



STAFF REPORT

Title: Save the North - Cold Lake Minor Hockey Association - April 28, 2020 Delegation

Meeting Date: May 12, 2020

Executive Summary:

Cold Lake Minor Hockey Association (CLMHA) representatives President Teresa Dole, Director-at-Large Jason Harrison, and Vice President of Hockey Operations Lawren Wowk appeared as delegates at Council's regular meeting held April 28, 2020.

Ms. Dole and Mr. Harrison remained seated in the gallery while Mr. Wowk presented Council with the CLMHA's vision towards a workable solution with the City to "Save the North", along with the CLMHA's concerns with respect to the possible closure of the north arena and the impact it will have on the CLMHA's membership.

Mr. Wowk advised of the following:

- the CLMHA attended the June 12, 2018 regular meeting of Council with respect to "Saving the North" and at that time, the City was able to figure out a solution to keep it open,
- the CLMHA continues to grow and is a strong organization,
- registration is now open for the 2020/2021 season (historically there is an early registration, at a reduced rate, which closes the end of June, regular rates are charged after the end of June, and registration is always open as registrants numbers have never had to be capped),
- if the North Arena is closed, registration numbers will have to be capped,
- 46% of registrants from the 2019/2020 season used ice at the North Arena,
- the CLMHA spent twenty-two (22) hours per week of ice time in the North Arena which equates to almost 50% of the CLMHA's ice time being at the North Arena,
- it is well known that most communities are brought together by sports,
- in the 2017/2018 season, the CLMHA spent approximately \$145,800.00 for ice at the North Arena and Imperial Place,
- in the 2018/2019 season, the CLMHA spent over \$200,000.00 for ice at the North Arena and Imperial Place, and
- in the 2019/2020 season, the CLMHA spent approximately \$203,100.00 for ice at the North Arena and Imperial Place.

The CLMHA believes that they need the Cold Lake North Arena to keep them competitive; they are hoping for positive news from the City with respect to "Saving the North".



Mr. Harrison advised that the CLMHA uses all ice that is available to them. In the 2019/2020 season, in addition to ice allotted at the North Arena and Imperial Place, the CLMHA were only allotted ten (10) hours a week at J.J. Parr, of which all hours were used.

Mr. Wowk stated that the CLMHA are willing to work with the City to keep the North Arena open and thanked Mayor & Council for allowing their group to speak.

Mayor Copeland thanked Ms. Dole, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Wowk for presenting the concerns of the CLMHA advising that Council would consider the request and concerns of the CLMHA at their next regular meeting of Council being May 12, 2020.

Background:

During the 2020 Budget Deliberations, council removed \$200,000 of budget reflecting the closure of the North Arena Operations (which represents the fall fall/winter season of 2020 or half the year). Following this decision administration has advised the user groups that there will be impacts to the 2020/2021 season.

Further to the above, it should be noted that the City of Cold Lake rented a temporary ice plant on a skid in order to provide ice at this facility. The rental unit costs the city approx. \$100,000/annually compared to a permanent solution (~\$1 million for an ice plant based on quotes provided in 2019). Administration does not have a condition assessment of the infrastructure (cooling lines) under the slab.

Alternatives:

- That Council accept the Cold Lake Minor Hockey Association delegation presentation made at the April 28, 2020 regular meeting of Council as information.
- That Council accept the Cold Lake Minor Hockey Association delegation presentation made at the April 28, 2020 regular meeting of Council as information, and postpone a decision, with respect to keeping the North Arena open, to the ____ __, 2020 regular meeting of Council.
- That Council accept the Cold Lake Minor Hockey Association delegation presentation made at the April 28, 2020 regular meeting of Council as information, and direct administration to maintain the operations for the North Arena for the 2020/2021 winter season.

Recommended Action:

That Council accept the Cold Lake Minor Hockey Association delegation presentation made at the April 28, 2020 regular meeting of Council as information.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

No

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer