

Request for Decision

Winter Carnival/Skating Path

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Jul 11, 2016

Report Date: Wednesday, Jun 22, 2016

Type: Managers' Reports

Resolution

WHEREAS significant interest was shown to improve winter program opportunities, Leisure Services staff trialed two pilot programs for the winter of 2016, consisting of the extension of the Ramsey Lake Skating Path and the delivery of a City of Greater Sudbury Winter Carnival;

AND WHEREAS these two pilot program enhancements were realized and deemed positive additions to winter program activities in Greater Sudbury;

AND WHEREAS a follow-up report was requested by the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury as to the outcome of the pilot programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to prepare business case options in the amount of \$12,000.00 for the Ramsey Lake Skating Path, and \$15,000.00 for the City of Greater Sudbury Winter Carnival, to be included in the deliberations for the 2017 Leisure Services Budget.

Finance Implications

If approved, a business case option will be developed for the operational costs for the Winter Carnival and the Skating Path.

Health Impact Assessment

These programs will address barriers to healthy winter activities and were intended to enhance recreational winter activities for citizens of all ages in our community. Further, these programs will encourage four season use of the newly constructed Northern Water Sports Centre.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Cindy Dent
Manager of Recreation
Digitally Signed Jun 22, 16

Health Impact Review

Cindy Dent
Manager of Recreation
Digitally Signed Jun 22, 16

Division Review

Tyler Campbell
Director of Leisure Services
Digitally Signed Jun 22, 16

Recommended by the Department

Ron Henderson
General Manager of Assets, Citizen and Leisure Services
Digitally Signed Jun 22, 16

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Jun 24, 16

Participants of the skating path and winter carnival attendance will be monitored for analysis on an annual basis.

Background

In early 2015, Leisure Services staff investigated the possibility of enhancing winter program opportunities.

Specifically, there was interest in extending the Ramsey Lake Skating Path from its current 1,300 m distance to Science North, to a total of 1,600 m ending at the newly constructed Northern Water Sports Centre.

Additionally, there was strong interest in revitalizing a winter carnival, delivered through Leisure Services Staff and with the assistance of sponsors and volunteers.

Executive Summary

Ramsey Lake Skating Path

The Ramsey Lake Skating Path has been in operation for close to 25 years and is one of the most popular winter outdoor opportunities in Greater Sudbury. Positive feedback is consistently received from skaters that use the path. The maintenance of this facility fluctuates greatly due to temperature changes, snow fall, and freezing levels of the lake. From year to year, the facility requires varying degrees of flooding and snow clearing maintenance. Candu Construction is the current contractor who creates and maintains the skating path on a yearly basis. In order to extend the skating path to the Northern Water Sports Centre, creation and maintenance of an extra 300 m would be required. With an annual operating budget of \$40,000.00 for the skating path, it was determined that an additional \$12,000.00 would be required for the requested extension.

Winter Carnival

To initiate the process, a winter carnival planning committee was struck. Synergies with existing initiatives such as the Pond Hockey tournament, Walden Winter Carnival, and the Healthy Kids Community Challenge (HKCC) were quickly identified. Aligning with the dates of the Pond Hockey tournament on Lake Ramsey and collaborating with the HKCC theme of “Run, Jump, Play Every Day”. As part of the HKCC initiative, a community event had been identified through the grant submission. It was quickly decided to fund the event through this grant and if successful, work towards sustainable funding in the years following.

The “Snow Day” theme was “Run, Jump, Play on a Winter Day” and the event occurred on February 6th, 2016. Initially planned to occur on Ramsey Lake in conjunction with the Pond Hockey on the Rock tournament, ice conditions deteriorated such that Pond Hockey organizers were forced to cancel their event. Carnival organizers defaulted to an alternative plan and held the event at the James Jerome Sports Complex. Activities included snow shoeing, skating, horse-drawn wagon rides, petting zoo, ice fishing, hiking, outdoor zumba, quinze making, snow drawing, aboriginal storytelling, and much more. Shuttle transportation was provided from York Street parking lots, and healthy snacks were provided through a healthy food cook-off. Free sleds, helmets and equipment for activities were provided for loan upon entry. This event was planned as a financially accessible event, whereby there were no fees for activities or food.

Attendance estimates are approximately 1,500 to 2,000 people and the site was buzzing with activity from happy children and families from start to finish. The event was considered a resounding success and the collaborative effort of community partners, volunteers and staff were a large contribution to its success.

Final budget figures to operate the event on an annual basis is approximately \$15,000.00. Included in these figures are all activity costs and charge backs for contractors or wages for Parks Services staff and equipment.

Conclusion

In early 2015, Leisure Services staff were tasked to investigate the possibility of two winter program enhancements: the extension of the Ramsey Lake Skating Path and the creation of a City of Greater Sudbury Winter Carnival. Council members also asked that staff report back to Council in mid 2016 to bring the results of these two initiatives. Both of these program enhancements were completed as pilot programs, and while there were challenges with both weather and venue, the pilot programs were deemed successful community enhancements. The total cost for both events would be \$27,000.00 and would result in a direct municipal levy cost.