

APPROVAL REPORT

58th Street Pond – Saskatoon Track “N” Trail Motocross Club

ISSUE

This report outlines a request for the Saskatoon Track ‘N’ Trails Motocross Club (TNT Club) to utilize the 58th Street North Industrial Pond (North Pond) for winter programming and to enter into a sub-license agreement with the Saskatoon Water Ski Club (Ski Club).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council that approval be given to the Saskatoon Track “N” Trail Motocross Club to enter into a sub-license agreement with the Saskatoon Water Ski Club for use of the 58th Street North Industrial Pond for winter recreation use.

BACKGROUND

The Ski Club has been operating at the North Pond located south of 58th Street in the Hudson Bay Industrial area for over 25 years. The Ski Club provides water skiing, wakeboarding and other water sport training and competition activities for its members annually throughout the months of May through September.

In 2019, Administration presented a report to City Council requesting approval to enter into a year-round license agreement with the Ski Club. Within this agreement, the Ski Club may enter into a sub-license with any organization, corporation or legal person, subject to City Council approval for use of the North Pond on terms and conditions approved by the City.

The TNT Club, a registered non-profit, was established in the mid 1970’s by a group of enthusiasts with the goal to create a local club to promote and support motocross racing. As one of the largest clubs in Saskatchewan, the TNT Club currently operates at a location on Highway 219 south of Beaver Creek, with a membership exceeding 200 riders, ranging in age from 3 to 70. The TNT Club also has a membership of 10 to 50 winter riders between the ages of 4 to 60 years who have been riding for over 30 years.

Ice riding and racing has been a common winter activity in Saskatchewan and Saskatoon, since the early 1980’s. Occurring on a close-circuit ice track, typically over a body of water, the TNT Club was one of the first clubs to embrace the sport with their base track located at the north end of Blackstrap Lake.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

TNT Club Sub-License Agreement

The TNT Club has been in discussions with the Ski Club to utilize the North Pond throughout winter months for ice riding and racing. Use of the North Pond would provide the TNT Club with a centralized location, a site they can fully secure from

unauthorized vehicles, as well as an opportunity to host interprovincial, national and international events.

Upon approval, the TNT Club will enter into a sub-license agreement with the Ski Club to utilize the North Pond during winter months for ice riding and racing. Please refer to Appendix 1 for a letter of support from the Ski Club. Key terms of the agreement will include:

1. Access is restricted to TNT club members and invitees only;
2. The TNT Club will be responsible for all operating costs related to their usage and will ensure cleanliness of the site at all times; and
3. The TNT Club will be required to maintain general liability insurance naming both the City of Saskatoon and the Ski Club as additional insured parties.

Ice Testing & Safety

The North Pond is part of the pond inventory tested by the Saskatoon Fire Department (Fire) each winter. Through discussions with Fire, they will continue to do the initial testing and it will be up to the TNT Club to complete ongoing testing throughout the season. The TNT Club has adopted the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure Ice Roads handbook as their primary guide to ice thickness and testing.

To ensure safety of the riders, the TNT Club has developed a set of rules regarding personal and vehicle safety, equipment, site guidelines, as well as safety rules and practices which all riders must follow to ensure their safety record is maintained. Key safety rules and practices include:

1. Ice thickness testing, done in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure Ice Roads handbook, will be completed and recorded once per week.
2. To ensure weight is spread across a broad surface, vehicles are required to be at minimum 2m (15ft) apart when parked in the parking lot/pit area.
3. Vehicles must be in good mechanical condition. Vehicles with fuel leaks are not permitted on the ice surface.
4. All participants must sign required waivers prior to entering the ice track facility.
5. Full safety gear is required including full face helmet, knee and elbow pads, motorcycle riding boots or equivalent, gloves, goggles, and durable riding pants and jacket.

For a complete summary of safety rules and practices, please refer to Appendix 2.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial, legal, social or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

Subject to approval, the Ski Club will draft a sub-license agreement with the TNT Club and it will be reviewed by the City Solicitor.

APPENDICES

1. Letter of Support – Saskatoon Water Ski Club
2. Saskatoon Track & Trail Motocross Club - Ice Riding Segment

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Lindsay Cockrum, Open Space Consultant
Reviewed by: Andrew Roberts, Director of Recreation and Community Development
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services

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