

Report to Council

Report Title: Proposed Revision of Plan to Re-open Walkerton Arena

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: September 22, 2020

Report Number: REC2020-17 **File Number:** C11REC

Attachments: Email from Walkerton Minor Hockey

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives report REC 2020-17 Proposed Revision of Plan to Re-open Walkerton Arena, as prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services as information and in so doing approves the recommendations as presented.

Report:

Background:

Since the re-opening of the Walkerton Arena ice pad on September 8, 2020 to minor sports ice groups, operations have overall run very smoothly except for some congestion when players are exiting at the end of their ice time. As such, staff now make available dressing rooms 5 and 6 for changing out and exiting only. Incoming groups continue to utilize dressing rooms 1 through 4 and the lobby. We continue to work with user groups as we re-open in a safe manner.

Some concerns were expressed by a couple of parents on one evening regarding the allowance or not of siblings into the arena as spectators where the parent or guardian was attending to more than one child. This issue is being addressed with the help of Walkerton Minor Hockey (WMH) continuing to communicate with and educate their member families on the rules and policies of the Re-opening Plan as approved by Council and the Health Unit. As well, staff are proposing the revision of the wording for the rule regarding no spectators to allow short-term entrance of a parent and participating child and their siblings to facilitate effective changing in/out of hockey gear and safe supervision of sibling children. Depending on the size of the ice group and number of parents and siblings potentially entering the facility for a given ice hour, the capacity restriction for dressing rooms, lobby and stands cannot be exceeded, therefore the risk of cutting off does exist.

With the ½ hour cleaning breaks scheduled between ice groups, there is a reduction in the number of 1 hour ice times for groups such as WMH that can be fit into a given evening or day. Per the attached email, WMH

has received complaints from those families with younger children participants where late scheduled ice times have occurred. As well, WMH will be transitioning from practicing and skills development to 3 on 3 and 4 on 4 games where the group sizes will be reduced further. Therefore, WMH is needing and looking for 10+ hours of additional ice time to somehow be fit into the weekly schedule.

Analysis:

Staff have reviewed the three options proposed by WMH in the attached email and provide the following information:

- 1) 1 hour ice times and floods between each hour remain in place.
- 2) Entry 15 minutes prior to ice time and 15 minutes to exit remains in place.
- 3) That side Door B remain the singular entrance point into the arena.
- 4) Staff (1 ice maintenance/1 cleaning) are completing the required facility maintenance and cleaning with about 10 minutes to spare between each group.
- 5) With current staffing levels and the recruitment occurring we cannot immediately accommodate WMH's request until further staff are in place and trained.
- 6) The only way to reduce or eliminate the ½ break between groups is for staff to add staff to become more efficient and reduce the time required to clean and disinfect all parts of the facility used. As such two additional cruiser/cleaner part time cleaning staff would need to be hired and added to the 7 days a week operating schedule along with a 2nd fogging unit equipment purchased to reduce the overall cleaning time. Result – 1 ice maintenance and 2 cleaning staff on at all times.
- 7) Upon Council approving the additional resources and the time required to put the resources in place, staff propose that the ½ hour break be reduced to 15 minutes (WMH Option 3) starting Tuesday October 13, 2020 and be evaluated until November 1st. If successful and sufficient time remains, then elimination of the remaining break time can occur in the ice scheduling allowing for 1 to 2 hours of more ice time on each weekday evening and 4 more hours ice time on Saturdays and Sundays each.

Sustainability Checklist:

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

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| • Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? | Yes |
| • Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? | N/A |
| • 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? No

Not at this time. More revenue will be generated from WMH with the additional ice hours, however other ice groups are not or will not be returning to play for several weeks or months. Therefore, total revenues will be less than normal. The additional costs to the budget to the end of 2020 will be:

- 1) 2 PT cleaners avg. 28 hrs per week = \$9,500.
- 2) 2nd Disinfecting Fogger unit = \$1,000.

These additional staff resources will still be in line with the 2020 for wages and benefits.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mark Coleman

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer