

INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: September 8, 2011	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Neighbourhood Outdoor Ice Rinks (CS11069) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)	
SUBMITTED BY: Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community Services Department	PREPARED BY: Coralee Secore 905.546.2424 ext 4689
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

At its meeting of February 9, 2011, Council approved Item 6 of the Public Works Committee Report 11-002. Staff was directed to report to the Emergency and Community Services Committee respecting the volunteer usage of outdoor rinks to play ice hockey, outlining the benefits of this usage as well as alternatives.

Information:

Report CS11069 identifies the necessary signage (attached as Appendix A to Report CS11069) and presents the options that will allow the use of hockey sticks on the outdoor rinks and to conclude this matter and have it removed from the Outstanding Business List.

Discussion

This past outdoor ice rink season, the City posted signage at each neighbourhood outdoor rink indicating “no hockey permitted”. The posting of this signage has been met with public controversy. As a result, staff was requested to look at ways that ice users could continue to use hockey sticks for play on the outdoor rinks.

A staff working group with representatives from Parks, Risk Management and Recreation met to discuss alternatives that would permit the use of hockey sticks. This working group looked at the activities being played on the outdoor rinks. It was determined that outdoor rinks do not serve organized activities (hockey) and that the

play on the outdoor rinks is spontaneous and unstructured. The children and youth use of hockey sticks is for “shinny”. Shinny is informal, unstructured and has no formal rules or specific positions and generally no goaltenders. It is non-competitive and scoring is irrelevant, therefore is not considered an organized sport and is permissible under the Parks By-laws.

The Parks By-laws also require that the conditions of use for sticks must be posted. The attached “Outdoor Rink General Notice” attached as Appendix A to Report CS11069 will serve as the rules and signage that will permit the use of hockey sticks on the outdoor rinks. The signs will be posted at each of the outdoor rinks.

On April 26, 2011 staff consulted with the neighbourhood outdoor rink volunteers. The volunteers indicated shinny represented the majority of activity and generated the greatest participation. The volunteers support the posting of the Outdoor Rink General Notice signage.

Staff is committed to working with the outdoor rink volunteers to ensure signage is posted and a plan is in place to enable both pleasure skating and the use of hockey sticks on the neighbourhood outdoor ice rinks for the upcoming 2011 winter season. Options may include the design of the outdoor rinks to include two separate designated areas for the use of hockey sticks and pleasure skating. If this arrangement is not feasible then designated hours for use of hockey sticks and pleasure skating may be posted.

Risk Management Services has been consulted throughout the course of this issue and is satisfied that the liability risk has been adequately addressed and that the management of the liability risk exists in balance with the needs of all stakeholders.

Attachments

Appendix A to Report CS11069: Outdoor Rink General Notice

City of Hamilton Outdoor Rink General Notice

RINK BUILT AND MAINTAINED BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS WITH
THANKS FROM THE CITY OF HAMILTON

- Use the ice at your own risk.
- Use of helmets is strongly recommended.
- Outdoor ice may have more imperfections (bumps, ruts, soft spots, etc.) than indoor ice.
- No offensive language and/or offensive behaviour.
- Use of sport sticks (hockey, ringette, etc.) is allowed.
 - It is strongly recommended that sticks, pucks, and balls remain in contact with the ice surface.
 - PLEASE NO SLAP-SHOTS.

PLEASE PLAY SAFE AND HAVE FUN!