

MAHA Family,

The Mankato Area Hockey Association is excited to announce initial plans regarding the pursuit of a two-sheet ice facility at the junction of highway 14 and Victory Drive in Mankato. Significant momentum is underway with the land being donated at this prime location. In addition, Scheels has agreed to be a sponsor contributing between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 towards the construction. As MAHA looks towards raising additional money for the project costs, we have requested that the City of Mankato contribute half of the project costs from the sales tax funds generated from the sales tax referendum that passed in 2016. The full plan for the new rink can be viewed at www.mankatohockey.com.

Why do we need a new indoor ice facility?

- **Growth:** There are 61 user groups currently utilizing All Seasons Arena incurring approximately 4,000 hours annually. MAHA being one of the main user groups, has continued to experience significant growth increasing by 21% over the last 5 years. With this significant growth and no additional ice added within the community, MAHA is currently short 613 hours of ice hours per year, based on the recommendations of USA Hockey. To manage the shortage of ice, MAHA has been very creative in maximizing the available hours by having teams share ice with one or more teams for practices, having skills nights, and by increasing the number of kids on a team. Unfortunately, this all effects the quality of the programming ultimately putting the youth at a disadvantage against the competition and more than that, giving our kids a poor experience while on the ice.
- **Tournament Hosting:** As part of the future growth of the area hockey program, MAHA would like to host 15 to 20 tournaments a year compared to the 6 tournaments currently being hosted due to the extremely limited ice availability. Discussions have been occurring regarding the potential elimination of tournaments in order to utilize the limited ice availability. Again, this ultimately affects our youth hockey experience as well as an economic loss within the Greater Mankato Community. The initial estimates of this annual economic loss of not hosting any tournaments compared to the 15 plus tournaments currently desired would be between \$1,715,250 and \$2,287,000.
- **All Seasons Arena Costs:** The current facility requires a significant upgrade to the cooling system on the North Rink with initial estimates of approximately \$3,000,000. In addition to the cooling system repair, the current facility was poorly designed with poor corridor space, insufficient lobby space, poor concession stand location, and extremely limited parking. Due to the facility being landlocked, it does not allow for any future expansion.

A perfect opportunity has been presented to build an ice facility that will meet the current and future needs of this growing community while contributing to the growth of our local economy. We will **NEED** your help as we move ahead with this project. More information will be coming on how you can help us Build a Better Community with the construction of this new ice facility!

Thank you,
The Mankato Area Hockey Association Board