



Information Item

Date: December 7, 2009

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Andy Agle, Director of Housing and Economic Development
Subject: Ice Rink – Continued Sustainability Efforts

Introduction

The purpose of this information item is to update City Council on the continued sustainability efforts of the seasonal ICE event.

Background

The Bayside District Corporation's ICE program uses 100% renewable energy as a result of the City's continued purchase of "Green Power" electricity. This effectively offsets the carbon dioxide footprint with Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). These RECs are "Green E" certified, which means they are traceable to sustainable generation and uniquely tagged to the greening of power for the City.

Discussion

This year, instead of renting equipment, the Bayside District Corporation (BDC) purchased dasher boards, a mat system (tubes that freeze the water) and black rubber matting for its ICE Winterlit holiday event, and is contracting with a new ice rink operator, Risk Management Services Corporation (RMSC). Another new feature is the introduction of a smaller children's rink adjacent to the full-size rink. Both the adult and children's ice rink will be run in a manner that conserves as much energy as possible by using renewable energy, setting the chiller on a timer so it does not operate during the colder evening hours and also incorporating ice mats that insulate the ice and prevent unnecessary melting.

BDC originally planned to experiment with new technology in the children's rink by using a new, sustainable technology manufactured by Ice-World, a Dutch company. The newly patented technology, which is being used in Walnut Creek, California, and Battery Park, New York, uses an aluminum-based solution, which is a superior cold conductor compared with the traditional plastic and rubber ice mats and also allows for easy assembly and disassembly. The technology uses polypropylene glycol for chilling the ice, which is almost 100% reusable. Furthermore, the cooling pipes are installed in and not under the ice resulting in a cooling system that makes and maintains ice using much less energy. Unfortunately, the technology could not be obtained in time for this year's program and in the interim, BDC purchased dasher boards, a mat system and black rubber mats from this year's rink contractor at a significant cost savings over the annual rental cost. Therefore, BDC will be using the newly acquired equipment for the next few seasons. After BDC recoups its equipment purchase cost Bayside will investigate this and other alternative technologies.

Prepared By: Donna Rickman, Senior Administrative Analyst