



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator

MEETING DATE: June 18, 2013

SUBJECT: Report APRAC13-020
Ball Hockey Rink Update

PURPOSE

A report to respond to the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee's request for further information on the impact to the City, should a private organization be permitted to independently construct and maintain ball hockey rinks on City owned property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC13-020 dated June 18, 2013, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That report APRAC13-020 be received for information; and
- b) That the request from The Rinks Project to construct ball hockey rinks on City owned property be denied.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendations of report APRAC13-020.

BACKGROUND

On April 16, 2013, a representative from The Rinks Project made a presentation to the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) proposing to build 4 to 6 outdoor mini NHL ball hockey rinks on municipally owned land within the City of Peterborough. Their intent is to construct and maintain the rinks without a financial contribution from the City. Rather, they are seeking free use of City owned land. The Rinks Project suggested building the rinks on existing facilities, such as paved basketball and/or tennis courts, creating a dual use for those facilities.

Following the presentation from The Rinks Project, APRAC directed Staff to present a follow-up report to the Committee at the June 18th meeting. The report is to include detailed information regarding advertising, liability and risk, as well as safety requirements with respect to The Rinks Project's request.

On April 30, 2013, Staff from Recreation, Legal Services, and Risk Management reviewed The Rinks Project's proposal. Based on that review, Staff does not recommend use of City land for this purpose, for the following reasons:

- The Rinks Project organization is a grass roots entity that is not incorporated. They have provided a concept only, with no established business plan. Should they be unsuccessful in continuing as an organization after constructing the rinks on City land, the ongoing operational and maintenance costs for the rinks would default to the City;
- The level of demand required to support additional outdoor ball hockey rinks has not been demonstrated. The existing City owned outdoor rink, known as Legacy Bowl is underutilized, especially during July and August;
- The Rinks Project organization will require Public Works to facilitate snow and slush removal in the winter. Having City Staff be responsible for the condition of the playing surface in this manner will increase the City's operating costs, work load, and liability risk;

- Constructing the rinks on existing City owned sport facilities, such as basketball and tennis courts, combines a City owned and operated facility with a privately owned and operated facility. This would reduce the current level of access to the existing facilities for the existing sport user groups, and increases the City's liability risk;
- To minimize costs, The Rinks Project organization identified their intent is to build and operate the rink facilities on their own utilizing donations, sponsorships, advertizing opportunities, and volunteer efforts. Their intent is to build each rink at less than a \$25,000 capital cost. The rinks would need to be built to standards equal to what the City would be required to meet, under such categories as quality, safety, and accessibility. The Rinks Project has not provided any evidence that they have the necessary resources to meet those standards within a \$25,000 budget.

Staff has contacted The Rinks Project representative to inform him that Staff does not support their request to build the rinks on City land. However, Staff suggested The Rinks Project organization consider operating a ball hockey league and/or tournaments at the under utilized Legacy Bowl. While the representative indentified he would consider running tournaments at Legacy Bowl in the future, operating a league may be a bit too time consuming at this point. Staff has encouraged The Rinks Project to participate in the upcoming Arena Needs Assessment public consultation process.

Submitted by,

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Recreation Division Coordinator

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