

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2021

Item 13, Report No. 1, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted, as amended, by the Council of the City of Vaughan on January 26, 2021, as follows:

By approving the following:

- 1. THAT following the implementation of the proposed enhanced safety measures outlined in this report, the toboggan hill at North Maple Regional Park, the dog park at 299 Racco Parkway and the City's five outdoor rinks be re-opened as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, January 29, 2021 for the toboggan hill and dog park and Monday, February 1, 2021, for the outdoor rinks, weather permitting; subject to regulations issued by the Ontario government.***
- 2. THAT City staff continue exploring other potential outdoor activities that safeguard the public's health and well-being; and***

By receiving the following communications:

- C7 Matthew Gordon, dated January 22, 2021; and***
C11 City Manager, dated January 26, 2021.

13. REOPENING OF PUBLIC SKATING RINKS

The Committee of the Whole recommends:

- 1) That the recommendations contained in the resolution of Councillor Shefman dated January 19, 2021, be amended to read as follows:**

That a comprehensive management plan focused on ensuring the maximum safety possible for all users and staff be developed immediately with the goal of reopening City skating rinks; and

That the plan be brought back to the Council Meeting on January 26, 2021 for consideration; and

- 2) That the comments by Mr. Matthew Gordon, Kimbergate Way, Vaughan, be received.**

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Councillor Shefman

Preamble:

It is my belief that we need to do whatever we can to not only protect the residents of the City of Vaughan from COVID-19. At the same time, we need to assist them in dealing with the stress of responding to the pandemic. I am especially concerned for young children and their parents. By providing for some outdoor physical activity such as skating I firmly believe we contribute to people's mental health.

Whereas the City of Vaughan's five community ice rinks were closed in response to the latest provincial orders intensifying the lock down in the province, and

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Whereas the Provincial orders did not specifically require that skating must be closed, and

Whereas there have been a variety of issues in the operation of the City's rinks relating to demand, failure to distance and behaviours that may not meet the current distancing and mask wearing rules, and

Whereas many municipalities have decided to keep their skating facilities open at this time by using a variety of strategies to address safety concerns, and

Whereas there are a wide variety of systems and procedures in place in other municipalities being used to maximize safety for users of the skating rinks, and

Whereas it is of utmost importance for the City of Vaughan to do everything possible to protect its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and

Whereas there is increasing recognition of the mental stress on residents and especially families with young children of the extended restrictions due to the pandemic, and

Whereas it is necessary for the City to be creative in assisting its residents in any way possible during this difficult time, and

Whereas the staff of the City has shown their extraordinary abilities to develop and implement plans throughout the period of the pandemic.

It is therefore recommended:

That a comprehensive management plan focused on ensuring the maximum safety possible for all users and staff be developed immediately with the goal of reopening City skating rinks no later than January 23 be prepared and put in place, and

That a report on the re-opening of the rinks be provided to Members of Council via memo no later than 10 days after the re-opening.



MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Meeting/Date	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (1) / JANUARY 19, 2021
Title:	REOPENING OF PUBLIC SKATING RINKS
Submitted by:	Ward 5 City Alan Shefman

Preamble:

It is my belief that we need to do whatever we can to not only protect the residents of the City of Vaughan from COVID-19. At the same time, we need to assist them in dealing with the stress of responding to the pandemic. I am especially concerned for young children and their parents. By providing for some outdoor physical activity such as skating I firmly believe we contribute to people's mental health.

Whereas the City of Vaughan's five community ice rinks were closed in response to the latest provincial orders intensifying the lock down in the province, and

Whereas the Provincial orders did not specifically require that skating must be closed, and

Whereas there have been a variety of issues in the operation of the City's rinks relating to demand, failure to distance and behaviours that may not meet the current distancing and mask wearing rules, and

Whereas many municipalities have decided to keep their skating facilities open at this time by using a variety of strategies to address safety concerns, and

Whereas there are a wide variety of systems and procedures in place in other municipalities being used to maximize safety for users of the skating rinks, and

Whereas it is of utmost importance for the City of Vaughan to do everything possible to protect its residents from the spread of COVID-19, and

Whereas there is increasing recognition of the mental stress on residents and especially families with young children of the extended restrictions due to the pandemic, and

Whereas it is necessary for the City to be creative in assisting its residents in any way possible during this difficult time, and

Whereas the staff of the City has shown their extraordinary abilities to develop and implement plans throughout the period of the pandemic.

It is therefore recommended:

That a comprehensive management plan focused on ensuring the maximum safety possible for all users and staff be developed immediately with the goal of reopening City skating rinks no later than January 23 be prepared and put in place, and

That a report on the re-opening of the rinks be provided to Members of Council via memo no later than 10 days after the re-opening.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Shefman,
Ward 5 City Councillor