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STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: Infrastructure and Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: June 11, 2013
REPORT NO.: DOR 13 35
SUBJECT: Policy and Signage for the Operations of Arena Stands Heaters
PREPARED BY: Aaron McMullen, Facility Manager

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR 13 35 “Policy and Signage for the Operations of Arena Stands Heaters” for information purposes

B. Background

The Town recently completed a walk-through facility energy audit of the Beaver Valley Community Centre. One of the preliminary findings of the audit recommends to regulate the use of the arena heater stands and furthermore, to reduce the number of heaters from four to two. Implementing a policy will allow Staff to assess the effectiveness of the initiative while determining if a reduction of the number of stand heaters is feasible. Additionally, this initiative will align with the corporate Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan that is currently being developed and is planned for completion for the spring of 2014.

The Beaver Valley Community Centre currently has 4 gas fired radiant tube heaters available for heating the spectator’s area in the stands. To date, there is no policy in place as to the frequency, duration or number of heaters in use at any one time. The unregulated use of heaters within playing surface and stands area of the arena creates three identifiable issues.

1. **Energy Consumption** – energy and equipment operating demands and costs increase to refrigerate the building to make ice, while additional energy costs are incurred to generate heat in the same space being refrigerated. Also, with the addition of heat to a refrigerated, cool area comes the addition of humidity which increases the workload added to the dehumidification units.
2. **Inconsistencies with Staff** – creates tension and conflict between staff and the public when dealing with the expectations of the public.
3. **Ice Conditions** – Ice conditions should be the priority. Consistent ambient temperatures and regulated humidity levels provide a safer, and improved ice surface regardless of fluctuation of outside temperatures.

For the reasons listed above, Staff would like to move forward with the attached departmental policy and signage for the upcoming 2013/14 operation season.

A digital thermometer will be installed in the arena, and signs posted as follows:

USE OF ARENA HEATERS

Please note that two heaters will be turned on for games only when the inside air temperature falls below
4 degrees C.

Please respect our efforts to conserve energy by decreasing the use of the arena heaters, and conserve the amount of energy required to refrigerate the building. Controlled Inside building temperatures and humidity ensure safer, and consistent ice conditions for our users.

We encourage spectators to dress appropriately for arena conditions.

Please contact Aaron McMullen, Manager of the Beaver Valley Community Centre at 519-599-7412 or by email at amcmullen@thebluemountains.ca with your concerns.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Providing a well managed government
Ensuring long-term financial sustainability

D. Environmental Impacts

Regulating the use of the arena heater stands will improve the energy efficiency of the facility operations by reducing demand for natural gas and electricity. Moderating electricity consumption decreases the emissions of greenhouse gases associated with the generation of electricity.

E. Financial Impact

Possible reductions in utility costs

F. In Consultation With

Dan Wilken, Director of Recreation and Facilities Municipality of Brockton
Adam McMullin, Environmental Initiatives Coordinator

G. Attached

1. BVCC 01-13 Stands Heating Policy

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron McMullen, Facility Manager

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

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TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

POLICY & PROCEDURES

Subject Title: BVCC - Stands Heating For Public

Corporate Policy (Approved by Council)

Policy Ref. No.: BVCC 01-13

Administrative Policy (Approved by CAO)

Name of Dept.: BVCC

Department Policy: (Approved by Mgr.)

Staff Report: DOR 13 35

Date Approved:

Policy Statement

The Town of The Blue Mountains (The Town) continues to make high quality ice The Towns number one priority. This will ensure a safe and enjoyable recreational playing surface for all users.

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to set guidelines in respect to public requests for heat in the stands of the playing surface. Controlling the ambient temperature within the playing area is the key to the quality of ice and the safety of our patrons.

Application

This policy applies to any public request requiring heat within the stands area of the ice playing surface.

Definitions

Ambient Temperature

A term which refers to the temperature in a room, or the temperature which surrounds an object

Procedures

Beaver Valley Community Centre Staff will provide heat in the spectator viewing area upon request, for games only when the temperature, on the provided thermometer within the spectator viewing area, reaches a temperature of 4 degrees Celsius or below and the outside temperature reaches below -2 degrees Celsius.. At that time, by request, Staff will turn on a maximum of 2 heaters if Staff feels the quality of ice or safety of the players will not be in question.

References and Related Policies

Ontario Recreational Facilities Association

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Review Cycle

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Recreation Director and Facility Manager

Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

Aaron McMullen, Facility Manager