

Boston.com

Endicott College to build hockey rink on Beverly campus

By Justin A. Rice, Town Correspondent

Endicott College is moving forward with plans to build an ice rink on its campus after years of trying to collaborate with the city.

But Endicott President Richard Wylie said the rink, which he noted is in “the drawing stages,” would still be open for community use, including youth hockey, open skates and other youth programs. The city hoped Endicott would partner with it when it put out a request for proposal for a rink in 2007.

“It has never gotten off the ground,” Wylie said of a joint venture with the city, “so our board said ‘It’s time to build an activity center but at the heart of it will be the hockey rink, it will be primarily a hockey rink.

“We’ll have events and all kinds of other activities open to youth hockey and the City of Beverly and public skating. It’s not something we’re looking to generate money from. We’d wrap this into our commitment to the city and support of activities.”

The school has fielded successful club hockey teams for the last eight years that compete with clubs from Boston University, Northeastern and Boston College. The program, which was founded by Wylie’s son, have practiced and played at the Pingree School.

Wylie said the club teams, which currently have 45 male players and 20 women players, are looking to gain NCAA varsity status. The school’s football program started eight years ago and won the ECAC Division III North Atlantic Bowl this past season. The school has also had successful in lacrosse, and the new facility would also be able to handle indoor lacrosse.

“You have to have a dedicated rink you have to have a rink we call our own,” Wylie said of starting an NCAA hockey program. “We could’ve done it with a joint venture with the city but the restrictions would be too great. We’d like to have it on campus and part of the community here.”

The \$6 to \$8 million facility would be built on cleared land in the back of campus, Wylie said.

“The land is probably 70 percent prepped for this building already,” Wylie said.

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