

**PORT MOODY CURLING CLUB
EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING
DATE: Sunday, April 17, 2022
TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
LOCATION: VIA ZOOM**

1. Steven Renaud, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm
2. **Those in attendance:** Steven Renaud, Anne Girbav, Pierre Gallant, Barry Ayers, Mim Quigley-Metcalf, Paul Longley, Earlene Graham, Mary Dyke, Jane Lawton, Lindsay Graf, Janice van Veen.
3. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and determine a response to the City of Port Moody's increase to the ice rental rates after we were told they would remain the same as last year.

Steve gave a short introduction of his views and understanding that the City wants to recoup their increasing costs. The Club's concern is that at this point it appears curling is being singled out for an increase. We do not know if other ice users in Port Moody will also receive increases as well.

Janice gave the background as to how this came about and why we are concerned. The City had previously agreed that the fees were not going to change this season, except for the practice ice from \$0 to \$2 per hour per sheet. Janice had already submitted the next season's ice contracts to the City for the leagues for processing. On April 11 Jim Lacroix asked for a meeting with Janice and Earlene. At the meeting the City gave us the news that Council insisted on the ice fee increase.

Earlene gave the Board meeting a history of our ice fees for the benefit of the new Board members. In the summer of 2019 Earlene met with the City after they notified us they would increase the ice fees by 35%. After discussion they agreed to spread it over 3 years. We were working our way through the 3 years of increases until COVID hit. If the City maintained that agreement the final 2% increase would occur for the coming 2022- 2023 season.

Earlene does not know if the other user groups just accepted the large increase in 2019 rather than going up gradually as we did. This may mean we are behind in the City's eyes.

The feeling of the Board is that bonspiels will no longer happen in our club with a 50% fee increase since we already had a lot of negative feedback about paying GST on bonspiel fees and having to use Curling IO to register.

Board's Questions and Considerations:

How will the new ice fees compare to other clubs?

From what we know informally our league fees for evening curling will be in line with other clubs such as Royal City, Langley and Golden Ears. However, they have better quality ice. If the new proposed ice rates are comparable to other clubs our ice quality should also be comparable, which it is not.

How do our hourly ice rates compare to other users within the recreation centre such as hockey and figure skating? We need to know how we rank per hour compared to other ice users?

Did they also receive similar increases?

We understand that Curling is expensive for cities to provide due to the technical requirements of the ice making while other ice users may cost less for the City to provide.

We need to confirm that lounge fees are not going up.

Is the lounge only going to be charged when we have a party or every week?

How does the substantial increase to curling fees fit with the City's published "age friendly" sport initiative? Curling is a sport that spans generations, isn't curling one sport they would want to support and promote?

Mim will send out a summary to the Board with the age breakdown within the Club.

Earlene and Janice have already met with Jim Lacroix, the City Recreation Director, to have our questions answered. Jim was not able to answer a lot of our questions about other users, etc.

We are advocating for our membership and will have to explain how this all came about and that we took it seriously.

If we want to plead our case we have to go in front of a City Council meeting, to do that we have to book a time on their schedule for which there is a form to fill out and a process to follow.

The City will be making the final decision at their May meeting in time for tax

notices to go out. Once a date with council is booked Barry suggested we have curlers attend the meeting in support of our representatives.

Impacts on the Club of this last minute increase:

The opening of registration set for July 5 will be on hold until we get the final Rates from the City because leagues will have to redo their league fees documents.

The Club will have to pay a second time for Janice to send all of the information out a second time to the leagues and request the ice contracts from the City.

The Club may lose members due to some senior's inability to pay the increases.

We might see more 5 person teams to reduce costs to individuals thus less teams for draws.

We expect we will have less bonspiels, especially from the seniors ranks.

Earlene has been the main contact with the City of Coquitlam since the clubs came together including an annual report to Coquitlam regarding the Coquitlam Grant funds. Earlene spoke to a Coquitlam Councillor who was involved in the melding of the two clubs. The councillor will be speaking to their Port Moody counterpart on council to see if he can do anything to assist. The increased rates are similar to what Coquitlam did when they planned that curling would no longer be provided in the City.

Steve will speak to Jim Lacroix and find out when the drop dead date will be to finalize the rates and find out when we have to book our date with Council. Steve will report back.

Adjourned 7:42 p.m.

