



MOTION ON NOTICE

Park Board Ice Rink Strategy

MOVER: Commissioner Shum

SECONDER: Commissioner Crawford

WHEREAS:

1. Ice skating is an immensely popular activity that forms the basis of many winter sports, including figure skating, ice hockey, ringette, and speed skating;
2. Ice skating is an accessible and social activity that offers a diverse range of health and fitness benefits which include improved balance, strengthened leg muscles, improvements to joint flexibility, and boosting one's cardiovascular system;
3. Ice skating improves mental fitness as it requires a high level of concentration, strong memory skills, and keen spatial awareness;
4. The City of Vancouver, with a population of more than 600,000 residents, has eight public ice rinks under Park Board jurisdiction, only three of which are operated as year round ice rinks - Britannia Rink, Hillcrest Rink, and Sunset Rink;
5. Five of the City of Vancouver's ice rinks only operate on a seasonal basis - West End Rink, Kitsilano Rink, Kerrisdale Cyclone Taylor Arena, Trout Lake Rink, and Killarney Rink;
6. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation has an Ice Allocation Policy, the objectives of which are to operate the ice services and facilities in an equitable, cost-effective and fiscally sustainable manner while balancing local services and needs with those of the City as a whole, while also seeking to meet current and future demands for organized and casual participants and providing rink users and stakeholders with the opportunity to influence policy implementation;
7. Ensuring the effective and efficient use of ice rink facilities under the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Ice Allocation Policy in predicated upon the "limited supply of ice" available in the city for rink users, as stated in the policy;
8. The Ice Allocation Policy states that "to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of ice times, a proportion of a group's entitlement will be at non-prime time (10% at minimum)" and that "Allocations beyond a sport's entitlement will be at non-prime time";
9. The Ice Allocation Policy states that Programs for younger children are to receive "priority over older youth and adults when allocating weekday early evening ice time";



10. The Ice Allocation Policy states that the priority for ice allocation is: First Priority - Public Skating and Programs, Second Priority - Minor Sport/Children and Youth Programs, Third Priority - Adult Sport Groups, and Fourth Priority - Commercial Groups;
11. There is a "limited supply of ice" available to the residents of Vancouver and insufficient to meet the current and future needs of those wishing to access ice time for recreational and other sport and fitness purposes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation commit to the development of an Ice Rink Strategy for Vancouver and direct staff to report back, by the Fall of 2016, with a report that includes, but is not limited to, information on the current ice rink supply in Vancouver, the current and future demand for ice time, the challenges faced by various ice rink users and user groups, the potential for new ice rinks that could increase the supply of ice in the city as well as the potential for twinning existing ice rinks, along with any other information that would help to inform a Park Board Ice Rink Strategy.