

HCMHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, March 17, 2022

7:30 pm

via Zoom

AGENDA

- **Attendance** – Renee Larouche-Simmons, Blake Dewar and Candace Thomson
- **Call to Order** – 7:39pm, motioned by Renee Larouche-Simmons, second by Blake Dewar.
- **Adoption of the Agenda** – Motioned by Blake Dewar, second by Candace Thomson.
- **Adoptions of the February 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes** – Motioned by Renee Larouche-Simmons, second by Blake Dewar.
- **Committee Reports**
 - Registrar – Renee Simmons – *U7 – 3 (ideally we would like 8 or more per team), U9 – 18, U11 – 13, U13 – 17, U15 24, U18 24 are the anticipated numbers.*
 - Treasurer’s Report – Blake Dewar
- 1. General Account – \$86, 348.45
- 2. Gaming Account – \$2, 905.78
 - CAHL Update – Jill MacLeod – *Not in attendance.*
- **Business Arising from the February Minutes**
 1. Association Strategy – *This will be a work in process to create a platform to see a rise in overall number; and to have a sustainable financial standing.*
 2. Volunteer Recruitment – *Only 2 Association Volunteer Positions to fill – Social Media Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator*
 3. Casino (June 12 & 13, 2022) – *We will recruit volunteers after the AGM.*
 4. Parade – *Renee Larouche-Simmons) is organizing, details to follow.*
 5. Ice Fees (Arena) – *As part of our Association Strategy, we will be presenting at the Town of Black Diamond Budget meeting on March 31 to discuss the ices fees that affect the youth organizations. See following page(s) for the presentation outline.*

Additions to the Agenda – *None.*

- **New Business** – *None.*
- **Next meeting date set for April 12 at 7:30pm. Adjournment of meeting at 9:19pm, motioned by Blake Dewar, second by Candace Thomson.**

Good evening Mayor Kelly, council members, and fellow attendees,

I'm Candace Thomson, Acting President and Secretary of High County Minor Hockey Association. We're based out of the Oilfields Regional Arena in Black Diamond.

I will be speaking on behalf of our association (in attendance - Renee Larouche-Simmons, Registrar and Blake Dewar, Acting Vice President and Treasurer) and Foothills Skating Club (in attendance - Lori Thomlinson, Treasurer).

We are here tonight to discuss the impact that the high fees have on our registration fees and how it affects our overall associations.

Sports provide kids a developmental experience, it's a journey to health & physical activity. Every kid deserves a chance to play. Sports bring communities together, a social connection for parents and kids to meet and enjoy the sport. We are a small community and we need your support to keep hockey and skating "local" for the kids and the community.

- We all foster physical activity, a love for the sport, leadership skills, work ethic, teamwork and a sense of community pride and spirit. Which all get instilled into the coming generations. We all provide community service.
- The indoor rink was originally built with government grants. Due to a shortage of money - private citizens donated, Hustlers hockey team (men's league) fundraised and helped build the facility.
- The outdoor rink was built with donations from the Seaman family and Project 75.

Refer to <https://www.nhl.com/flames/news/flames-owner-builds-1-million-outdoor-rink-in-black-diamond/c-453970>

- Private citizens / organizations have offered to upgrade areas of the arena. HCMHA has fundraised to put in place a new water fountain and wheelchair accessible area.
- Other facilities within Alberta that have taken on the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre projects and are able to have lower fees to provide an opportunity for all families to afford to play the sport. These fees are lower than ours and puts us at a disadvantage (a search of random small centres similar to ours).
- Ice fees are our largest cost about 85% of the registration fees we collect. To keep hockey affordable the association tries to keep registration fees as low as possible. This means we more than likely barely break even or run a loss; at times a deep loss. We have had to increase registration fees to our players and we are still not able to cover all the costs to sustain our association. On average, we pay ~\$12, 000 per month.
- We (minor hockey) are also paying for flood times between our practices during the week. The additional costs being charged for flooding are roughly \$340.00 per week (~\$7,700.00 during our regular season, October to the end a February). If we booked 1 hour, then two separate groups booked after, we all would be paying \$150.00 + GST per hour and floods would still is taking place. The hour ice fee should include the cost of the flood.

- For hockey and skating to be sustainable for families we need to keep registration fees as low as possible. For the 2 groups to be sustainable we either need to drastically increase our fees or have the total ice costs reduced.
- Registration fees are only one part of the cost to play hockey and skating. Equipment, fuel and maintenance and the potential for hotel costs. These add an additional burden to families; further reducing accessibility to hockey and skating; particularly for lower income families.
- Reviewing a newscast from 2018, comparing us to Okotoks is like comparing apples to broccoli and us to Calgary is like apples to gorillas. We are not even in the same category as these larger centres. Yes, it is correct that the fees at Oilfields are competitive with them, but they are clearly not with smaller / rural centres (similar to us) as seen on the spreadsheet.

Refer to page 3 or this link <https://www.google.ca/amp/s/www.okotokstoday.ca/amp/wheels-west/fees-going-up-at-arena-this-summer-1536012>

- Arena sponsors - do they pay annually? Are there government grants available for community facilities?
- The concession space and upstairs are rented spaces that are bringing in revenue.
- How are other arenas / communities keeping costs low?
- We would like to understand what the town's strategy for the Oilfields Regional Arena is and what is contributing to much higher ice fees to comparable centres?

We are a small community and the next generation of kids wanting to play hockey, learn to skate & figure skate are at risk. We have now seen first hand throughout the COVID pandemic the negative effects the loss of these programs have on our youth, families and community.

If you have any further questions, you can contact us at general@highcountryrockies.ca

Sincerely,
Candace Thomson, HCMHA President and Secretary

Fees going up at arena this summer

Groups looking to book ice time at the local arena this season will pay a little more.

[Tammy Rollie](#) May 16, 2018 6:00 AM

Groups looking to book ice time at the local arena this season will pay a little more. Black Diamond town council approved increases to rental fees and advertising rates for the Oilfields Regional Arena and outdoor Scott Seaman Sports Rink effective Aug. 1. This is the first increase since the 2015-2016 season. Sharlene Brown, Black Diamond CAO, said it's important to keep the rates competitive with other arenas, as well as affordable for local teams. "That's something we have to be cognizant of," she said. "As ice time rentals go up so does hockey and figure skating registration fees." Brown said the new fees will come into effect in time for hockey school bookings. The increase means local youth groups or teams using the arena at prime time will pay \$140, up \$5 an hour, and adult groups or teams at prime time will pay \$200, up \$10 an hour, for the indoor arena. Among the advertising costs is \$200, an increase of \$25 annually, for wall advertisements in both facilities and \$400, an increase of \$15 annually, on boards in both arenas. There will be no price change for rink usage without ice. Joe Fenton, High Country Minor Hockey Association president, said fee increases at arenas often result in rising registration fees. "We tend to add a bit to our fees every year or two because we know it goes up almost every year," he said. "Usually every other year the referee costs go up, too. Hockey Alberta dictates that increase. There's always something that goes up." Fenton said the association expects eight teams this year, which rely heavily on the Oilfields Arena. The rest of the time the teams are anywhere from Consort to the United States border, Fenton said. As for the fee increase, Fenton said it's par for the course. "We expect it," he said. "It doesn't make it right, but I'm sure they really don't have a choice. Compared to Okotoks and Calgary they're still cheaper." Parks and recreation manager Les Quinton recommended the increases to meet the rising operation costs. "We have to keep increasing the fees because our costs keep going up," he said. "Even though we continue to reduce the quantity of electricity we use, the transmission and distribution fees keep increasing - same with natural gas." During the past several years, the Town strived to make the arena more energy efficient with the installation of solar panels, energy management systems, LED lights, a high efficiency furnace, low-flow toilets, low-flow and motion sensor showers and motion sensor lightings. With the Town proposing an increase in its flat-rate water fee from \$43 to \$344 and sewer from \$86 to \$688 every two months starting in June for the building's two-inch water meter, Quinton said that will also impact the arena's costs. "It will make a huge increase to our water and sewer bill," he said. "Of course the carbon tax is increasing a bit so that's put our natural gas up more and the stuff being delivered it increases the cost of all the goods. Costs rise so we have to bring up our costs to the users to help cover that." To avoid scaring away potential users, Quinton said he researches what other arenas in the area charge to ensure the rates aren't too high. "I track Calgary and area arenas to see what everybody else is charging," he said. "We are still lower. We try to keep our costs down by conserving, but we're not able to keep up with some of the increases." Quinton said usage of the indoor rink has remained over 1,600 hours and up to 400 for the outdoor rink annually the last four years. "We were fairly consistent," he said. "What we are running at is about average. We would like to sell more during the day, but we don't have the population." The arena draws from the MD of Foothills south of Longview northwest to Bragg Creek and east to Okotoks, he said. With the

twinning of the Pason Centennial Arena in Okotoks this year, Quinton expects to see a drop in hours of about 135 for the indoor rink and 71 for the outdoor rink. "Any time a facility opens in Okotoks or the south end of Calgary, even the one in Dunbow, I took a drop in usage," he said. "With the south Fish Creek twinning in 2001, we dropped 120 hours." Quinton said when the Centennial Arena was build, usage at the Oilfields Regional Arena dropped from 1,605 hours in 2004 to 1,430.5 in 2006 for the indoor rink and the summer hours dropped from 333.25 in 2006 to 96 in 2007. "It never recovered," he said. "We were at 55.5 hours last year."

Regional Ice Fees 2021-2022

HCMHA (us)	\$150.00 + GST Local Youth Prime Time	
~5621 (including TV, Longview Millarville)	\$210.00 + GST Local Adult Prime Time	
	\$85-95.00 + GST Local Youth NON Prime Time	
	\$115.00 + GST Local Adult NON Prime Time	
Claresholm ~3, 804	\$69.50 + GST - Youth, Minor Hockey & Local Prime Time	↓ \$80.50 less than us
	\$100 + GST - AA & Adult Prime Time	↓ \$110.00 less than us
	\$ 45.20 + GST NON Prime Time & Birthday Parties	↓ \$164.80 - 104.80 less than us
High River Double our population at ~13 584	\$135.00 + GST Local Youth Prime Time	↓ \$15.00 less than us
	\$212.00 + GST Local Adult Prime Time	↓ \$2.00 less than us
	\$105.00 + GST Local Youth NON Prime Time	↓ \$21.00 - 31.00 less than us
	\$170.00 + GST Local Adult NON Prime Time	↑ \$55.00 more then us
Nanton ~2, 181	\$88.00 + GST Local Youth Prime Time	↓ \$62.00 less than us
	\$131.00 + GST Local Adult Prime Time	↓ \$79.00 less than us
	\$64.00 + GST Local Youth NON Prime Time	↓ \$21.00 - 31.00 less than us
	\$99.00 + GST Local Adult NON Prime Time	↓ \$16.00 less than us
Okotoks 4.5 - 5 times our population ~28 881	\$162.62 + GST Local Youth Prime Time	↑ \$12.62 more then us
	\$239.73 + GST Local Adult Prime Time	↑ \$29.73 more then us
	\$106.28.00 + GST Local Youth NON Prime Time	↑ \$11.28 - 21.28 more then us
	\$150.39 + GST Local Adult NON Prime Time	↑ \$35.39 more then us
Vulcan ~1, 917	\$60.00 + GST Local Youth ANY Time	↓ \$90.00 less than us
	\$105.00 + GST Local Adult ANY Time	↓ \$95.00 less than us

Regional Registration Fees 2021-2022

HCMHA (us)	U7 \$700.00		
	U9 \$785.00		
	U11 \$1000.00		
	U13 \$1060.00		
	U15 \$1100.0		
	U18 \$1160.00		
Claresholm	U7 \$370.00	↓	\$330.00
	U9 \$370.00	↓	\$415.00
	U11 \$445.00	↓	\$555.00
	U13 \$465.00	↓	\$595.00
	U15 \$540.00	↓	\$560.00
	U18 \$540.00	↓	\$620.00
High River	U7 \$595.00	↓	\$105.00
	U9 \$975.00	↑	\$190.00
	U11 \$1030.00	↑	\$30.00
	U13 \$1055.00	↓	\$5.00
	U15 \$1090.00	↓	\$10.00
	U18 \$1160.00		SAME
Okotoks	U7 \$780.00	↑	\$80.00
	U9 \$960.00	↑	\$175.00
	U11 \$1040.00	↑	\$40.00
	U13 \$1105.00	↑	\$45.00
	U15 \$1160.00	↑	\$60.00
	U18 \$1175	↑	\$15.00
Vulcan	U7 \$250.00	↓	\$450.00
	U9 \$500.00	↓	\$285.00
	U11 \$550.00	↓	\$450.00
	U13 \$600.00	↓	\$460.00
	U15 \$650.00	↓	\$450.00
	U18 \$700.00	↓	\$460.00