

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Kelly Boes - Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association - Community Support - Reduce Increases and Maintain the Same Level of Funding for Grants and Community Organization Support - CK 1700-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 3:15 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Communication - Kelly Boes - Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association - Community Support - Reduce Increases and Maintain the Same Level of Funding for Grants and Community Organization Support - CK 1700-1

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Friday, November 24, 2023 - 15:14

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Friday, November 24, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Kelly

Last Name: Boes

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Bowes

Phone Number : [3062441363](tel:3062441363)

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: 5-816 1st Ave N

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7K 1Y3

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: November 28 Budget Council Meeting

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Budget review - Community Support - Reduce Increases and Maintain the Same Level of Funding for Grants and Community Organization Support (85,700) (211,300)

Comments:

SMHA thanks Council for allowing the opportunity to provide the following comments with respect to the Youth Sport Subsidy program:

-- Thank you to the City for offering the Youth Sport Subsidy program.

_ SMHA's 2024 YSS allocation totals \$1,175,000. Without this subsidy, all SMHA registration fees would be \$330+ higher per player per year on average, essentially making the sport unaffordable for many families.

- All sports depend on the Youth Sport Subsidy to bring down costs to allow minor sports organizations to do their best to keep player registration fees as low as possible.

- This is especially so for sports like minor hockey that utilize indoor arenas for their programming. Indoor arenas are expensive to operate and the rental costs are accordingly high. The cost of ice rentals in the City of Saskatoon for 2023-24 range from \$299.25 per hour to \$359.10 per hour with GST included.

- Saskatoon has the highest ice rental rates in Saskatchewan.

Eliminating future increases / freezing the total funding at the 2023 amount for the Youth Sport Subsidy will have a significant impact over time on the registration fees that families pay to play minor hockey.

- SMHA has averaged a \$48,597 increase in our YSS allocation per season since 2012. The increases in YSS over this 12-year period of time = \$583,172.

- The annual increases to SMHA YSS allocations are generated due to ice rental rate increases and to registration numbers increasing.

- If the YSS total budget remains at the 2023 level with no future annual increases, SMHA will need to find a way to cover a 2025 revenue budget reduction of approximately \$50,000 using the average increase we have seen.

-The annual shortfall will only grow higher than \$50,000 as ice rental rates increase yearly due to inflation and the subsidy remains at the 2024 total.

- These shortfalls will be made up by increasing player registration fees.

If passed, the budget recommendation to not increase the YSS total fund each year will impact families that continue to play minor hockey and also contribute to the sport becoming unattainable for current and possible future players.

SMHA is hopeful that Council will revisit this recommendation and maintain the annual increase to the YSS total fund so youth sports organizations can do their best to stem the tide of inflation and registration costs that are out of reach for too many families.

Another suggestion is to see if there are any funds from the overall Community Support budget that can be used to fund the annual increase to the YSS program.

Thank you for allowing SMHA to provide feedback on this budget item.

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No