

VAUGHAN KINGS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Recommendation

The Director of Recreation and Culture, in consultation with the Administrative Manager, recommends that this report on the status of the Vaughan Kings Hockey Association and related ice matters be received for information.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is provide Council with the results of a meeting staff held with the Vaughan Kings Hockey Association regarding ice matters.

Background - Analysis and Options

On January 20, 2003 the Vaughan Kings Hockey Association made a deputation to Council asking that they be granted "special status" under the Department of Recreation and Culture's Facility Allocation Policy and further that they be allocated ice time in City of Vaughan arenas for the 2003/2004 hockey season. Subsequently Council directed that staff meet with the Kings to discuss the issues and possible solutions and to report to Committee of the Whole with the findings.

Staff met with Al Doria, president of the Vaughan Kings Hockey Association, on Tuesday, March 11, 2003. At this meeting staff advised Mr. Doria that granting "special status" to their group was not possible as doing so would compromise the principles identified in the Facility Allocation Policy and set precedents for future requests. The Facility Allocation Policy, approved by Council in October of 2003, states that minor sports organizations require 75% of their membership to reside in Vaughan. Although the Kings are working aggressively to meet the 75% target, at present only 51 out of 123 of the players (41%) are Vaughan residents. The Vaughan Kings hope that in the next few years they will meet the minimum requirement and staff will revisit their status at that time.

With respect to ice allocations staff presented the current arena schedules as a starting point for discussion. The schedules showed that all peak hours in Vaughan arenas are allocated to the Department of Recreation and Culture and Vaughan-based minor sports organizations. Also, in preparation for this meeting, staff contacted the other minor clubs to seek cooperation on this issue and to see if there were any hours that could be released for this cause. Both the City of Vaughan Hockey (CVHA) and the Vaughan Panthers Hockey Associations did cooperate even though the CVHA is facing tremendous waiting lists in their house league component. In total 20 hours, mostly non-peak, were offered to the Kings and they happily accepted 7 of them.

Conclusion

In conclusion staff feel that a workable solution has been reached between the Department of Recreation and Culture and the Vaughan Kings Hockey Association for the 2003/2004 hockey season without compromising any City policy. The Vaughan Kings Hockey Association will receive seven hours of ice through the cooperation of the minor sports organizations. The Vaughan Kings continue to work to meet the necessary criteria for Vaughan-based minor sports organizations.

Attachments

None

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Respectfully submitted,

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