Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton

Report to Council

Report Title: COVID-19 Arena Closure Ice Operations Update

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Department: Parks and Recreation

Date: January 26, 2021

Report Number: REC2021-01 **File Number:** C11REC, P03CO, R05WA

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2021-01 – COVID-19 Arena Closure Ice Operations Update, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services and in doing so approves the removal of the ice at the Walkerton Community Centre for the balance of the 2020-2021 ice season as a result of the lack of revenues from users due to the Provincial lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Report:

Background:

The Province of Ontario on December 26, 2020 put in place a Lockdown Order resulting in the closure of public recreation facilities and programs. Further more on January 14, 2021at 12:01 a.m., the government declared a State of Emergency and issued a stay-at-home order requiring everyone to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for outdoor exercise or for essential work. Provincial Shutdown measures remain in effect at least until February 11, 2021, and may be extended further at that time.

Analysis:

Staff have reduced ice levels and adjusted plant temperature controls as operational cost savings measures since the Christmas break.

Walkerton Minor Hockey (main ice user group) has since decided to cancel the remainder of their 2020-2021 ice season due to the current Lockdown and Stay-at Home order and uncertainty around when those restrictions may be lifted.

Increasingly, many southwestern Ontario municipalities have already decided to pull the ice out from their facilities. It is anticipated that facilities may not be able to open until mid-March or later.

With no guarantee of when we may be able to reopen the facility viably for ice user groups, and the need to reduce operational expenses to offset lost revenues, Staff recommend that Council support and direct Staff to remove the ice from the Walkerton Arena for the balance of the regular 2020-2021 ice season and advise user groups with regrets of the difficult decision.

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? N/A
- 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? N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

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

If ice were to be removed and put back in, upon the situation somehow improving quickly, this would result in a further 2-week delay in re-opening and result in about $10,000 in additional expenses (labour, water, paint, propane, Black&McDonald refrigeration support).

Revenue losses of $65,000 are projected from the current draft 2021 budget with the ongoing lockdown. This loss is off set through the savings in wages due to reduced staffing levels at the onset of the lockdown.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer