

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

November 23, 2020

(Administration, Personnel, Legal, Finance, PEG Access, Municipal Liquor, Police & Fire)

Present: Ron Johnson, Michael Meehlhause, Emelie Rivera

Staff: City Manager Nate Mathews, Parks and Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Attorney Al Felix, Assistant City Attorney Katie Nolting, Parks Superintendent Jared Stull, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Call to Order

Rivera called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Neilson Reise Arena Covid-19 Preparedness Plan

Larson presented the proposed Neilson Reise Arena Covid-19 Preparedness Plan. Some considerations in the development of the preparedness plan include:

- Group size limited to 22 or less on the ice at a time based on design and size of the rink.
- Locker rooms would not be available due to lack of ventilation and size.
- Chairs would be spaced in the lobby for putting on and taking off skates.
- Ice rentals would be scheduled with approximately 30 minutes between each rental to allow for disinfecting and avoid group intermixing.
- Only practices would be allowed – no games.
- No spectators would be allowed.

Larson stated they would need to hire seasonal staff and would expect the start-up process to take a minimum 3-4 weeks. This timeline could be longer due to unknown problems and the condition of the boards. Insurance and Covid waivers would be required and strictly adhered to.

Larson believes the City can safely reopen the arena with some challenges. There are a few user groups interested in renting ice, in particular the Bemidji Figure Skating Club since the Neilson Reise Arena is their home ice.

Consensus of the committee was to approve the Covid-19 Preparedness Plan for the Neilson Reise Arena and recommend full approval to the city council.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Johnson, seconded by Meehlhause to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk