

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** December 6, 2023

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Thru:** Doug Thornley, City Manager

**Subject:** Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of Robert Freeland Growth & Development Grant Award from USA Hockey Pacific District to support the ongoing City of Reno sled hockey program in the amount of \$2,500.

**From:** April Wolfe, Therapeutic Rec Specialist

**Department:** Parks and Recreation

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### Summary:

The City provides year-round accessible recreation activities. With the opening of the Jennifer M. O'Neal Community Ice Arena, there was an opportunity for the City of Reno to provide a sled hockey program for individuals with disabilities. The Parks and Recreation Department applied for, and received a second Robert Freeland Growth and Development grant from USA Hockey Pacific District in the amount of \$2,500 to support the ongoing City of Reno sled hockey program. Staff recommends Council accept the grant award.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?	X	
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		X
3. Is this item Included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?	X	
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total city budget does this item represent?	0.0001%	

### Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Fiscal Sustainability

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

### Previous Council Action:

March 24, 2021 - Council accepted the Robert Freeland Growth & Development Grant Award from USA Hockey Pacific District in the amount of \$2,500.

**Background:**

The Greater Reno Community Ice Skating Association was formed to bring a broad range of ice-skating-related activities to the Reno community, and launched a \$10+ million dollar fundraising campaign for the development of an Olympic-quality and NHL ice skating facility for people of all ages/abilities that opened in January 2021. The new ice rink fills a unique need and current void in the community, offering a variety of fun and affordable programs including public skating sessions, learn to skate programs, adaptive ice sports, figure skating, ice hockey, group and private lessons, parties, exhibitions, tournaments and competitions. The ice rink is fully ADA accessible and was designed with full-service adaptive sports capabilities including locker rooms, specialized ramps to the ice, benches and viewing areas.

While the arena design allows this accessibility, individuals with disabilities are often precluded by the cost of adaptive sporting equipment, and the support needed to access these activities. The partner organizations in this grant proposal worked together to provide skills training, adaptive equipment, and a supportive environment to launch the ongoing sled hockey program at Reno Ice.

**Discussion:**

Through collaboration with Reno Ice and USA Hockey, City of Reno hosted a number of "Give Hockey a Try" sled hockey clinics. Following the successful implementation of these clinics, the City of Reno sled hockey program now has 15 rostered individuals with disabilities on the ice practicing on a weekly basis.

The Robert Freeland Growth and Development grant was awarded to the City of Reno for a second time to "grow the game" and funds awarded from USA Hockey will cover expenses associated with team travel and hosting a local sled hockey tournament.

**Financial Implications:**

None to the General Fund. There are matching requirements which will be met through the in-kind value of staff time for project planning and administration. If any funds remain after completion of the identified work, all unexpended funds shall be returned.

**Legal Implications:**

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Council accept the grant from USA Hockey Pacific District to support the ongoing City of Reno sled hockey program in the amount of \$2,500.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move to approve the staff recommendation.

**Attachments:**

USA Hockey Grant Confirmation Email (PDF)