

Report to Council

Report Title: Skating Oval Continuation in 2022

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Recreation

Date: December 14, 2021

Report Number: REC2021-27 **File Number:** C11REC

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby approves Report Number REC2021-27 – Skating Oval Continuation in 2022, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services and in doing so, provides pre-budget approval to staff, weather permitting, for the setup and continuation of the outdoor Skating Oval at Lobies Park in 2022.

Report:

Background:

At its December 8, 2020 meeting of Council, Council approved report number REC2020-21 Bruce Power Funding Proposal – skating Oval. Bruce Power readily approved funding in the amount of \$15,000 for the establishment of an outdoor Skating Oval as a safe winter recreation activity to support resident physical and mental health during the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic where indoor facilities were forced to close.

A 350m outdoor skating oval was successfully established on the road loop within Lobies Park Campground in late January 2021 operating through the month of February as weather permitted.

Attendance was some 2,623+ skaters (adults, youth, seniors, families and local school groups) who used the skating oval. Staff received positive feedback from many for the initiative and the quality of the skating trail. Many comments were also received hoping that skating oval would continue to be offered in the future.

Analysis:

Due to the initial setup costs covered by the Bruce Power donation, the staff experience gained, both significant daily and weekend use and positive reaction of the community, Staff propose that this unique outdoor winter amenity be continued in 2022.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The capital development costs of the Skating Oval in 2021 were covered by a \$15,000 donation from Bruce Power. These funds were used to support gatehouse upgrade, flooding equipment setup and signage. There is no capital equipment costs anticipated for 2022.

Staff costs will utilize existing staff time and resources to flood and maintain the ice trail. With the removal of COVID capacity restrictions and contact tracing for outdoor facilities, the gatehouse/skating oval will not have to be staffed in 2022. Signage promoting COVID precautions will remain in place.

Either the application of the public skating fee (\$2.00) per person, admission by donation or seeking an additional sponsor will generate revenues to help offset the cost of supplies, portable toilet rental, staff time and equipment operation in the flooding and maintenance of the ice trail estimated at \$1,500.00.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer