



Text File

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Committee: City Council

Status: Adopted

WHEREAS, as part of the wide range of services offered to the citizens of Pittsburgh, **Citiparks** operates the **Schenley Park Skating Rink** at Overlook Drive in Schenley Park. Throughout the winter, the rink operates daily, offering a variety of Public and Special Sessions, Special Events and a meeting and banquet room available for rental year round; and,

WHEREAS, the first **Mascot Skate** was held in January 1988 with only 12 Mascots on the ice, one of which was the Pirate Parrott. In its first 4 years, the event was held at 7PM on a Thursday but has since been switched to Saturday afternoons for a larger and diversified attendance. Since then, the event has grown with strong early support from the late Mayor Bob O'Connor who brought his children and grandchildren to meet and greet the mascots and their fans and most recently with support and attendance from City Councilman Corey O'Connor and Mayor Bill Peduto; and,

WHEREAS, this year, **Citiparks** celebrates the **33rd Anniversary of the Annual Mascot Skate** on Saturday, February 1, 2020, where nearly 40 of the Pittsburgh area's favorite mascots including Iceburgh, the Pirate Parrot, Alcosan's Frankie the Fish, the Penn State Nittany Lion, Freddie the Flame from Peoples Gas, Sparky the Fire Dog, Living Lincoln and more are expected to meet and greet fans, take pictures and enjoy television and newspaper coverage. Eat 'N Park will provide Smiley Cookies for all the children and their parents.

WHEREAS, special kudos go out to those who have made the **Annual Mascot Skate** such a tremendous success, this year hosting up to 500 children and parents. Event Manager for many years has been Bill Backa with special thanks to former Rink Managers, Eric Vanden Hengel, Tom Driscoll, the late Web Kolling and the current Rink Manager Mirella Ranallo.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize **Citiparks** for its creative and resourceful event planning and congratulates the Schenley Park Skating Rink on the **33rd Anniversary of the City of Pittsburgh's/Citiparks Mascot Skate**; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby declare Saturday, February 1, 2020, to be "**MASCOT SKATE DAY**" in the City of Pittsburgh.