an idea board. The Beverage Hall is currently in concept phase, with a more comprehensive feasibility study underway and due March 31, 2020.

The goal of requesting feedback at this early stage, was to capture general first impressions, of which 11 respondents were supportive and 5 were either not in support or required additional information.

**Part 5:**

**Idea Board D: “Special Event Ideas (not all limited to the Hall)”**

<b>League (7)</b>	<b>Music &amp; Dance (10)</b>	<b>Workshops (25)</b>
Darts & Crib (2)	Music Show	Crafts
Pickle Ball	50's 60's 70's party (2)	Try-it-Tuesdays year-round
Tennis	Sing Along	Earth Power Events
Bocce Horseshoes	Cabaret	Dog show
Lego Club	Bands (2)	Knitting
Folk Club	Silent DJ Dance Party	Cooking
	Blues & BBQ	Intro to fishing
<b>Seniors (3)</b>	Shut Up & Dance	Build a kite
Seniors events (2)		Intro to martial arts
Afternoon Tea	<b>Theme Nights (17)</b>	Intro to salsa dance
	Potluck (2)	Intro to crib/bridge
<b>Major Event (11)</b>	Standup comedy	Certify soccer coaches
Food Truck Festival	Board game nights (2)	River path nature walk
Ramsay Rocks (2)	Ladies night	Architecture walk
Show & Shine (2)	Lawn Chair cinema	Star gazing
Block Party (3)	Bingo/Poker/Darts (3)	Skateboard clinic
Silent Auction	Movie Night	Intro to gardening
Night Market	Pop-Up events	Empowerment workshop
Art in the Park	Cooking with Julie	Yoga (2)
	Scavenger hunt	Dance
<b>Other (1)</b>	Poetry night	Dog training
Activate green spaces information kiosk at key sites	Lego contest	Spin class
	Neighbour events	Ballroom dance lessons
		50/50 with workshop

The number of suggestions alone is an example of huge community spirit, and it identifies a desire for regular events, which will also require a streamlined method of external communication.

This list will serve as a tool for upcoming planning and engagement discussions. Those who included their information may be contacted and asked to put forward more information in order to flesh out the feasibility of their ideas.

In general, this provides excellent insight into what some community members would support exploring further.