

INCREASE THE ANNUAL GRANT FUNDING FOR THE OUTDOOR ICE OVAL SOCIETY (OIOS)

DESCRIPTION:

As per the OIOS presentation to Council on December 6, 2021, a request by the nonprofit group to increase their annual grant of \$15,000 to \$30,000 was made. Council deferred the request for consideration during the 2022 operating budget discussions. Administration has prepared a Service Enhancement on behalf of the OIOS for this purpose.

The OIOS has operated for over 20 years with a \$15,000 annual grant to cover various costs associated with their operation. The main purpose for this increase to a \$30,000 annual grant is to assist with rising expenses and to help offset years when expenses exceed revenues. The OIOS is also proposing the start of a capital equipment/building maintenance fund that will be available when equipment and buildings reach their expected life span and larger repairs or replacement is required.

FINANCIAL COST OF THE ENHANCEMENT:

Approval of the additional \$15,000 grant to the OIOS will be recognized in the grant funding in the Exhibition Park and Community Arenas.

MEASUREMENT OF SERVICE LEVEL INCREASE:

The OIOS continues to provide a positive, low-cost outdoor recreation experience to local citizens and guests of all ages. Their site has seen numerous additions, with the most recent being enhanced building facilities stemming from the 2015 Canada Winter Games. The OIOS provides an annual report to Council as part of their grant funding agreement. Part of this reporting includes a head count of participants utilizing the facility and compares that with previous seasons; 14,855 skate visitors used the facility in 2020-21, which is near the most ever counted in a season.