



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 17, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2020 Arena Opening Plan (HSC20031) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Steve Sevor (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4645
SUBMITTED BY:	Chris Herstek Director, Recreation Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable

INFORMATION

Recreation division staff have submitted a plan to the Emergency Operations Committee in regard to the 2020 opening plan for City operated ice arenas.

Historically, the City sets opening dates that vary from mid-August through October. Our three twin pad arenas in addition to the Dave Andreychuk Arena/Mountain Skating Centre are normally operational by mid-August. The remaining 16 single pad arenas usually have staggered openings through the month of September (following Labour Day) and first week of October depending on the programming needs of our ice users.

The pandemic environment has caused staff to re-evaluate our annual operational plan to deal with the uncertainties associated with COVID-19. Recreation staff have recommended that the following arenas open for use on August 31, 2020:

- Chedoke Twin Pad Arena: two ice surfaces
- Morgan Firestone Arena: two ice surfaces
- Harry Howell Twin Pad Arena: two ice surfaces
- Rosedale Arena: one ice surface

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

- Mohawk 4 Ice Centre: four ice surfaces (operated by Hamilton Arena Partners currently open for rentals and available for City use)

Recreation staff will work with all ice users to understand the programming needs under the current circumstances; the remaining arenas will be opened leading up to October as required following this assessment. Early discussions with ice user groups reveal a great deal of uncertainty about the programming needs. These discussions led Recreation staff to believe that the full inventory of municipal arenas may not be needed for the 2020/2021 ice season.

There are several factors that contribute to the uncertainty of how programming will occur in the upcoming ice season. Ice users are governed by the return to play guidelines of their provincial sport organization. While the guidelines have been crafted to recognize the current stages of reopening, some provincial sport organizations are still trying to determine how those guidelines are practically implemented. Locally, ice user groups need to determine if their organizations can comply with the restrictions including the gathering limitations related to their training environment. Some of the items that are still under consideration is the ability for user groups to organize games, tournaments and events. All these items contribute to the need for ice.

The return to play guidelines affect not only the ice users, but facility owners such as municipalities. For the City, Recreation staff must address items such as limiting use of dressing rooms, minimizing congregation areas of the facility and adequate spacing of rentals that allow for cleaning.

Additionally, ice users are trying to determine if the pandemic and the current restrictions will have an impact on registration numbers. In hockey, registrations are usually completed in the spring which would provide an organization an idea of the number of teams and required ice that they might need for the upcoming season. The closure of municipal facilities in March did not allow try-outs to occur and thus registrations for the upcoming season were not finalized. Figure skating, speed skating, and sledge hockey organizations are all in a similar position of not being able to forecast membership or predict the return of their members.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES

None