

Memo



Date: April 19, 2010
File: 1853-20
To: City Manager
From: Manager, Sport & Facility Programs
Subject: Proposed Junior B Team in Rutland Arena

Recommendation:

THAT Council direct staff to continue to work with the various stakeholders to come to a final agreement allowing a Junior B franchise to operate out of Rutland Arena as outlined in the report from the Manager, Sport & Facilities dated April 19, 2010;

AND THAT staff report back to Council with an update upon completion of a Facility Use and Rental Contract Agreement.

Purpose:

To obtain Councils endorsement to allow a Junior B franchise to operate out of Rutland Arena.

Background:

Staff was approached on March 10, 2010 by a local business team exploring the possibility of relocating a Junior B Hockey franchise (Chase Chiefs) from the Kootney International Junior Hockey League (KIJHL) to Kelowna and playing out of Rutland Arena. The KIJHL consists of 3 divisions and 18 teams in total. Our understanding of the pertinent aspects of this proposal has progressed to a point where staff felt it appropriate and timely to update Council of progress made to date.

In exploring the viability of such a franchise operating out of Rutland Arena our initial review included:

- An examination of the ice requirements for a Junior B Team to be included in the existing ice schedule.
- Identification of agreements and contractual arrangements required to allow this franchise to move to Kelowna.

Ice Schedule

Staff has investigated the impact this team will have on the overall ice schedule in Rutland Arena. This investigation was based on day time practice ice and a 25 home

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game schedule on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday nights. Preliminary schedule indicates the Junior B Team will play 3-5 home games per month.

- Based on current use schedule, the provision of day time ice for practices is available. Allocating this ice for Junior B practices will eliminate its availability for one-of bookings (school classes).
- In order to accommodate the proposed game schedule current use patterns would need to be changed. The main groups impacted include Kelowna Minor Hockey and adult hockey groups.
 - Kelowna Minor Hockey (KMH) has provided the City with a letter endorsing this program and releasing 75 hours of ice time for their home games (3 hour game slots).
 - The night the Junior B plays will determine the impact on adult user groups. This will vary from no impact on adult user groups to potentially effecting two groups. We are currently in discussions with RG Properties regarding a process on accommodating displaced adult groups in other local facilities.

Contractual Obligations

There is a pre-existing agreement between the City of Kelowna and Kelowna Rockets Hockey Enterprises Ltd. (Kelowna Rockets) that provides the Kelowna Rockets first right of refusal for another Junior Hockey Team or a Professional Hockey Team to operate out of any of the City owned and operated facilities during the term of the Kelowna Rockets/RG Properties lease at Prospera Place. While discussions are ongoing between the Kelowna Rockets and Junior B Team with the intent of completing a formal agreement, there has been approval in principle reached that would allow an application to continue for a Junior B Team to operate out of Rutland Arena.

The ownership team has recently informed the City that the Chase Chiefs have received preliminary approval of the governing body of the league to move to Kelowna.

In addition to the above, there are a number of operational issues that need to be addressed. Initial discussions have taken place on the following items:

- Rental contract and operating agreement including ice fees, dressing room access, storage space, game day operations, building advertising opportunities, alcohol service during games, insurance, etc.
- Facility requirements of the KIJHL including game web casts, press box and required infrastructure
- Impact on arena operations and additional resources required

We are in the process of working with all the various stakeholders to address these and other issues in working towards a final agreement.

Internal Circulation: General Manager, Community Services; Director, Recreation & Cultural Services; Director, Community & Media Relations; Manager, Building Services

Existing Policy:

- Bylaw #9609-Recreation & Cultural Services Fees and Charges

- Recreation & Cultural Services Conditions of Use & Allocation Policies Manual for Recreation Facilities, Theatre, Sportsfields and Parks
- City of Kelowna/Kelowna Rockets Agreement
- Kelowna Multi-Purpose Facility Agreement (Prospera Place)

External Agency/Public Comments: This proposal has been reviewed and endorsed by the Arena Advisory Committee (AAC) at their April 20, 2010 meeting.

KMH is very supportive of this proposal as they see it as an extension of their minor hockey program. From the minor hockey perspective, it gives local players another opportunity to continue to play at a higher level while staying at home.

Some concerns raised by the AAC included additional pressures on a limited ice inventory and reducing available ice for one-of school bookings.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations: Any additional staff and infrastructure costs related to the operation will be the responsibility of the Junior B Team.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Personnel Implications

Legal/Statutory Authority

Technical Requirements

Legal/statutory Procedural Requirements

Communications Considerations

Alternate Recommendation

Submitted by:



D. Backmeyer, Manager, Sport & Facility Programs

Approved for inclusion:



J. Gabriel, Director, Recreation & Cultural Services

CC: General Manager, Community Services
Director, Real Estate & Building Services
Director, Community & Media Relations