

December 6, 2021

Dear Mayor Crombie, Members of Council and Executive City Staff members,

Re: Agenda Item # 11.2, Outdoor Artificial Ice Facilities for City Parks

Our community finds it a shame that our bcc rink, attached, had to be demolished due to the design considerations of the new BCC, as decided by the City in late 2019.

Over the past 5 years, we have all learned more about the community significance of outdoor refrigerated and covered ice. Mississauga, Brampton, and Toronto. See attached re: Gore Meadows.

We would ask that the City update their subject thoughts using the consultants if needed, to provide us with the following: (Our objective is to obtain the best cost-effective recommendation that supports our City, local and experienced based needs).

- 1) Outdoor sustainable ice, as evidenced by the former BCC and the 60+ rinks in TO and Brampton, when available for free, is well used and appreciated by our diverse community.
- 2) During Covid restrictions, shinny hockey had to be cancelled. In normal times when available, shinny created a bcc outdoor utilization rate of 80%. Despite shinny cancellation, and limited numbers control, the evidence shows a very positive utilization rate for the rink. There is no reason to expect a future decline in this popularity.
- 3) More than ever, outdoor covered rinks, with the smooth concrete surface, are now used all year for sports such as ball hockey, pickle ball, basketball, adult fitness classes, and other community gathering events. (ref. Brampton/Tor.).
- 4) "Lifecycle" needs to be understood before building a new facility. in regard to BCC, the galvanized steel frame and an. cover was strong and needed no major repair. The refrigeration system and floor were well maintained as always by the city. The old boards needed replacing at \$60k but this does not mean that "end of lifecycle" is near. City maintenance records on bcc should be checked and compared with comparable facilities in Brampton and Toronto. Then, we can decide what's best for a future facility.
- 5) A covered facility means longer seasonal usage and all year enhanced "sportspad" outdoor activity. The BCC costs to refrigerate, and the savings based on less snow removal should be compared and considered. Lighting and boards are important for extended/expanded daily usage and for safety. Kids learning to skate need good visuals to avoid mishaps. The boards are important for early balance control as many new skaters do not have a hand- holding parent "on hand".

6) Revenue. Although bcc outdoor was paid for by funds raised in the local community; and intended for free usage only, revenues were positively generated. May to November ball hockey and summer day camp revenues are on record with the City. These should be quantified and compared similar facilities in Brampton and Toronto.

7) New Ideas to promote overall hockey usage? We have 25 indoor ice pads. MHL charges eg \$600 per player for one 50min. practice and e.g. one exciting game/week with 5-8min of ice time per player. Worthwhile, but hockey kids want more ice time per week. MHL would benefit from more kids getting more skills at a younger age...e.g., another 1-3hrs a week for free...also means more productive MHL practice time for kids....and more opportunity for girls at age 5-10yrs old, to get started on developing their hockey skills, in perhaps a less "intimidating" environment.

If planned correctly, Outdoor Covered Rinks are likely compatible with the needs MHL organized hockey. Consulting with MHL/Brampton/Tor. house league hockey would seem appropriate on this.

Overall, we would like to see better progress by the City on this initiative. Hopefully, the insight and information needed above can be obtained and consolidated by Q2. Then, we would have a solid recommendation as to actual costs, location and the facility description proposed. Our local community as represented by AHHRA, RHA and others, would look forward to a reasonable plan for an outdoor, refrigerated, covered rink/all year community facility.

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