



November 26, 2009

To: Janet Davis -City Councillor Ward 31
Via –E-mail
From: Derek Woods
Subject: Equitable Ice Time Allocation Resolutions November 23rd

Dear Janet:

Most recently, there has been incredible media attention focused on the plight of the TLGHA in securing equitable ice time at City owned arenas. The Leaside Hockey Association recognizes that there is a real need to improve the current situation that exists, not only on behalf of the TLGHA, but for access to all levels of youth hockey in the City of Toronto. While it has been well documented that some of the practices at select arena boards have not been transparent or equitable, this is not the case with the current Leaside Arena Board of Management. All 3 user groups of the ice facility at 1073 Millwood Rd. have been very satisfied and supportive of the efforts that this board of management has done in both allocating ice and in collaborating with the users to develop an equitable process for ice allocation and timely communication on ice contracts. The 3 user groups have also made public their support for the current ice allocation process in place. While none of the user groups are satisfied that they have enough to support our seasonal program needs, we do know that the process in place is both equitable and workable.

The LHA has several key concerns with the planned recommendations as communicated in your November 23rd letter to the Mayor.

1. Parks & Recreation as a Final Approver: Potential delays in approving the arena boards ice allocation recommendations could result in further instability and also add costs to our membership.
Given that the current Leaside Memorial Gardens is only 30% of our total seasonal requirements, we must be very proactive post the ice allocation contract commitment from our arena board to source and secure private ice at higher costs. If there is a delay in this communication it can result in a combination of ice shortage and higher costs.
2. Private Ice Cost Escalation: The current recommendations will displace players and reduce programs made available by current user groups at arena facilities. While this may be viewed as a logical outcome at those city facilities that are not working with a transparent and equitable ice allocation process currently, it will present an incredible opportunity for private ice facilities to further increase contract prices and have open bidding on prime time ice. This works against the very core of all minor hockey associations within the GTA who are trying to contain costs for their membership.
3. Leaside Gardens Arena Board of Management: Public recognition has been well documented by all key user groups that this current board has a transparent and equitable process for ice allocation. It seems logical that this would be a model to adapt as a best practice and implement at the other arena boards versus pass a resolution which includes an additional city approval process which could add disruption of service and add costs.

The concern of the TLGHA and current practices in allocating ice at select arena boards has been well documented. The current best practices of our Leaside Arena Board have also been well documented

and supported by all 3 user groups. The LHA recommendation would be to implement best practices at the community level and have visibility on the allocation process without an additional lag in decision making by Parks and Recreation.

While the TLGHA has legitimate concerns in ice allocation at select facilities, it is the youth in our communities that participate in hockey or skating irrespective of gender have been impacted by the City's lack of vision and commitment to supporting the development of more ice facilities for the past four decades. This is the underlying issue. It is resulting in multiple user groups to fight for the limited resource of ice at affordable rates.

Sincerely,

Derek Woods
President
Leaside Hockey Association

Cc LHA Board
Cc John Parker – City Councilor