

February 23, 2022

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Travis Rob, Manager of Operations and Facilities

**RE: Development of a skating trail – Report 2**

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At the January 31, 2022 Special Budget meeting Council directed staff to put together some costing for consideration of a grant for the development of an on-ice skating trail somewhere on Rainy Lake and to bring that information to the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee for review. At the conclusion of the meeting it was not clear where the trail would start and end or how long and wide it should be made so some key assumptions were made in order to develop some costing. The assumptions are detailed below:

1. The trail was assumed to leave from the end of School Road and head north easterly along the shore ending in a loop with a total length of approximately 1825m. (see attached map)
2. Width of the trail would be approximately 2.4m or two passes with our blower.
3. The maintenance season would be December 15<sup>th</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Based on these assumptions the following process would be suggested to open and maintain the trail. A plow on a fourwheeler or side by side would be utilized to first open the trail in the early winter and get it established before slush or snowmobiles cause issues with the ice. Once ice conditions permit, a blower would be used to limit banks on the trail. Once the trail was blown off, a power broom would be used to sweep the trail clean. A water tank fitted to a side by side with a spreader bar would be used to flood the trail regularly to improve and maintain the smoothness of the trail and fill in cracks such that it would be suitable for skating.

Based on this information it is assumed that there would be three hours of maintenance, plowing and sweeping per weekday and an additional four hours twice per week for flooding operations, Mondays and Fridays, for total weekly maintenance labour equalling 23 hours. Seasonal fuel consumption is based on assumed fuel consumption of the equipment used for maintenance only, not travel to and from the trail, and 23 weekly hours of maintenance work. Fuel price is based on \$0.1649 for diesel and \$0.1549 for gasoline.

Total Assumed costs:

Weekly Maintenance Hours	Weekly Fuel Costs	Weekly Staff Costs	Equipment Repairs & Maintenance
23	\$ 108.03	\$ 1,084.45	
Total Season (Weeks)	13	13	
<b>TOTAL SEASONAL COST</b>	<b>\$ 1,404.39</b>	<b>\$ 14,097.85</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>

**\$ 25,502.24**

These costs would not consider extensive work required to relocate the trail mid season due to slush conditions, dealing with large wide cracks requiring additional flooding and focused work or damage from vandals.

At the Special Budget Meeting, Council considered a grant being given to private entity or group to get the project rolling to alleviate some of the issues brought forward in the January 31, 2022 Administration report.


It is the recommendation of Administration that if this is an initiative that Council wants to move forward with, at this point in the winter, this initiative would be better to be tabled until December when a trail could be established earlier in the season. This would allow for the entity that would be maintaining/operating it and the Town to plan a location, length, access points and discussions to be had with neighboring communities if required.

At this point Council has not provided direction to administration to add funds to the 2022 operating budget.

It is the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee that:

1. A small amount of funds be included in 2022, funded from the Municipal Accommodation Tax Reserves, to support a local group or entity to start a skating trail on Rainy Lake in December 2022 for the 2022/23 winter season.
2. That the MAT Tax Committee and the Town work to nail down a proposed location and engage local and neighboring stakeholders through 2022 to get entities on board with the development for the 2022/23 winter season.

Respectfully Submitted



Travis Rob, P.Eng  
Manager of Operations and Facilities

**Council approval of this report will agree with the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee that:**

1. A small amount of funds be included in 2022, funded from the Municipal Accommodation Tax Reserves, to support a local group or entity to start a skating trail on Rainy Lake in December 2022 for the 2022/23 winter season.
2. That the MAT Tax Committee and the Town work to nail down a proposed location and engage local and neighboring stakeholders through 2022 to get entities on board with the development for the 2022/23 winter season.