



MEMBER MOTION

Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-law

Meeting:	Council
Meeting Date:	February 9, 2022
Subject/Title:	Outdoor Ice Recreation Expansion
Submitted by:	Councillor Muench

WHEREAS The City of Richmond Hill promotes outdoor activity and recreation this winter with three outdoor public skating facilities and those facilities are so popular they are over capacity; and

WHEREAS members of the public have communicated to and with members of council for more outdoor recreational ice locations; and

WHEREAS the City of Richmond Hill issued a public statement on January 4, 2021 to advise everyone to stay off the lakes, rivers, ponds and stormwater ponds as the ice may not be safe; and

WHEREAS Richmond Hill had at least 1 serious storm water pond safety incident in 2020; and

WHEREAS outdoor ice skating and hockey is a proud Canadian way of life and enjoyed embraced by the young, old and families; and

WHEREAS we are in a COVID time where outdoor recreational is a must; and

WHEREAS many municipalities including Brampton, London, Toronto, Innisfil and Cobourg have prioritized, engaged, advocated and promoted outdoor public skating; including during our COVID period.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

1. Staff investigate and prepare a report for Council to expand our outdoor ice recreation stock by creating a list for recreation skating with the appropriate budget. This list and budget must also take into consideration, logistics and protocols for at least 1 additional outdoor ice recreation in each of the 6 Richmond Hill Wards for the 2022 / 2023 winter period by July 1, 2022; and

2. Staff and members of Council communicate to members of the Richmond Hill community the need to have community participation, leadership and any and all assistance to assist in the execution and support of outdoor of a vibrant outdoor ice recreation utilization; and
3. Staff in the report to Council have options to have community leadership and participation opportunities similar to our “community club” relationships; and
4. Staff also in the report to Council include the support of private lands to offer outdoor ice recreation in support of our efforts with guidelines, logistics and liability support; and
5. Staff in their report include an area for insurance cost for the city and for the public participation of outdoor ice recreation management, whereby the opportunity and discussion can evolve where members of the public can manage the outdoor ice without liability to the city and protect the public while allowing outdoor ice stock to be increased; and
6. Mill pond ice policy of 12 inch minimum for ice thickness be evaluated to in hopes to get more mill pond ice utilization with safety first protocols not being jeopardized; and
7. A target of a minimum of 10 community “leaders” or “volunteers” must be supporting the outdoor ice recreation in writing; and
8. Staff, provide in the report to Council the opportunities for fundraising including signing options at outdoor ice recreation to help mitigate the cost of providing the facilities while minimizing the cost burden impacting our municipality. The report should include necessary information on how and what is needed in our bylaws to accommodate the capacity of our city to provide increased outdoor recreation facilities; and
9. The staff report should also include any possibility to have expansion of pathways and trails for outdoor ice skating; and
10. The staff report includes creating a committee to include community and local Councillors to support outdoor ice programs and participation.

Moved by: Councillor Muench

Seconded by: