

DATE OF MEETING July 13, 2020

AUTHORED BY LYNN WARK, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND CULTURE

SUBJECT RE-OPENING PLAN FOR ARENAS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council approval for the re-opening plan for arenas.

Recommendation

That Council approve the Arenas Re-opening Plan that aligns with the City's "COVID-19 Recovery Plan" and complies with the components of the "Planning Framework for Municipal Operations".

BACKGROUND

The City of Nanaimo, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture closed most of its facilities for programs, rentals and drop-in activities on Monday, March 16 after the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, cancelled gatherings of more than 50 people as a way to slow down the transmission of COVID-19.

Since that time, most outdoor amenities have reopened, some outdoor programs have resumed, rentals have been accepted for essential services (ie: Blood Donor Clinics), and bookings have resumed for smaller activity centres and outdoor amenities.

In order to reopen the remaining indoor facilities, City staff have been working through very complex and detailed re-opening strategies, for each facility, that will keep everyone safe and healthy when buildings do open.

DISCUSSION

Re-opening plans are complete for Arenas, and will be followed closely by plans for Aquatics, Bowen Complex, Beban Social Centre, and Oliver Woods Community Centre.

The process for developing these re-opening strategies involved:

- Establishing guiding principles to assist with plan development
- Consulting and working through established guidelines and recommendations from various organizations, including the Province of BC, WorkSafe BC, BC Recreation and Parks Association, Lifesaving Society, viaSport and more

- Conducting an in-depth Risk Assessment for each facility
- Preparing Site Safety Plans as required by WorkSafe BC (attached for information and will be amended/updated as required)
- Conducting a Service Delivery review for each facility
- Revising operating schedules based on enhanced cleaning practices, physical distancing requirements, the provincial order of no mass gatherings over 50, and adjustments to service delivery
- Factoring in the recall of staff that have been redeployed, and the training and recertification required for staff on new safety protocols
- Planning for necessary facility retrofits and obtaining required PPE

Some general assumptions concerning building these plans include the following:

- Community members want, and need, to get back to activities that support their social, physical and mental health and well-being
- In the event of a second wave of COVID 19, a phased approach to re-opening is the most practical so that it's easy to scale back on services offered if required
- Schedule B – Fees and Rental Policy of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Regulation Bylaw No. 7073.06 – will remain in effect

Guiding Principles for plan development included:

- Phasing to be in alignment with BC's Restart Plan and BCRPA Guidelines
- Activities/services do not encourage mass gatherings, # of patrons and physical distancing can be controlled
- Safety for staff and public is equally important
- Single Function, or stand alone spaces to be considered first
- Assessment of risks and site safety plans to be completed for each facility
- Consider resources required (ie: staff availability, supplies required, retrofits needed, etc)
- Consider value to community/public, and/or Council
- Evaluate user group demand or readiness (ie: Provincial or Local Operating Plans received)
- Prioritize partnerships where possible (SD, RDN)
- Evaluate financial Impact
- Strive for provision of activities/services that support accessibility/inclusion
- Consider leases/licences on a case by case basis

ARENAS RE-OPENING PLAN

The re-opening plan for Arenas offers a phased approach as follows:

Phase	Ice Sheet	Target Date
1	Install one sheet of ice at NIC 2	Ready for July 27
2	Install one sheet of ice at Cliff McNabb	Ready for August 3, if demand dictates need
3	Install one sheet of ice at NIC 1	Ready for September 1, if demand dictates need
4	Install one sheet of ice at Frank Crane	If demand dictates need

The Arenas plan is based on the additional assumptions:

- There is currently enough demand to install one sheet of ice for July 27 and staff will continue monitoring demand and communicating with user groups, before moving to phases 2, 3 and 4
- 70% of users that have ice booked in August will keep their bookings
- August rental revenue is based on selling 60% of available hours of ice, each week
- August program revenue is based on 75% occupancy in programs
- For September through December, arenas will run at 75% operational capacity compared to a typical year of operations; therefore, expenses and revenue are based on 75% of 2019 actuals

OPTIONS

1. **That Council approves the Re-opening Plan for Arenas.**

ARENAS

Advantages of Re-opening Arenas	Disadvantages of Re-opening Arenas
<p>A phased approach can act as a pilot to ensure all protocols, facility retrofits, and operating schedule revisions in place, are successful</p>	<p>Demand for ice might exceed availability with the phased approach – requiring some users to wait for more ice to be installed</p>
<p>One sheet of ice can accommodate Nanaimo Minor Hockey Camp for July 27 – 31, and other user groups for the month of August who have continued to express interest in using the facility including: the Clippers, Buccaneers, and multiple private renters</p>	<p>Demand for ice might exceed availability with less hours of ice available than in a typical situation</p>
<p>One sheet of ice can accommodate the ice time which is pre-booked for August</p>	<p>Rental revenue may be impacted due to lower capacity of ice sheets which will require renters to pay the same fees for less people on the ice</p>
<p>One sheet of ice can accommodate recreation programs already planned for August</p>	<p>Arenas that have already opened have had problems with users following the protocols, for this reason a 3 strikes you're out policy will be implemented – this may not be well-received by users</p>
<p>Can scale up as demand dictates</p>	
<p>Can scale back easily if a second wave of COVID 19 hits</p>	

Additional information on re-opening Arenas is included in:

Attachment 1 – Financial Implications of Re-opening Arenas

2. That Council does not approve the Site Safety and Re-opening Plan for Arenas and chooses instead to leave the facilities closed until a later date.

- The advantages of this option include minimizing the risk of having to close again in the event of a second wave of COVID 19 and realizing some cost savings.
- The disadvantages of this option include less provision of recreation services to the public and the potential for public outcry as community members have definitely expressed the desire to resume regular activities in whatever modified way is necessary, as evidenced by the volume of phone calls and emails the Recreation and Culture Department is dealing with on a daily basis.
- Financial implications include cost savings which could help to offset the overall impact of COVID 19 to the City.

3. That Council provide alternate direction to staff,

- The advantages of this option include the ability for staff to go back and explore other ideas as suggested by Council.
- The disadvantages of this option are that there will be a delay in choosing re-opening dates for Arenas. The public is already frustrated with the lack of any information around re-opening plans as evidenced by the volume of phone calls and emails the Recreation and Department is dealing with on a daily basis.
- Financial implications include continued cost savings as re-opening dates will be delayed.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Re-opening plans are complete for arenas and will be followed closely by plans for Aquatics, Bowen Complex, Beban Social Centre, and Oliver Woods Community Centre.
- The re-opening plan for arenas offers a phased approach and modified operating schedules, with one sheet of ice to be installed at NIC 2 for July 27, one sheet of ice to be installed at Cliff McNabb by August 3 if demand dictates, one sheet of ice being installed at NIC 1 by September 1, if demand dictates, and the final sheet of ice being installed at Frank Crane as demand dictates need.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Financial Implications Re-opening Arenas
2. Nanaimo Ice Centre Site Safety Plan
3. Cliff McNabb Arena Site Safety Plan
4. Frank Crane Arena Site Safety Plan

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

Richard Harding
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INFORMATION RELEASE:

Information about the re-opening plans will be released upon approval of the plans by Council.