

DATE OF MEETING December 2, 2019

AUTHORED BY RICHARD HARDING, GENERAL MANAGER, PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

SUBJECT **PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE FEES AND CHARGES BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, REVIEW AND UPDATE**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To provide information regarding the background, purpose and review process for fees and charges administered by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Division and the regulating bylaw "Parks, Recreation and Culture Regulation Bylaw 2008 No. 7073."

BACKGROUND

Staff are presenting background information regarding the development, purpose and review process for updating fees and charges administered for Parks, Recreation and Culture services.

"Parks, Recreation and Culture Regulation Bylaw 2008 No. 7073" was adopted in 2013. This bylaw includes a rate schedule for three years, with the last rate increase effective in 2015. The City's established practice is to evaluate and update rates every three years, and a review of the bylaw was planned for 2016. The process ended up being postponed due to a city-wide Core Review which took place during 2016-2017. Further, in the past, Council tasked the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission with reviewing the bylaw and making recommendations for Council's consideration.

DISCUSSION

Parks and Recreation fees and charges are set by several factors including current operating costs; market conditions; inflationary costs; pricing to encourage effective use; funding lifecycle for equipment replacement; and, program materials and supplies. The update in 2013 factored in the following five objectives:

- That fees provide accessibility for most taxpayers;
- That fees are straightforward and easily administered;
- That fees generally mirror cost of living increases;
- That fee rates are comparable to other municipalities on Vancouver Island and like communities; and,
- That admissions for children, youth and seniors are more heavily subsidized in comparison to adult admissions.

All fees and charges for drop-in admissions and facility rentals are outlined in Schedule B of "Parks, Recreation and Culture Regulation Bylaw 2008 No. 7073" (Attachment A). Staff are

recommending that in determining the 2020-2024 Fees and Charges Bylaw, consideration be given to:

- a) Current operating costs
- b) Market conditions
- c) Inflationary costs
- d) Pricing to encourage fullest and most effective use
- e) Funding lifecycle replacement of the associated equipment

Staff will follow up with a report to an Open Council Meeting in early 2020 with recommendations for changes which will include a fee schedule to cover four years from 2020 to 2023. Once a draft is approved, Staff will advise all user groups and communicate changes to the public for review and comment. Staff will then bring a report back to Council with input as well as a draft bylaw for consideration.

CONCLUSION

The goal is to have an updated Fees and Charges bylaw in place for new fees to be implemented as of 2020-SEP-01.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The schedule of fees and charges administered for Parks, Recreation and Culture services was last updated in 2013 with the last fee increase effective in 2015.
- The new fee schedule will cover four years from 2020 through to 2023.
- The goal for the implementation date is 2020-SEP-01.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: "Parks, Recreation and Culture Regulation Bylaw 2008 No. 7073"

PowerPoint Presentation – Parks, Recreation and Culture Fees and Charges Background, Purpose, Review and Update

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