



To: Edina City Council

Agenda Item #: VIII.A.

From: Ann Kattreh, Parks and Recreation Director

Action

Discussion

Date: July 16, 2013

Information

Subject: Priority Use Policy for Braemar Arena

Action Requested:

Approval of Priority Use Policy for Braemar Arena including ice allocation recommendation

Information / Background:

Braemar Arena has been the home to the Braemar City of Lakes Figure Skating Club (BCLFSC) and the Edina Hockey Association (EHA) since opening in 1967. Over the years programs and demand for ice has grown and the demand for prime season ice has also consistently been stretched. Braemar Arena is currently able to meet approximately 94% of ice needs for BCLFSC, but less than 50% of the ice needs for the EHA.

Braemar Arena has operated without a priority access agreement. Currently, Braemar Arena is the only facility that is utilized by youth athletic associations that operates without a user priority access agreement.

At the August 21, 2012 City Council meeting in a discussion about User Fees, the following motion passed:

Member Bennett made a motion, seconded by Member Sprague, to approve the User Fees Working Group recommendations with the following revisions: "1. Per participant user fee, a. Without further information on variable field maintenance costs, We support the current..." I.b. "We recommend staff annually document collect variable maintenance costs..." and, "3. Youth athletic associations that use enterprise facilities, a. Since a second priority use document was recently created for the Edina Aquatic Center, we recommend creating a third priority use document for Braemar Arena. ~~This document should recognize Braemar City of Lakes Figure Skating Club as priority use youth associations, and include the Edina Hockey Association.~~ This document would include..."

Ayes: Bennett, Brindle, Sprague, Swenson, Hovland

In addition to the City Council, the EHA is requesting a priority access agreement be put in place. The EHA is also requesting a proportionate distribution of ice related to the percentage of residency by both groups. For example, the average Edina hockey player receives just over 1 hour per week at Braemar Arena, and spends the other 3-4 hours per week at other arenas around the metro area. The average figure skater receives nearly 4 hours per week at Braemar. The Edina Hockey Association questions why residents of

Edina are traveling throughout the metro area for scheduled ice, while nonresident members of the BCLFSC are traveling to Braemar Arena for all of their scheduled ice.

Recommended Priority Use Policy for Braemar Arena

Priority #1 – All City sponsored activities, programs, classes and open skate times. Reservations for City functions may be taken at any time for any date. City functions may pre-empt lower priority reservations at the discretion of the Park Director. There will be no rental fees charged for City reservations.

Priority #2 – Edina High School Boys and Girls Hornets Hockey Team.

Priority #3 – Recognized Edina Youth Athletic Associations.

Priority #4 – Recognized organizations/leagues that have consecutively rented ice from the City of Edina on good terms. (This would include BCLFSC.)

Priority #5 – New Non-Recognized Resident or Non-Resident Hockey and/or Figure Skating programs will be allowed rental if there is availability after the above mentioned groups have put their request in to Braemar Arena. It will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Edina youth athletic association residency requirement is at 90% residency and adjusted to 60% for the Edina Swim Club. Currently, BCLFSC has 40% Edina residents. Even though BCLFSC does not meet the residency requirement to be considered a recognized association, the BCLFSC is an important part of Braemar Arena and the City of Edina.

Currently ice distribution between the EHA and BCLFSC is disproportionately allocated, therefore staff would like to continue to schedule BCLFSC in a manner that is more proportionate or working towards proportionate for all youth athletic associations utilizing the arena. EHA currently rents 2000 hours per season at Braemar and approximately 2500 hours per season outside of Edina. BCLFSC currently rents 700 hours per season and approximately 50 hours per prime season outside of Edina. The EHA currently has 1323 members, 99% of which are Edina residents or attend school in Edina. The BCLFSC currently has 128 members, 40% of which are Edina residents.

Options for ice allocation are as follows:

- I. Continue to schedule ice as it is currently scheduled. (30.75 purchased hours/week, excluding ice resurfacing time)

Current Hours

Club:

Monday - Friday	3:00 - 6:50 p.m.
Saturdays	7:30 - 10:20 a.m.
Sundays	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Synchronized Skating:	
Monday	7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Tuesday	7:00 - 7:50 p.m.
Wednesday	7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Sunday	11:40 a.m. - 4:25 p.m.

2. Continue to schedule 30.75 hours for BCLFSC, however rotate times to share some less desirable hours.

Sample hours

Club:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	3:00 – 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	3:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Saturdays	7:30 – 10:20 a.m.
	(rotating to include morning, afternoon and evening hours)
Sundays	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
	(rotating to include morning, afternoon and evening hours)

Synchronized Skating:

Mondays	7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Tuesdays	6:00 - 6:50 p.m.
Wednesdays	7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Sundays	11:40 a.m. - 4:25 p.m.
	(all rotating to include Friday and Saturday evenings)

3. Continue to schedule BCLFSC for 20 hours/week and adjust the scheduled times to share the less desirable hours. This would eliminate the designated synchronized team skating hours.

Sample Hours

Club:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	3:00 - 5:50 p.m.
Wednesday	3:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Saturdays	7:30 - 10:20 a.m.
	(rotating to include morning, afternoon and evening hours)
Sundays	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
	(rotating to include morning, afternoon and evening hours)

4. Provide a schedule of proportionate number of ice hours by comparing the number of BCLFSC skaters to EHA skaters. Based on the number of skaters this past season, proportionate hours for the BSCLFSC would be 1.86 hours per participant or 238 hours or 10.8 hours per week from Oct. 1 through March 31.

In addition, for any hours lost at Braemar, staff would work with BCLFSC to secure ice at other facilities currently used by EHA. Staff would also work with BCLFSC to see where the contingency of non-residents are from and try to offer a day in a community that would be closer to their residency. Staff would also work with BCLFSC to best determine a location that would be supportive to figure skating programs.

Staff recommends utilizing Option #3 which would reduce BCLFSC's hours by 10.75 hours per week or 201 hours per season. This recognizes the longstanding relationship with the BCLFSC, but also provides the EHA with priority scheduling and a few additional ice hours. BCLFSC would maintain 71% of their hours at Braemar for a total of 500 hours per season.