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## New Wake County Tournament Ice Facility



At the recent conclusion of a more than year-long Wake County grant process, the Triangle Sports Commission (TSC) successfully assisted in securing a maximum grant of \$3 million for the Wake Competition Center (WCC), a twin-rink ice facility with a permanent seating capacity of 1,500. The facility, with two NHL-sized ice sheets that will become the new practice home of the Carolina Hurricanes, will be developed in Morrisville by Ammons Development Company, which previously developed The Factory, multi-sport complex in Wake Forest.

In the unanimous vote by Wake County Commissioners to award the funds, Commissioner Rich Gianni cited the involvement by the TSC as an important aspect that led to his positive vote. The Morrisville Chamber of Commerce and Town of Morrisville similarly cited the TSC's efforts as essential to landing the critical grant. Jeff Ammons, CEO of Ammons Development, indicated that the WCC

is a \$14 million project, so receiving the full grant was essential to the project getting off the ground.

The WCC will be designed as the Triangle Region's only ice facility with significant spectator capacity, considered essential to host major competitions in ice hockey, figure skating, speedskating, and curling. The TSC will be developing and submitting the bids required to attract key ice events to the venue.

In subsequent phases, the WCC campus, slated to be located on the new McCrimmon bypass (Evans Road extension) between Airport Road and Aviation Parkway in Morrisville, will expand with a multi-gym facility to include volleyball, gymnastics, and other court sports. The build-out is expected to take 24 to 30 months with projected opening in fall 2016 or early 2017.

## US Olympic Committee Olympic Partner Renewal

The Triangle Sports Commission executed the paperwork in August to renew as one of currently only six United States Community Olympic Partners in the country. Community Olympic Partners maintain a focus on support for Olympic and Paralympic sports, athletes, and programs throughout the year. In the past the TSC's Olympic-related projects have included hosting Olympic Trials, Olympic Day activities, Olympic sport celebrations, and doing community youth outreach programs featuring local Olympians.

Later this month TSC representatives will be attending a meeting of all the US Community Partners in Chicago that is being hosted by the U.S. Olympic Committee. Attendees will include partner organizations in San Francisco, Atlanta, and Philadelphia, among others.



## Site Tour with New Wake County Manager

The TSC helped welcome new Wake County Manager, Jim Hartmann, to the area with a recent Site Tour of some of our region's standout community sports venues: USA Baseball National Training Complex, Cary Tennis Park, and WakeMed Soccer Park. The TSC and its leaders led the efforts to develop two (USA Baseball NTC and WakeMed Soccer Park) of those three venues. Accompanying the tour were Doug McRaney, head of the Town of Cary Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR) Department, and William Davis, Cary Athletics Manager. Cary PRCR operates the three facilities.



Pictured: Curt Johnson, Carolina Railhawks; William Davis, Town of Cary; Keith Jenkins, WakeMed Soccer Park; Jim Hartmann, Wake County Manager; Doug McRaney, Town of Cary; Hill Carrow, Triangle Sports Commission

"I had the opportunity to work with Jim Hartmann on two \$20 million sport facility development projects in Seminole County, Florida, where Jim served as County Manager before becoming Wake County's manager earlier this year," said Hill Carrow, TSC CEO. "He has great experience in sports tourism and this was an opportunity to expose Jim to some of our best regional sports tourism facilities. We are looking forward to working with Jim on future venue projects that will continue to strengthen the Triangle's position as a sports tourism hub."

## Business of Sports Series Starts Big

The TSC's Business of Sports Series kicks off in a big way this fall with Bill Hancock, Executive Director of the College Football Playoff, discussing the new NCAA Football Division I Playoff. Hancock will be the featured speaker at a luncheon to be held Wednesday, October 1 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, beginning at 12 noon.

The luncheon is open to the public and tickets are only \$25. They can be purchased [here](#).

For anyone interested in getting the inside scoop on the most long-awaited event in American sports history, this promises to be an exciting and enlightening program.



Thank you from the Triangle Sports Commission!



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