

ARENA ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 16, 2021

8:00 A.M.

Roll Call

Present: Chairman Nick Wallner, Mike Gfroerer; Joe Farrelly; Dan Arndt; Chris Brown; Councilor Gail Matson; Councilor Zandra Rice-Hawkins; General Services Director Chip Chesley; Public Properties Superintendent Jay Burgess; Arena & Properties Manager Jeff Bardwell

Absent: Gerry Blanchette; Jeff Cain

Guest: Concord Residents Deodonne Dustin Bhattarai & Amy Girouard

Meeting called to order at 8:05 AM

Public Skate Changes

Jeff Bardwell updated the committee on a change to the public skating policy. Staff was approached by a parent that wanted to use a wheelchair on the ice for their child. The current policy does not allow wheelchairs on the ice so an alternate time was offered to accommodate the request. The parent did not want an alternate time they wanted to go during the public skating session. Staff checked with the city administration and the decision came back to allow the use of wheelchairs on the ice during public skate sessions. Deodonne Dustin Bhattarai & Amy Girouard emailed suggested language for the updated policy. Staff incorporated that language and presented to the committee as the recommended change. Discussion took place on listing adaptive type equipment, the committee recommended not to list. The committee recommended to send the proposed policy back to legal for their endorsement. Mike Gfroerer made a motion to send the proposed policy to legal for their review, Gail Matson seconded, motion passed unanimously.

FY2023 Rates

The committee reviewed and discussed the rate study. Jeff Bardwell distributed staff recommendation for rates for FY2023. Discussion on proposed rates took place, Zandra Rice-Hawkins made a motion to accept the proposed rates, Chris Brown 2nd, there was no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Skate Board Committee

Jeff Bardwell updated the committee on the final skate board park meeting that was held December 7th. The skate board group at this time wants to stay in Kiwanis Park. The current foot print of the skate park is 15,000 SF and they would like to have a 30,000 SF skate park. Discussion took place on how that would fit into the Kiwanis Park. Nick Wallner suggested the Jennings Drive property should be explored as a location. Joe Farrelly asked if there was a map with all city owned property that could be reviewed for alternate locations, Jay Burgess will check. Mike Gfroerer asked where the 30,000 SF size came from, Jay Burgess explained this the skate board's group request based on other skate parks they visit. The master plan will help determine the size as there are other factors such as the arena, boathouse, parking, the Greenway Trail, etc.

Project Updates

Jeff Bardwell updated the committee that the arena received an energy rebate check for \$15,991 for the HWH replacement project. Staff has received and is reviewing the engineering specifications for the compressor replacement project from American Refrigeration Company. An RFP will go out in January with work planned for the summer of 2022.

Jay Burgess is meeting with RPAC December 16th to request concurrence that the Arena addition plan that is completed be accepted into the masterplan and to move the funding for the master plan up from FY2024 to FY2023. If RPAC endorses the motion Jay Burgess will draft a report to council.

Gail Matson made a motion to move to a nonpublic session, Mike Gfroerer 2nd, motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Meeting entered nonpublic session at 9:01 AM.

Meeting entered back to public session at 9:42 AM

Gail Matson made a motion to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session, Dan Arndt 2nd, motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Dan Arndt made a motion to adjourn; Chris Brown 2nd, motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey R. Bardwell, Arena & Properties Manager

Everett Arena FY2023 Proposed Rates
(starts 7/1/2022)

RATE - ICE	FY20	FY21	Adopted FY22	% Change FY21 - FY22	Proposed FY23	% Change FY22 - FY23	Note
Ice Hourly Prime	265.00	265.00	270.00	1.9%	275.00	1.8%	Increase
Ice Hourly Non Prime	194.00	194.00	198.00	2.0%	203.00	2.5%	Increase
High School Game Rate	275.00	275.00	280.00	1.8%	285.00	1.8%	Increase
NHIAA Tournament Rate	340.00	340.00	345.00	1.4%	350.00	1.4%	Increase
Public Skating ages 14 and over	5.00	6.00	6.00	0.0%	6.00	0.0%	same
Public Skating ages 13 and under	5.00	5.00	6.00	16.7%	6.00	0.0%	same
Adult Stick Practice	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.0%	10.00	0.0%	same
Youth Stick Practice	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.0%	10.00	0.0%	same
Ice Skate Rental	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.0%	6.00	16.7%	Increase
Skate Sharpening	6.00	6.00	6.00	0.0%	7.00	14.3%	Increase
RATE - OFF ICE	FY20	FY21	Adopted FY22	% Change FY21 - FY22	Proposed FY23	% Change FY22 - FY23	Note
Daily Show Rate For Profit	1,995.00	1,995.00	2,225.00	10.3%	2,275.00	2.2%	Increase
Daily Show Rate Non Profit			1,995.00	100.0%	1,995.00	0.0%	same
Daily Show Rate For Tent at East End of Building			450.00	100.0%	450.00	0.0%	same
Outside Event Rate For Profit			1,500.00	100.0%	1,500.00	0.0%	same
Outside Event Rate Non Profit			1,250.00	100.0%	1,250.00	0.0%	same
% of Alcohol Sales (For non-profit events that obtain a 1 day license)							
Hourly Non Ice	80.00	80.00	80.00	0.0%	85.00	5.9%	Increase
Parking Lot Vendor 12 month	2,015.00	2,025.00	2,025.00	0.0%	2,050.00	1.2%	Increase
Parking Lot Vendor 6 month	1,075.00	1,095.00	1,095.00	0.0%	1,125.00	2.7%	Increase
Parking Lot Vendor 1 Day	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.0%	150.00	0.0%	same
Parking Lot Christmas Tree Sales	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.0%	5,250.00	4.8%	minimum Bid
Parking - Car per day	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.0%	5.00	0.0%	same
Parking - Bus per day	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.0%	20.00	0.0%	same
Public Skating (Roller)	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.0%	5.00	0.0%	same
Skate Rental (Roller)	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.0%	5.00	0.0%	same
Roller Skating Birthday Party	125.00	150.00	150.00	0.0%	150.00	0.0%	same

Everett Arena Advisory Committee

Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Road
Concord, New Hampshire, 03301

Submitted via email from Deodonne Dustin Bhattarai and Amy Girouard
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December 16, 2021

RE: Public Skate Changes

Dear Committee Members,

We would like to thank the Everett Arena staff and the members of this Advisory Committee in moving the public skating policy towards a more inclusive one. This fundamental change in philosophy will ensure that all skaters, regardless of ability, have the opportunity to enjoy public skating sessions. We would also like to encourage you to further review the language of the revised policy as there may be unintended consequences in the revisions which may be problematic for the arena, its staff, and the public.

Specifically, our concerns include the following:

- 1. The Proposed Revised Policy (the policy) language is discriminatory.** The policy says that the purpose of public skate is '...staying upright without the use of any skate aid and be able to propel oneself under their own power'. Anyone who cannot stay upright or propel independently does not fulfill the purpose of, and is in practice, not allowed to participate in public skate unless they fall into the new wheelchair exception.
- 2. Even with the new wheelchair exception, the policy continues to discriminate against those who may use a different assistive device including an adaptive or traditional stroller.** Although the policy language carves out wheelchairs as an exception, not all people with mobility impairments require or have access to a wheelchair. Therefore, adaptive strollers and other assistive devices/adaptive equipment are still subject to the policy's requirements of having to stay upright and propel independently.

For example:

- Ally does not use a wheelchair. She enjoyed public skate while in her adaptive stroller. Under the proposed revised policy, Ally does not qualify under the 'wheelchair exception' and is subject to the general policy language which requires her to stay upright and propel independently. Therefore, given the text of this policy, Ally would not be allowed to participate in public skate.
- While recently enjoying public skate, we were approached by a mother whose young son had experienced a stroke and no longer walked. She was so excited to see us there and expressed interest in bringing her son to public skate in his stroller (they are in a protracted battle to get him a wheelchair). As currently drafted, this child would not qualify under the 'wheelchair exception', would be subject to the general policy language which now explicitly bans 'baby strollers' and would not be allowed to participate in public skate.

The policy itself should apply to all participants. People with disabilities who use wheelchairs or other adaptive equipment should not be specifically exempted from the general policy but rather, included in it.

3. **There are various wheelchair-type therapeutic devices that a person with a disability might use, making enforcement of the policy unnecessarily intrusive.** Arena staff should not be expected to be able to identify each assistive device used by participants. To comply with the proposed language, your staff will have to determine whether a participant is using a 'powered or non-powered wheelchair' or some other device which does not fall into the wheelchair exception. This is an unrealistic and problematic expectation. Enforcement of the policy should be simple and should not place Arena staff in the awkward position of questioning the legitimacy of participants' adaptive equipment. A general policy that doesn't identify 'wheelchairs' to the exclusion of other adaptive equipment (like Ally's adaptive stroller) would take this burden off your staff.

4. **The arena should be well-marked so that people who use adaptive devices can pay, enter, and exit the ice independently, like all other participants.** The new requirement that 'Guests using wheelchairs must check in with the ice arena to obtain information about the location to enter and exit the ice', is unclear and could subject people with disabilities to an additional burden that other guests are not subject to.
 - The new policy should be clear and accurate: '...check in with the ice arena' is neither. If an additional check-in is required, it would happen with arena *staff* and not the arena itself.
 - The policy should treat everyone equally: All participants must wait in line to pay before entering the main arena. Is the new 'check in with the ice arena' requirement different from the line in which we must wait in to pay? If so, that is an additional and unnecessary burden for people with disabilities. If it is the same line as the pay line, then this new clause in the policy is just unnecessary.

Finally, the purpose of public skating should reflect the reason why people participate in public skating. The policy's purpose of '...staying upright without the use of any skate aid and be able to propel oneself under their own power', is just odd. How many public skating attendees, when asked what their purpose was in coming to skate would reply with the above? People come to public skate to have fun skating with their friends and family. All people should be welcome in this activity. It's really that simple.

Proposed Language:

Public Session Policy

The purpose of public skating is to have fun skating in a safe and supportive environment. Public skating is an inclusive city-run program that welcomes people of all abilities.

Recreational skate aids are available for use at the arena at no charge. Sleds and strollers for recreational use are not allowed. Guests must wear skates when on the ice unless they are unable to due to a disability.