



RPT 23-101

TITLE: Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Center Operator Agreement

DATE: **March 8, 2023**

TO: City Council

PUBLIC: X

INCAMERA:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Center Agreement between the City of Prince Albert and 101290873 Saskatchewan Ltd. for a 5-year term commencing October 30th, 2023 and ending May 31, 2028, be approved.
2. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the 5-year extension on behalf of the City of Prince Albert.

TOPIC & PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre Operator, Nathan Stregger a 5-year Agreement to provide operating and maintenance services for the Kinsmen Ski Hill located at Little Red River Park

BACKGROUND:

The existing Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre Operator Agreement expires on March 31st, 2023 with no provision for renewal.

Nathan Stregger has been fully immersed at the Kinsmen Ski Hill from an early age and has worked his way through mentorship with the previous Operator from 2015 thru to 2017 where he was awarded the Operator Agreement in 2018. Nathan Stregger has years of experience on the hill, has an unparalleled understanding and connection to the needs of the ski and snowboard community and has a love and passion for the sport. He has been well received by the community and has proven over the last 5-years, two of those years extremely challenging due to the pandemic, to being an industry leader providing some of the best skiing in the area. Since his time as Operator he has been instrumental in ushering the community through two very tough years, he has provided some of the most dynamic and best skiing and snowboarding opportunities right here in the City's own backyard and has been year over year the first opened hill in the province.

With a peaked awareness in outdoor winter sports and a significant up-tick in users the ski hill has become a vital component in providing outdoor ski and snowboard enthusiasts the ability to ski closer to home rather than travel to other distant locations.

The Ski Hill is an important resource for local residents and provides an opportunity for those looking to reconnect with the outdoors to do so right in their own backyard.

Community Services recognizes the importance of having an experienced and seasoned Operator who understands the needs of the Prince Albert community and as well as a thorough and professional understanding of how the hill functions and needs to be designed for maximum performance each ski season. The Operator has experience in operations with an understanding of the equipment, the responsibilities to operating and maintaining that equipment and overall operation of the ski hill and Old Log Cabin in the months of October through March allowing for this activity to take place.

PROPOSED APPROACH AND RATIONALE:

Little Red River Park is 1200 acres of natural area and situated within a 5 minute drive from downtown Prince Albert. Little Red River Park is Prince Alberts largest park, and provides residents and visitors an opportunity to connect with the natural environment within the Pehonan Parkway.

In 2020/2021 ski season the Ski Hill realized a large increase of (60%) in its user base 3856 visitors when compared to 2019/2020 approximately 2400 users. COVID certainly played a factor in this increase as people were looking to move to the outdoors to recreate in a safe environment. As we have continued through 2022 and 2023 we continue to see a familiar trend with those numbers remaining strong, attributed to ski and snow board leagues getting back to a sense of normal and a continued strong growth in individual lift pass purchases as well as yearly pass purchase.

Community Services is requesting that a five (5)-year term be awarded to the current Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Centre Operator, 101290873 Saskatchewan Ltd. This has been a very positive operating model and relationship resulting in the department having confidence in the Operator and his ability to ensure the Ski Hill remains publicly accessible and maintained adding to with someone who has a working knowledge and understanding of the hill.

CONSULTATIONS:

The city has and continues to work closely with Nathan Stregger making the necessary improvements to ensure the Ski Hill is up and operating each season. The relationship has been very positive and has been very important to the ongoing viability and operation of the hill and connection to community.

There are not many persons within or around our community who have the skill set, knowledge and years of experience at this facility as the current Operator. He has demonstrated his professionalism in serving the community all while ensuring the very best experience on the hills.

COMMUNICATION AND/OR ANNOUNCEMENT PLAN:

All communication on the Kinsmen Ski and Snowboard Center operation will continue to be updated thru the COPA website.

Communication and consultation with the City Solicitor has been had in the development of the new agreement

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/IMPLICATIONS:

There is no policy, financial, privacy implications, or other considerations.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report supports the Strategic Priority of 'Investing in Infrastructure' with the City of Prince Albert committed to supporting long-term growth and sustainable services through strategic investment in new and existing infrastructure.

Nature Area Planning – Continue to prioritize and support the recommendations identified through the annual reporting of the State of the Parks & Playgrounds Improvement Plan, Little Red River Parks Master Plan, and the Urban Forestry Master Plan.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN:

Community Services contributes to infrastructure and sustainability efforts. Proper planning can help preserve and maintain natural and built environments. It is important to anticipate, encourage and prepare for growth in response to the needs of the community. Investing in infrastructure will support growth while planning for continuous improvement. Our connection to the natural world is important and must be considered in the delivery of community services. Likewise, maintaining and investing in the built environment with a consideration to sustainability is important.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Public Notice pursuant to the Public Notice Bylaw No. 24 of 2015 is not required.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Kinsmen Ski Centre Operating Agreement
2. Schedule 'A' Ski Hill

Written by: Timothy Yeaman, Parks and Open Spaces Manager

Approved by: Director of Community Services and City Manager