

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MAY 21, 2002

SAFETY NETS FOR VAUGHAN ARENAS

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Buildings, Facilities and Parks recommends:

That Council receive this report addressing the feasibility of providing safety nets at City of Vaughan hockey arenas and the cost estimate for the implementation; and

That this item be referred to the Budget Sub-Committee for consideration.

Purpose

To provide Council with the report requested regarding the feasibility of implementing safety nets at all City of Vaughan hockey arenas.

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 22, 2002, Council requested a report addressing the feasibility of implementing safety nets at City of Vaughan arenas and the associated costs for implementation.

In response to Council's request, staff has evaluated our arenas and reviewed current guidelines regarding safety and provides the following:

1. In the City of Vaughan arenas we do not have spectator seating in the end zones. We only have spectator seating on one side of the ice rink. We do, however, have netting at the end of four of our ice pads. This is to protect the building features.
2. At the sides our rinks where we do have spectator seating, we have increased the height of the glass from six to eight feet during retrofit over the past few years.

In the publication issued by the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) in January, 2002 titled "Suggested Guidelines for Evaluating Arena Boards and Glass" it is recommended that:

1. An eight foot clearance be achieved with the glass as indicate above, and
2. Protective netting be installed from the top of the glass to a height as to adequately protect all spectators in the arenas. The netting should not exceed 1.5 X 1.5 inch opening.

The cost to implement recommendation number two is as follows:

FACILITIES, DIMENSIONS AND COSTING

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>SQUARE FOOTAGE</u>	<u>COST</u>
Al Palladini Community Centre		
Rink A	8050 SQ. FT.	\$13,000.00
Rink B	8225 SQ. FT.	\$13,000.00
Woodbridge Pool and Memorial Arena	5750 SQ. FT.	\$ 9,000.00
Maple Arena	5625 SQ. FT.	\$14,000.00
Garnet A. Williams Community Centre	9250 SQ. FT.	\$23,000.00
Rosemount Community Centre	9250 SQ. FT.	<u>\$14,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL COSTING FOR ALL FACILITIES</u>		<u>\$86,000.00</u>

Conclusion

The safety of players, users and spectators has always been and will continue to be a top priority. Staff regularly audits the facilities to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to eliminate/minimize risk to the user groups and spectators. The increase in glass height and the installation of the preferred safety meshing is a reasonable precaution for the protection of all spectators at City of Vaughan arenas.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Doris Haas
Commissioner of Community Services