

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM38.22	ACTION			Ward: All
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### **Supporting a Canadian Winter Tradition - by Councillor John Filion, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

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

### **Recommendations**

Councillor John Filion, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation to provide support matching 2020-21 service levels to community/neighbourhood groups by the end of the 2021-22 application period to ensure the success of the City's natural ice rinks, including:
  - a. the installation, removal and storage of any hockey boards on rinks where such boards were used in the 2020-21 season.
  - b. continued support with equipment, materials or staff time provided in the 2020-21 season.
  - c. consultation with the local councillor in cases where any future service changes are proposed.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation to report back to the Economic and Community Development Committee by the second quarter of 2022 on support that the City can put in place to cultivate new and existing community/neighbourhood groups willing to commit their time for the success of a natural ice rink in their community.

### **Summary**

Natural skating rinks are a winter tradition in Toronto and a fundamental Canadian winter experience. The City of Toronto has traditionally supported 30 to 40 community groups each year to flood areas in local parks. These have created spaces relied upon by neighbourhoods for community building and for keeping active during the coldest months of the year.

Levels of City support for rinks has changed over time. In 2021, a number of rink organizers expressed frustration over reduced service levels proposed by City staff. In some cases, rink teams were told that support would no longer be available for installing boards to support skating or hockey. In other cases, groups were told that their boards, traditionally stored by the

City, had exceeded their lifespan and were no longer available.

Community groups investing hours of their time in the freezing cold weather to provide low cost enhancements to City properties have a reasonable expectation of support and communication – especially when that support has been relied upon for past activities.

With changing weather patterns and increasing volatility, the City should be engaging with these community groups to establish what role it can play to make these rinks easier for volunteers, especially in the setting up or dismantling of infrastructure.

Local councillors often have regular contact with these groups and any changes to past service levels should also be considered in collaboration with their offices.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM38.22