



## **STAFF REPORT**

**Title:** Summer Ice Consideration - Year Round Ice

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2019

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### **Executive Summary:**

The City of Cold Lake aims to offer affordable and exceptional recreational opportunities to its citizens and users. We learn creativity through play and arts/cultural activities. We benefit therapeutically helping to restore physical, mental and social abilities.

Rising out of the 2019 budget deliberations, Council hinted at providing year-round recreational ice rental at the Energy Centre. The purpose of this report is for Council's discussion on the principle of operating of a single ice sheet for the months of June and July thereby operating recreational ice, in one arena, year round.

### **Background:**

Recreational ice at the North Arena and Imperial Oil Place Arena are typically taken out mid-March. This year recreational ice was taken out at the North Arena March 15<sup>th</sup> and Imperial Oil Place Arena March 25<sup>th</sup>. The second arena at the Energy Centre has its last booking for recreational Ice May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The recreation ice season typically starts the third week in August. Administration has already received a request to have to ice ready for August 1<sup>st</sup>. Administration is considering bookings for the first full week in August of the 2019/2020 season.

The purpose of this report is for Council's discussion on operating a single ice sheet for the months of June and July thereby operating recreational ice, in one arena, year round. The City has requests up to the end of June for training camps. The utilization is approximately 2 hours per week day. Visioning has already commenced on the possible growth of these camp opportunities and other summer ice activities. However, due to scheduled mechanical refurbishment of the ice plant at the Energy Centre, in June, consideration for a year round ice surface for 2019 is not recommended.

The focus of a discussion is for year round recreational ice commencing in 2020. Administration will reach out to user groups to understand what interest there is in operating a year round recreational ice surface for 2020 season. This would enable user group's time to market summer opportunities (rather than last minute).

In considering operating recreational ice, in one arena, year round, the following influencing factors should be considered:



- Additional financial impact to the operating budget. At this time, energy costs to managing “summer ice” has not been establish.
- Staffing complement; Administration envisions minimal staff time devoted to summer ice resurfacing (ice cleaning in the morning and once through the day). Summer staffing schedules are presently organized on outside operations. The unknown factor to administration’s vision is user needs.
- Other recreational users e.g. Lacrosse can continue to operate without summer ice rental impacting their present needs. Should lacrosse increase its demand for facility usage there are options available e.g. utilization of JJ Parr facility or the North arena.

It is user groups e.g. Lacrosse renting Arena Two, that the philosophical question of summer ice takes shape. Administration would foresee some push from Lacrosse should the City allow Lacrosse to rent both the Imperial Oil Place (IOP) arena and Arena Two for a season or two, then take away the availability of Arena Two for recreational ice rental. If this will be the case, the City should communicate it potential intentions to the user groups.

The City would continue to have the availability of the North Arena and possibly JJ Parr facility.

Presently Lacrosse rent rents IOP and the Fieldhouse. Further, during the week of April 8-14 and the week of in May 6-12 rents Lacrosse rents the North Arena for the Chamber of Commerce Tradeshow and Lakeland Lacrosse Ice Breaker Tournament respectively.

Administration is soliciting feedback on whether Council has an interest “in principle” in the development of summer ice and marketing these potential opportunities.

#### **Alternatives:**

Committee of Council may consider the following options:

1. Direct administration to bring forward a report to Council recommending recreational ice surface year round at the Energy Centre.
2. Direct administration to continue with the existing level of recreational ice services for the 2019 winter recreational year and to solicit interest from user groups for the 2020 summer recreational year.
3. Receive this report as information

#### **Recommended Action:**

Administration is soliciting feedback on whether Council has an interest in the development of summer ice and marketing these potential opportunities.



**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

Yes

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer