2011 BIG MINE ICE ARENA PROJECT

The Big Mine Ice Arena Project is striving to raise $100,000 in the Crested Butte community by April 2011 to ensure that construction of the facility including the rink cover and new dasher boards can begin this summer. All donations to the Big Mine Ice Arena are tax deductable and will provide a lasting public recreation facility for the community. Donations can be mailed to Town of Crested Butte, Attn: Big Mine Ice Arena, PO Box 39 Crested Butte, CO 81224 or delivered in person to Crested Butte Town Hall, 507 Maroon Ave. Please contact Parks and Recreation Director, Jake Jones with any questions regarding the project.

Big Mine Rink History

The Crested Butte Parks and Recreation Department established the Town's first ever hockey rink in the Upper East River Valley at the current Big Mine Park location in the winter of 1992-1993. The first rink included used plywood dasher boards and a sand floor. The following year, the Town constructed the Nordic Center Warming House to serve a growing Crested Butte Nordic Council as well as youth and adult hockey programs. In 2000, a 200' x 85' National Hockey League sized concrete rink slab was constructed and regulation dasher boards were purchased for the facility. Now, in 2011, the Town of Crested Butte is launching the largest public recreation project in its history with a planned $1.1 million facility including a roof over the existing rink and new dasher boards with protective shielding. The facility will be something the community will be proud of and will complement the other skating amenities in the Gunnison Valley.

Future Phases

The current fundraising effort is focused on Phase II, the completion of the rink cover and dasher boards. Phase III will expand the warming house facility to provide more team rooms and will include refrigeration for the existing rink. Phase IV will complete landscaping throughout the entire Big Mine Park location.

Project History

The Big Mine Arena Project represents Phase II of a four-phase project. Purchasing land adjacent to Big Mine Park, paving the parking area and building sidewalks to improve the functionality and safety of the facility marked the completion of Phase I in the summer of 2010. Following a successful capital campaign concluding in April 2011, the project will break ground in the summer with projected completion of Phase II in the fall of 2011. Your support is essential to a timely ground breaking and dedication of the facility.

Community Impact

While the improvement of Big Mine Ice Arena has been highly anticipated by our skating community, the positive impact it will have on our local economy is significant. With a covered skating facility located in Crested Butte's historic downtown district, the community will be able to reliably host out of town hockey teams for league games and tournaments thus generating increased revenues for local lodges, shops and restaurants. The Big Mine Ice Arena will create the community's only covered venue for year round sports and special events.

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