



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: February 21, 2017

SUBJECT: Ice Allocation – Request for Expansion of Hockey League by Thornhill Community Hockey League and Markham Islanders

PREPARED BY: Mary Creighton, Director Recreation Services

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Report entitled Ice Allocation – Request for Expansion of Hockey League by Thornhill Community Hockey League and Markham Islanders be received for information; and
- 2) That Council approve staff recommendation to not support the request by Thornhill Community Hockey League (TCHL) to expand to include a competitive hockey program; and
- 3) That Council approve staff recommendation to not support the request by Markham Islanders Hockey League to expand to include a house league hockey program.
- 4) And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

To provide Council information regarding request(s) received from Thornhill Community hockey League to expand to include a Competitive program and Markham Islanders to expand to include a House League program.

BACKGROUND:

As per the Council approved Ice Allocation Policy requests by existing leagues and associations are not permitted to expand without Recreation Services and/or Council approval. Any requests to initiate a new organization must be submitted to the City in writing for approval (18 months) in advance of any ice being approved for allocation.

Currently the City of Markham- Recreation Services, Facility Allocation office coordinates the distribution of 670 hours of allocated ice weekly in 10 ice pads to 12 community user groups, numerous private rentals, public skating and recreation programs.

Increased demand for ice by all groups created a need to revise the policy. On February 16th, 2016 Council approved a revised allocation process which specifically addressed:

- A formula that allocated all ice
- Defined by category % of total ice use

Policy Principles:

- Allocations will be handled in an open and transparent manner.
- An Allocation Policy will ensure the distribution of City facilities in a fair and equitable manner, respecting issues of accessibility.
- Allocations will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- Groups meeting Markham residency requirements will receive priority.
- Children/Youth should receive preference of hours when allocating time.
- Where facility demand exceeds supply, the City may have to limit the emergence of new user groups.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Recreation staff have received a request from the Markham Islanders to expand their program to include a house league component. Currently Markham Islanders is a member of the Greater Toronto Hockey League and is allocated time in the competitive youth category.

A request has also been received by staff in Recreation from Thornhill Community Hockey League to expand their program to include a competitive youth category. Currently Thornhill Community Hockey League is a member of the Greater Toronto Hockey League and is allocated time in the Community Youth Hockey category,

The following is a list of the Community Ice Groups which receive allocated ice time on an annual basis by category.

Category - % of ice time assigned
Community Youth Hockey 29.5% (198.5 hrs)
Markham Minor Hockey
Markham Stouffville Girls House League
Markham Ringette
Unionville Minor Hockey
Thornhill Community Hockey League*
Community Youth Figure skating 14% (95 hrs)
Unionville Skating Club
Markham Skating Club
Thornhill Skating Club
Markham Speed Skating
Competitive Youth 27.0% (181 hrs)
Markham Stouffville Girls Rep League
Markham Waxers
Markham Islanders
City Programs 7% (45 hrs)
Public Access 6% (38.5 hrs)
**Competitive Jr. Hockey 1% (7 hrs)
**Community Adult Hockey/Rentals 13% (91 hrs)
**Commercial 1% (7 hrs)
**Available Ice 1% (7.5hrs)

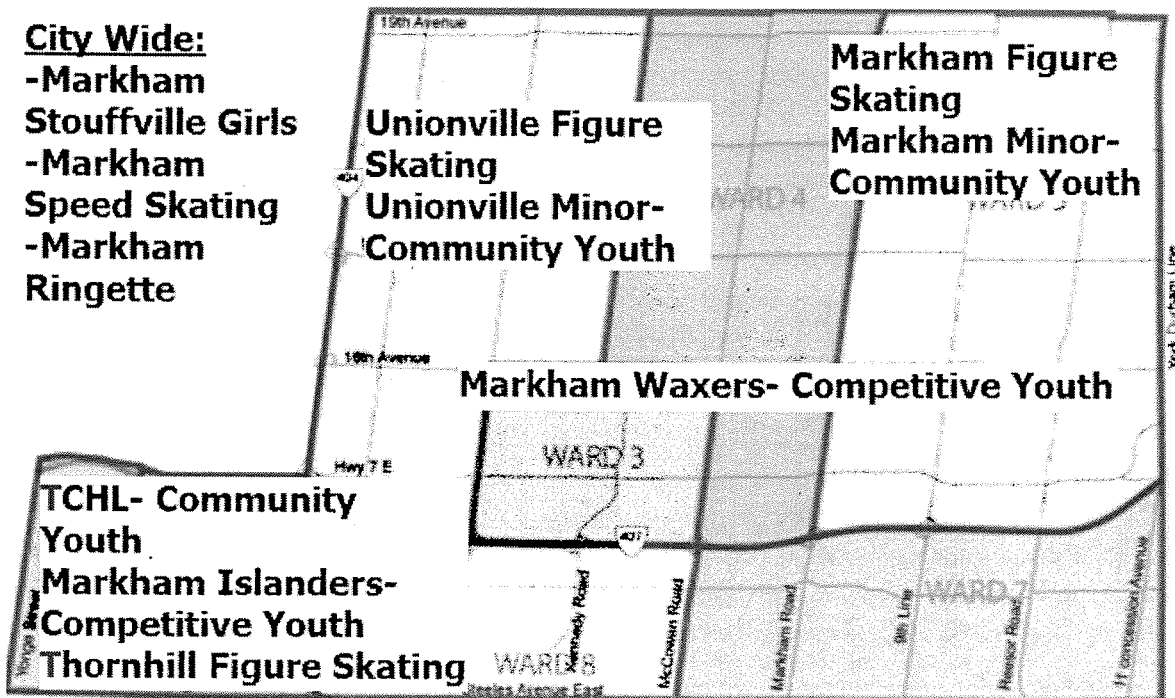
2016/2017 Allocation

Staff worked with all groups during the implementation of the revised policy. Staff continues to be aware that we are still not meeting the needs of all the groups. Both groups, TCHL and Markham Islanders continue to purchase time at private ice rinks to meet their operational needs as do the Markham Waxers and Markham Minor Hockey.

Supporting expansion of existing clubs to increase their mandates to include additional categories is not viable and would put pressure on all existing groups as this will only increase the sharing of ice within each category with other ice user groups.

As well if expansion is considered of either the Markham Islanders and/or Thornhill Community Hockey League this would be a duplication of service within the Thornhill Community.

The following map shows the distribution of Ice User Groups in Markham by category. The map demonstrates that within each community (Markham, Unionville and Thornhill) that we have an equal distribution of Community Youth Hockey and Competitive Hockey within each of these areas. The map also demonstrates that each community has a Figure Skating Program. Ice sports that service City wide need are Girls Community Youth Hockey/Competitive Youth, Speed Skating and Ringette.



Staff are recommending that the expansion request by Thornhill Community Hockey League and Markham Islanders not be supported.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS:

The City of Markham is currently updating the Integrated Leisure Master Plan (ILMP) which will focus in more detail on the need for municipal ice rinks. Recreation staff have outreached to various 'ice' users to assess their current and future needs in preparation for detailed review of ice as a component of the ILMP update. Discussions have also occurred with private providers.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Not applicable

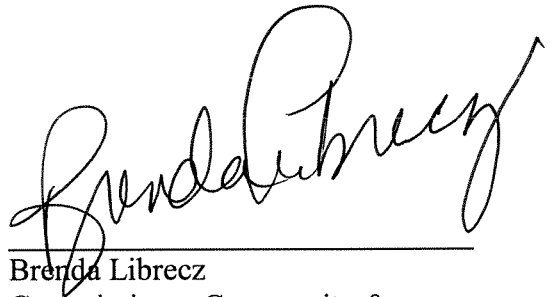
BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not applicable

RECOMMENDED BY:



Mary Creighton
Director, Recreation Services



Brenda Librecz
Commissioner Community &
Fire Services

ATTACHMENTS: