

To: Lane County Budget Committee Members

From: The Ice Sports Foundation of Lane County

LANE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE - BUDGET MESSAGE & PUBLIC HEARING: Thursday, April 29

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Harris Hall, Public Service Building, 125 E. 8th Avenue, Eugene.

- The Ice Sports Foundation (ISF) is an organization that seeks to maintain, promote, and support ice sports and recreation in the Southern Willamette Valley.
- Lane Events Center Ice is unique as it is one of two full time ice rinks outside of Portland and has the largest seating capacity of any dedicated ice rink in Oregon.
- Events at Lane Events Center Ice draw attendees from outside of the immediate area thus generating revenue from the Transient Room Tax (TRT).
- Users of the ice rink come from Lane, Linn, Benton, Douglas, and Deschutes counties.
- ISF represents the user groups of the ice skating community including:
 - Public skating community (family skate nights, parties, and lessons)
 - Youth (hockey, figure skating)
 - Special needs (including developmental and physical disabilities, disabled veterans)
 - Collegiate - University of Oregon Club Hockey
 - USA Hockey Junior A Tier Three Team (Eugene Generals)
 - United States Figure Skating Association Competitive skaters
 - Adult men and women's hockey leagues
 - Lane Amateur Hockey Association (Youth hockey)
 - Churchill High School Hockey Team (Representing youth of Lane County)
 - Speed Skating Club
- ISF has met with Rick Reno, Lane Events Center Manager, and several of the County Commissioners to express our interest in maintaining and improving the Ice Arena at the Fairgrounds.
- ISF believes there is an opportunity for the Lane Events Center Ice Arena to become a self sustaining entity by considering innovative options such as utilization of a public private partnership.
- ISF believes there are a multitude of upgrades that can be prioritized and phased in gradually to offset the costs with energy savings, grant funding, and community fundraising.
- As user groups have made commitments and obtained corporate sponsors for the coming year, ISF encourages the Lane County Budget Committee to continue the operation of the ice rink for the next budget year. The assessment report regarding the rink is not due until mid-June and it would be premature to make dramatic operational decisions without the needed data.

- The ISF strongly urges the Lane County Budget Committee to maintain the existing rink for the next 3-5 years and avoid a capital expenditure of the estimated \$5-8 million dollars to create a multipurpose arena in a time of down economy. While a multi-purpose facility may be a consideration in the future, the greatest concern is to maintain a usable ice surface to benefit the residents of Lane County and surrounding counties for youth development, entertainment, community spirit, and the health benefits of ice sports.
- ISF desires to collaborate with the county to support the continued presence of ice in the central Willamette Valley.

Respectfully Submitted

Ken Evans - President

Jon Hoyt – Vice President

Chris Hays – Treasurer

Laurinda Andrist – Secretary

Kellie Hays – Member at Large