



Date: February 6, 2001

**TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation**  
**FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Ice Rink Policy Review**

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- |   |
|---|
| <p><b>A. That the attached Ice Rink Policy Review consultant study be received for use as a reference document for rink policy development, long range capital planning and management structure review.</b></p> <p><b>B. That changes to the Park Board Rink Programming and Ice Allocation Policies be developed in consultation with stakeholders, with a report back to the Board for approval.</b></p> |
|---|

## **POLICY**

The Park Board sets policies as well as fees and charges for facility use, and determines priorities for capital renewal and expansion.

## **BACKGROUND**

In February 1999, a draft "Ice Rink Programming Policy" was put before the Board for consideration. The Board at that time approved revisions to the subsidy rates for rink use by minor sport organizations and community association partners. Approval of other components of the draft policy were then deferred pending further study and discussions with stakeholder groups.

The components of the draft "Ice Rink Programming Policy" yet to be approved by the Board cover such issues as

- Joint program planning with Community Association Partners;
- Program coordination between Rinks;
- Allocation standards for minor sports and community public skating; and
- Program and rental cancellation procedures

At the same time as the draft rink policy was before the Board, a recommendation was made to include, in the 2000 - 2002 Capital Plan, provision for an additional ice surface, to be achieved by 'twinning' an existing rink. This recommendation was also deferred until such time as a thorough needs assessment could be completed.

Subsequently, the services of Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd. (PERC) were contracted, with the following objectives stated in Terms of Reference:

- a rink programming policy which supports high quality, equitable and sustainable provision of ice skating opportunities for residents of Vancouver,
- clarification of whether additional ice sheet(s) are needed in the City, and (if so)
- identification of innovative means of financing the capital costs of rink construction, and a cost-effective operating strategy.

The rink study has now been completed.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Ice Rink Policy Review emphasizes the importance of managing our ice rink services as a single coherent system, rather than as a number of isolated programming sites.. To that end, a number of recommendations are outlined in the Executive Summary (pp. i-iv)to the Study.

These recommendations will assist (a) the design and implementation of District-wide and inter-District administration structures, (b) the resolution of outstanding policy issues, and (c) the development of a rink component of a long range facility renewal plan.

### *(a) Management Structures*

Vancouver has eight single rinks dispersed about the city; some outlying municipalities have as many ice sheets under one roof. The latter 'concentrated' approach offers obvious competitive advantages in terms of operational efficiency and service coordination. However, our decentralized system provides better access for more skaters.

The Study encourages further development of a kind of blended approach, in which geographically separated rinks are managed centrally and linked through technology to enable coordinated ice allocation and programming. A pilot project of this nature is already in place, involving Kitsilano Rink and Kerrisdale Arena.

The design and implementation of this administrative structure will be incorporated into the work programs of recreation management staff, under the direction of the Park Board senior management team.

(b) *Program and Ice Allocation Policies*

The resolution of outstanding policy issues is an area where renewed involvement of interested stakeholder groups would be very productive. Such an approach would also support the objectives of the Strategic Alliances section of the Strategic Plan. Recreation staff will therefore reconvene a representative body to complete this task, with a report back to the Board for final approval.

(c) *Long Range Facility Renewal*

The study recommends upgrading of the existing arena buildings, both to decrease operating costs and to make them more attractive to users, as a priority for capital investment. The question of whether the supply of ice should be increased by 'twinning' an existing rink, as recommended in 1999, is not resolved by the study.

The capital and major maintenance requirements of rinks tie in with facility renewal planning currently underway with respect to community centres, aquatic services and sports fields.

The outcome of these parallel planning processes will be integrated into one long range capital plan. When complete, the long range capital plan will define priorities and scheduling for capital and major maintenance projects, and serve as a master reference for all funding opportunities, including three year capital plan plebiscites, Federal-Provincial infrastructure programs, development levies, and public-private partnerships.

**SUMMARY**

The Board is asked to accept the Consultant Ice Rink Study attached to this report as a guide for rink administrative structures review, programming and ice allocation policy development and long range capital planning.

Prepared by:

Planning and Operations  
Board of Parks & Recreation  
Vancouver, B.C.  
MV