



Report to: Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday April 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Approval for Staff to Attend International Sport Event
PREPARED BY: Mary Creighton - 7515

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That Report “Approval for Staff to Attend International Sport Event” be received by Council; and
- 2) That Council approve Janis Cookson, Sr. Manager Sport Development, attendance at the 2018 World Table Tennis Championships in Sweden, April 26th – April 30th 2018; and
- 3) That the cost of the airfare be funded through the Recreation Services Training and Conference budget with the remaining costs covered by Table Tennis Canada; and
- 4) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

To seek Council’s approval for the Sr. Manager, Sport Development to attend the upcoming 2018 World Table Tennis Championships in Sweden to continue to foster International exposure of the Markham Pan Am Centre and develop relationships with potential International leagues.

BACKGROUND:

The Markham Pan Am Centre is the home to Table Tennis Canada’s High Performance Training Centre. Table Tennis Canada moved to the Pan Am Centre in 2015 as a result of the legacy of these Games and the strong relationship we developed as a result of hosting the 2015 Pan Am/Para Pan Am events. The relationship between ourselves and Table Tennis Canada positions the City well to play host to numerous Table Tennis events at the National and International levels.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

At a recent meeting with Tony Kiesenhofer – CEO, Table Tennis Canada and Janis Cookson – Sr. Manager, Sport Development there was a discussion that Mr. Kiesenhofer believes it would be beneficial for Janis Cookson as the Manager of Sport Development to attend the upcoming 2018 World Championships in Sweden. He outlined the following benefits:

- Opportunity to meet with the event organizers – back of house and field of play access in order to observe International hosting event best practices of a World Championship level event. To enhance existing technical and operational skills for hosting international events.

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- Opportunity to meet with the principals from the Shanghai Table Tennis Academy, who are seriously considering coming to North America and into Markham Pan Am Centre
 - Opportunity to meet with the principals of the Professional Table Tennis League, who have expressed a strong desire to have the league played out of the Markham Pan Am Centre

Mr. Kiesenhofer feels Markham's presence would demonstrate our support of not only the sport, but of these potential International opportunities and put a "face" to the Markham Pan Am Centre.

Table Tennis Canada would arrange for full accreditation (including meals) and will also cover accommodations. Effectively, the only cost to the City of Markham would be airfare that will be close to \$2,000, including taxes. The travel dates to attend the competition would be Thursday, April 26 – Monday, April 30, 2018.

As per the Business Expense and Conference policy, travel outside of North America requires approval by Council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This request to support the airfare at an approximate cost of \$2,000 will be funded through the Recreation Department Training and Conference budget.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

Not Applicable

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The recently approved "A Vision for Sport Development" outlines as one of the key objectives the goal to support a Sport Tourism Strategy.

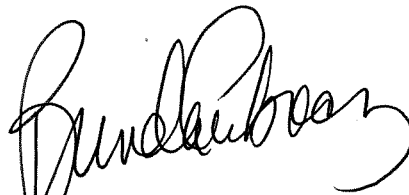
BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Mary Creighton
Director, Recreation Services



Brenda J. Librecz
Commissioner, Community and Fire
Services