



Corporation of the Township of Brock

Staff Report to the Mayor and Members of Council

From: Paul Lagrandeur

Position: Director of Public Works & Operations

Title / Subject: Outdoor Skating Rinks

Date of Report: January 18, 2022

Date of Meeting: January 24, 2022

Report No: 2022-OP-002

1.0 Issue / Origin

Request from Regional Councillor Smith for a report regarding the creation of an outdoor skating rink in front of the grandstands at Sunderland Fairgrounds at the January 10, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting.

2.0 Background

With COVID still rampant, restrictions have closed our arenas and have sparked the conversation regarding outdoor rinks. Members of public have gone to ponds to create skating areas for outdoor activities. The public have reached out to the Municipality, indirectly, to seek out the feasibility of outdoor rinks

3.0 Analysis

There is a natural low-lying area in front of the grandstands at the Sunderland Fairgrounds. The area would need to be graded and have some side support to be able to flood the area for more space and better ice for skating. The main challenge facing staff would be obtaining an adequate water supply as water to the area is currently shut off for the season. Other challenges would involve staffing for an outdoor rink with the uncertainty of the reopening dates for the arenas. In addition, it would be beneficial to include local volunteer organizations in discussions and incorporate their involvement, if at all possible.

4.0 Related Policies / Procedures

Attached is correspondence from our insurance providers.

- Sample Signage from the Town of Ajax
- Risk Management considerations for Outdoor Rinks

- Town of Whitby Report: Volunteer Outdoor Ice rink Program and Policy Pilot at Kinsmen Park
- Municipality of Clarington Report: Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks

5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment

Without a proper plan in place, financial assessment would be difficult to predict.

6.0 Climate Change Impacts

7.0 Communications

8.0 Conclusion

To create a flooded area in front of the grandstands at the Sunderland Fairgrounds is feasible. However, staff have concerns with moving forward to create an outdoor skating area in a hurried manner without a proper plan which would include staffing, maintenance and any liability issues. On this basis, staff suggest deferring this matter to the 2022/23 winter season in order to allow the creation of a fully researched plan and an opportunity to have discussions with local volunteer organizations in order to consider the creation of outdoor rinks in all three towns.

9.0 Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report 2022-OP-002, Outdoor Skating rinks be received.