

RESPONSE TO COUNCILLOR INQUIRY / SUGGESTION

COUNCILLOR SWENDSEID

Councillor Swendseid inquired if Wednesday's free public skating on the full ice surface at the Okotoks Recreation Centre will return.

Estimated Administrative Time to Respond

Under 4 hours (no motion required)

Over 4 hours (motion required) Estimated Hours: n/a

Motion

n/a

Response

Annually, in consultation with regular community user groups, Administration develops an arena master schedule following the principles set out in the Town's community facility access administrative guidelines to ensure the schedule in all the arenas provides a balance of unstructured drop in opportunities, registered programs, user group rentals, and special events. The development of the schedule also addresses the following:

- resident and user group needs;
- cost-effectiveness;
- maximum usage of the facilities;
- historical precedent;
- low cost opportunities; and
- the balance of time distribution for all groups while recognizing the importance of youth development.

The arena master schedule is in effect from October 1st to March 31st annually.

Up until 2017, the Wednesday night free public skate at the Okotoks Recreation Centre (ORC) was included in the arena master schedule. Local community businesses sponsored the Wednesday free skate from 2007 to 2017. In 2018, the expansion of the Centennial Arenas added another standard ice surface (the Gold Arena) and the Leisure Skating ice surface. At the time, the direction from Council was that all public skating on the Leisure Ice would be offered at no charge seven (7) days per week with the understanding that additional revenue would be received through rental times that previously had been assigned to public skating times at the ORC. Currently all skating is free at the Centennial Leisure ice surface.

Feedback from residents since 2018 indicated that there is a desire for public skating opportunities on the standard ice surfaces. The current arena master schedules include the following discounted (Toonie), standard ice public skates at the ORC:

- Monday - 6:45 – 7:45 PM
- Tuesday - 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Senior Skate)
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 2:30 – 3:30 PM

In addition to these regularly scheduled public skate times, free public skating is offered on the ice surfaces at the ORC or Centennial Arenas when the Leisure Ice is closed for maintenance, which is typically in the spring or summer. During school holidays or seasonal holidays such as Christmas, and times when the master schedule is not in effect, additional discounted public skates are added on the standard ice surfaces. All public skate opportunities, details, and admission information is available to patrons at www.activeokotoks.ca.

Based on current resident demands, usage, and community user group needs, Administration is not considering adding the Wednesday evening free public skate back at the ORC.

Attachment(s)

n/a

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