



## REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

**AGENDA DATE:** April 27, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM:** Consider approval of a resolution authorizing a grant request to MN IRRR for demolition work associated with a project to replace equipment at the Itasca Curling Club.

**PREPARED BY:** Rob Mattei, Director of Community Development

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### **BACKGROUND:**

Staff has been working with leadership of the Itasca Curling Club on their proposed project to replace failing chiller equipment necessary to maintain the operation of the Curling Club.

The Itasca Curling Club was established in 1968 and became a 501c3 in 2020. Its mission is to provide and promote curling opportunities to Itasca County and the surrounding area, with an emphasis on youth and skill development for curlers of all ages and skill levels. It is the only curling facility in Itasca County and has occupied its current site since 1973.

A project to renovate the club's ice rink began before the 23-24 season when new mats (tubular coils embedded in the ice) were installed and the walkway around the rink was replaced. The mats carry the fluid that cools the ice to the correct temperature for curling. The new ice mat system created additional pressure on the aging chiller/compressor unit, which cools and distributes the circulating fluid. The unit has broken down repeatedly in the last two seasons and nearly caused their past season to be canceled. An emergency repair is keeping the chiller/compressor running currently, but replacement is essential.

The total budget for the project is \$201,000. The grant request seeks the full cost of demolishing and removing the existing equipment which is \$7,900.

The project qualifies for two IRRR grant programs. The resolution attached for approval authorizes an application to the IRRR Commercial Redevelopment Program.

### **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION:**

Make a motion to approve a resolution authorizing a grant request to MN IRRR for demolition work associated with a project to replace equipment at the Itasca Curling Club.