

City Staff Report

Original signed by: City Manager Johnson

Report Date: November 4, 2021
Meeting Date: November 9, 2021 – Joint Advisory Committee

To: City Manager
From: Director of Community Services
Subject: Jr. B. Hockey Team – Request for Support

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to obtain support from the Joint Advisory Committee for the establishment of a Jr. B hockey team in Quesnel.

Summary

- A group of investors is planning to submit a bid to bring a Kootenay International Junior Hockey League (KIJHL) Junior B hockey team to Quesnel for the 2022/2023 season.
- The KIJHL is a sanctioned Jr. Hockey league that has operated in BC for over 50 years and is the same league that includes the 100 Mile House Wranglers and Kamloops Storm. The Kamloops Storm played a series of home games at the West Fraser Centre in the 2018/2019 season.
- The team's investors have indicated that they are in the process of forming a non-profit organization that will own and operate the team.
- There are benefits to the community to have a Jr. B. hockey team in Quesnel. Junior hockey provides spectator entertainment, can be a source of community pride, and provides an opportunity for local athletes to advance and play in their home town.
- There are economic benefits as well as the Jr. B team will host 25 home games per season against out-of-town teams who can be expected to spend money in the community at local hotels, restaurants, and other businesses.
- If the bid is successful, staff will negotiate terms for an agreement with the new club for approval by the Committee.
- It is expected that the agreement will include an annual fixed fee for use of the West Fraser Centre, use of a dedicated team dressing room, office space, permission to sell advertising space in approved locations in the West Fraser Centre, and ice time for practices and games.
- The ownership group has been in contact with the Quesnel & District Minor Hockey Association (QDMHA) and the Quesnel Kangaroos and are committed to working with them so that each group is successful. The ownership group advises that QDMHA has provided a letter of support for their bid to establish a team in Quesnel.
- The new team is hoping to work with staff and the Kangaroos to reach an agreement regarding advertising in the building that is acceptable to the City/CRD and that will benefit both the new Jr. B team and the Kangaroos who currently have the right to sell advertising on the arena boards and ice surface on a year to year basis.



- The ice time used by the team would be similar to the ice time used by the Quesnel Millionaires Jr. A team when it was active in Quesnel. The team requires ice time for practices on weekdays when the arena is underutilized and for approximately 25 games a season, held on weekends or weekday evenings.
- The games will impact other ice user groups who will be displaced or have their ice time scheduled later in the evening in the same manner that occurs now with the Kangaroos and when the Millionaires were active at the Twin Arenas (the Millionaires had 30 home games/season).
- The team is requesting a letter of support from the Committee and confirmation that ice time can be made available at the West Fraser Centre to accommodate the team.

Recommendation

THAT the North Cariboo Joint Advisory Committee provide a letter of support and confirm that ice time will be made available for a KIJHL Jr. B Hockey Team to play at the West Fraser Centre starting with the 2022/2023 season and subject to the team negotiating terms for a multi-year agreement that will be approved by the Committee at a future meeting.

Financial Implications

- A Jr. B hockey team can be expected to generate modest revenue for the North Cariboo Recreation and Parks budget. Terms of an agreement will be negotiated with the team if the team's bid is successful and they are admitted to the League.

November 2, 2021

Dear North Cariboo Joint Advisory Committee Members,

I am part of ownership group that is pursuing a bid to bring Junior B hockey to Quesnel for the start of the 2022 season. We are putting together a bid application to become the next expansion team for the Kootenay International Junior Hockey League (KIJHL). The KIJHL was started in 1967, has 20 teams currently and is sanctioned by Hockey Canada. The age group for this league is 16–20. Currently, there are 8 players on record from Quesnel playing in this league that were forced to go to other communities to play this level of hockey.

We are looking for the Support from you and your committee. We would like to play all our home games in the West Fraser Center in Quesnel. We require ice time for our practices that would occur during off-peak hours when the demand from other user groups for the ice surface is low. We are predicting to have approximately 25 home games that would feature fast paced and highly skilled hockey. We are confident that a team in this league playing in Quesnel would be very competitive, feature local talent and showcase our stunning arena and facility.

Our goal is to have a team here in Quesnel so our local youth can advance past the Midget level and play in a competitive league that has advanced 191 players in the last 5 years to a higher level of hockey (e.g., Junior A, Major Junior). We owe it to our younger hockey players to have the option to play in front of their hometown family and friends. In addition, we plan to work in collaboration with Quesnel & District Minor Hockey Association (QDMHA) to develop elite players in all age groups to improve their skills. We will look to sign and affiliate as many local players as we can to stay competitive. Furthermore, we have reached out to make an early connection with the Quesnel Kangaroos and feel the two teams will not function in a game of tug-a-war, but more operate in synergy with a partnership that fosters strong ongoing connections that will have a positive impact within the local community. Lastly, we have connected with many local organizations and business owners already, including Letters of Support from the Quesnel Chamber of Commerce and QDMHA

Please reach out if there are any questions.

We look forward to your positive reply.

Cory Broadhead

Quesnel Thunder Junior Hockey Club
President of Hockey Operations

[XXX](#)

[XXX](#)