

NO: F020

COUNCIL DATE: November 1, 2010

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **October 26, 2010**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation
and Culture** FILE: **8200-01**

SUBJECT: **Financial Support for the 2010 Hargobind International Wrestling Event –
November 6, 2010**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Finance Committee:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Recommend to Council that it approve funding in the amount of \$6,800 from the Council Initiatives Fund to offset the facility rental and equipment costs associated with the Hargobind International Wrestling Event being held at the Guildford Recreation Centre.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the 2010 Hargobind International Wrestling Event to be held at the Guildford Recreation Centre on November 6th, 2010 so as to support the Finance Committee making a recommendation that City Council approve financial support for the event.

DISCUSSION

This elite international tournament was held at Simon Fraser University for over 30 years. The Hargobind Wrestling Association approached the City of Surrey in 2007 to be the first location outside of SFU to accommodate this event. The Guildford Recreation Centre was selected as a suitable location for the Event in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Council approved funding of \$5,000 in 2007, \$6,000 in 2008 and \$10,000 in 2009 from the Council Initiatives Fund to offset the facility rental and equipment costs associated with staging this tournament.

As in previous years, the 2010 event will act to enhance the profile of Surrey's *Ahead of the Game* initiative and will be significant to Surrey's wrestling community, which boasts the largest youth wrestling contingent in Metro Vancouver. The event includes approximately 150 to 200 competitors of all skill levels, including world class competitors, with event attendance expected to approach 2,000 spectators. This number is consistent with the number of spectators that last year's event drew on a daily basis.

This event continues to be a 2-day tournament. Day 1 will be the Canadian qualifying portion of the tournament from which the top Canadians advance to Day 2. This year, the Hargobind Wrestling Association will hold the qualifying event at SFU to allow the Organizing Committee to have more time to prepare for the International Event at the Guildford Recreation Centre.

The Hargobind Wrestling Association views this event as an opportunity to showcase the importance of wrestling as a disciplined, healthy and competitive activity for both genders and all ages.

In discussions with this non-profit Association, staff has learned that the Association is not in a financial position to cover the rental for the Guildford Recreation Centre for the event, which will amount to approximately \$6,800. This amount includes the gym rental rates, the delivery and set up of the bleachers and the need for additional staffing during and after the event. While the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department has a *Fee Waiver Policy*, this Policy does not apply to facility rentals.

The Association has requested that the City provide financial support to the Association to offset the facility rental costs and other City-related expenses that will be incurred in relation to the Event being held at the Guildford Recreation Centre. A letter from the Hargobind International Wrestling Club requesting \$6,800 in financial assistance for the Event is attached as Appendix A. Staff has confirmed that the amount requested by the Association is equivalent to the charges and expenses that the City will incur in hosting the event and that would typically be charged back to the Association.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that the Finance Committee recommend to Council that financial support in the amount of \$6,800 from the Council Initiatives Fund be provided to the organizers of the Hargobind International Wrestling Event being held at the Guildford Recreation Centre, which will offset the facility rental and equipment costs for the Event.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix A – Letter from Hargobind Wrestling Association



Hargobind Wrestling Association
12876 85 Avenue
Surrey, BC, Canada, V3W-0K8
604-617-8000 (tel)
604-599-1575 (fax)
www.HargobindWrestling.com

October 24, 2010

City of Surrey
Parks, Recreation & Culture Department
14245 – 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.

Attention: Lisa White, Manager of Community and Leisure Services

Dear Ms. White:

Re: 2010 Hargobind International Wrestling Championship
Request for Financial Assistance for Event

The four annual Hargobind International Wrestling Championships are set to run on November 6, 2010 at the Guildford Recreation Center. Our goal is to be able to provide opportunities to aspiring athletes, along with assisting our youth in developing strong values and personal character. Athletes are taught the ideals of good sportsmanship, discipline, courage and respect.

We are a non-profit organization and many of our athletes are training toward attaining university scholarships through wrestling. Our organization is run by parental volunteer support for over 18 years and coaches are all former national champions. The club has produced over 30 medals from the senior National Championships and over 40 BC high school medalists. All of these athletes have put Surrey on the map both nationally and internationally.

We are raising funds through the community, as we have done for the past 19 years.

The tournament will bring many world and Olympic level athletes to Surrey. This is a great opportunity for us to showcase our City and expose our youth to the world's top athlete's right here at home.

Assistance from the City of Surrey is much needed at this time. We are asking that you approve fees and hosting costs of up to \$6,800.00 for this championship event, as well as use of the wrestling mats owned by the city of Surrey.

Yours truly,

Satnam Johal

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