
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM44.27	ACTION			Ward:All
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Reviewing Our Inventory of Arenas - by Councillor Josh Colle, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Community Development and Recreation Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Colle, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to report back with an overview of the current state of Toronto arenas and a strategy to increase access to ice-time that includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. developing an inventory and user-friendly map of all City-owned and private arenas currently operating in the City of Toronto;
 - b. reviewing the current booking system for City of Toronto arenas and the viability of developing an arena booking app;
 - c. a comparison of rates, ice-time usage, and hours of operations between arenas operated privately and those by Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Arena Boards of Management;
 - c. opportunities where City-owned land might be leveraged to build new multi-purpose community hubs that include new arenas;
 - d. the viability of installing outdoor ice rinks next to existing City-owned arenas that could be operated with existing staff and arena infrastructure;
 - e. reviewing the option for Arena Boards of Management to supervise more than one rink, including arenas currently operated by Parks, Forestry and Recreation and located in close geographic proximity to arena board-managed facilities;
 - f. opportunities to make existing City-owned arenas more energy efficient extending arena hours on weekdays at City Parks, Forestry and Recreation rinks to serve users in the morning before school and work;
 - g. increasing public "free skate" hours at City-run arenas;

- h. operational benefits and increased hours of use by covering existing outdoor ice rinks;
- i. creating a public inventory of complimentary rooms and spaces at all City-owned arenas;
- j. ways to increase community use and City of Toronto programming in these spaces including developing a plan to use ice-pads for community and City-run programs during the off-season when ice is removed;
- k. the impact of recent Hockey Canada cross- and half-ice changes programming for initiation-aged players and its impacts on arena use;
- l. an inventory of customer amenities in Toronto arenas, including pro-shops, food vending, ATM's, etc.;
- m. the availability of water fountains and water bottle filling stations at every Toronto-owned arena;
- n. the feasibility of permitting food trucks and/or carts in arena parking lots or adjacent City lands to serve arena patrons; and
- o. an audit of the availability, accessibility, and cleanliness of washrooms in City of Toronto-owned arenas the air quality in City of Toronto-owned arenas.

Summary

After many years of serving Torontonians, a growing number of City-owned arenas are nearing the end of their useful lives, becoming increasingly unable to meet the ever rising demand for ice-time in Toronto. Our City-owned arenas also often pale in comparison to newer arenas in neighbouring 905 communities that have more modern facilities, more available ice-time, and far better customer amenities to serve arena users.

In light of the demand for ice-time in the City of Toronto, it is important that a review of our inventory of arenas be conducted to seek ways to improve access and the experience for Toronto residents accessing these spaces. Such a review is also timely in light of the facilities master plan recently completed by Parks, Forestry, and Recreation.

In an effort to increase access and make ice-time more affordable, this review should consider enhancements to the user experience, possible changes to current operational models, and opportunities to create new indoor and outdoor rinks in the City of Toronto.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM44.27