

DATE OF MEETING February 19, 2020

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

SUBJECT **PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE FEES AND CHARGES POLICY UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 TO AUGUST 2024**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To present proposed changes to update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Fees and Charges policy for the next four years as a draft and to provide time for review by the Finance & Audit Committee. A report recommending changes will be presented at the 2020-MAR-18 Finance & Audit Committee meeting.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the Finance & Audit Committee meeting held 2019-DEC-02, Staff presented background information regarding the development, purpose and review process for updating fees and charges administered for Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) services (see Attachment A). Staff are now presenting draft changes, which will include a fee schedule to cover four years from 2020 to 2024 for review.

The draft changes are being presented as information only to allow for more detailed review and consideration by the Finance & Audit Committee. A report recommending changes will be presented at the 2020-MAR-18 Finance & Audit Committee meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

During the review process for changes to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Fees and Charges policy, Staff gave consideration to the following factors:

- a) Current operating costs
- b) Market conditions
- c) Inflationary costs and cost of living increases
- d) Pricing to encourage fullest and most effective use
- e) Funding lifecycle replacement of the associated equipment
- f) Comparison to other Vancouver Island communities

During the comparisons of Nanaimo's current rates to those in other regions on Vancouver Island, the following points were noted:

- Arena rental rates in Nanaimo are significantly lower than the industry standard for Vancouver Island
- Nanaimo's drop-in admissions are at the higher end of the industry standard
- Aquatic rental rates are slightly lower in Nanaimo than the Island average

To address the discrepancies in regional rates and cover increasing costs of operation, Staff are recommending a general fee adjustment of approximately 2 to 3 percent over the next four years. In some specific cases, increases are slightly higher or lower. Staff are also recommending changes to language regarding descriptions and classifications for improved consistency and clarity throughout the document.

A detailed summary of proposed changes is provided (see Attachment B).

A copy of the existing Schedule B of “PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE REGULATION BYLAW 2008 NO. 7073” showing current rates in place is included for reference (see Attachment C).

The proposed increases are expected to generate an additional \$50,000 to \$55,000 annually.

The increase rates are similar to Consumer Price Index annual rates of change in recent years: 2.1 percent in 2017; 2.7 percent in 2018; and 2.3 percent in 2019. |

## **CONCLUSION**

Upon approval, an updated schedule of rates and fees will be included in a revised “Schedule B” of “PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE REGULATION BYLAW 2008 NO. 7073” to be considered at a future Council meeting. All user groups will be advised of the draft changes to the bylaw understanding that once final approval has been granted, rate changes will take effect 2020-SEP-01.

## **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Parks, Recreation and Culture Fees and Charges Schedule as information for review.
- Goal is to have an updated Bylaw in place by September 1, 2020.
- Bylaw will be in place until August 2023.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- ATTACHMENT A: Electronic link to report titled “Parks, Recreation and Culture Fees and Charges Background, Purpose, Review and Update” and accompanying presentation dated 2019-DEC-02
- ATTACHMENT B: Summary of Proposed Changes to PRC Fees and Charges Policy
- ATTACHMENT C: Current Schedule B from “PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE REGULATION BYLAW 2008 NO. 7073”

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### **Concurrence by:**

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