

Report to Council

Report Title: Request for Extension of Arena Ice Season

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: March 9, 2021

Report Number: REC2021-03 **File Number:** C11REC, P03CO, R05WA

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2021-03 – Request for extension of Arena Ice Season, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services and in doing so approves the extension of the ice season at the Walkerton Community Centre from April 1st to May 14th to support physical activity and exercise as a key component to mental health and well being.

Report:

Background:

On February 9, 2021 Council considered Report REC2021-01, the COVID-19 pandemic conditions at the time and demand for ice time from community user groups, and directed staff to re-open the arena ice upon coming out of the most recent lockdown and operate to April 1, 2021. With the successful return to play, Quick Feet Hockey has approached staff and requested consideration of extending the ice season a further 6 weeks from the April 1st end season date.

Analysis:

Ice operations are running well with the user groups following the updated COVID-19 protocols and guidance from the Province and Health Unit and groups are adhering to staff directions. Participants of Quick Feet Hockey are from within the Grey Bruce Health Unit area and the program does not accept participants from any red or grey zones.

Some ice user groups will be finishing their season on April 1st. Quick Feet Hockey is looking for about 40 hours of ice per week from April 6 to May 14 to meet their demand in registrations. About 6 additional hours of ice per week is likely to be requested from other local groups and private rentals. Six hours of ice per week is associated with public skating. See revenue/expense impacts below.

Concerns expressed in 2019 about the potential risk of permafrost resulting from extended spring ice operations have been reviewed further by staff and the municipality's refrigeration contractor. The risk is determined to be low with at least 2 months of time between ice out and the next season start-up occurring in mid-August. If the ice season is extended this spring, testing for frost conditions will be conducted at ice out and again before start-up for the 2021/22 season to determine what if any frost conditions remain.

Departmental operations and staff scheduling do become more challenging in the months of April and May as we transition to spring/summer parks operations along with continued ice operation. As long as the pandemic situation locally remains safe to do so, staff are prepared to continue ice operations as staff resources permit.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? | No |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? | N/A |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

Revenues after April 1st

- Quickfeet \$5,000 per month at 40 hours per week
- Other ice bookings \$2,500+/- per month
- Total \$7,500+/- per month

Expenses assuming:

- 56 hours of ice use per week (4pm-10pm weekdays, 8am-9pm weekends)
- 1 FT and 1 PT staff per 8 hour shift = \$9,000 per month minimum
- Hydro – refrigeration/lighting/hot water at 50% of monthly facility cost = \$4,000 minimum per month
- Water = \$1,000 per month
- Propane = \$440 per month
- Ice plant maintenance = \$1250 per month
- Other supplies (cleaning) = \$850 per month
- \$17,550+ per month

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer