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STAFF REPORT: Finance and IT Services



REPORT TO: Committee of the Whole
MEETING DATE: April 25, 2016
REPORT NO.: FAF.16.38
SUBJECT: 2016 Community Services Fees and Charges – Public Comments
PREPARED BY: Ruth Prince, Director of Finance and IT Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.16.38, entitled “2016 Community Services Fees and Charges – Public Comments” for information purposes.

B. Background

On March 30, 2016, the Town held a Public Meeting to provide the public with the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2016 Community Services Fees and Charges. The Town received three written comments and one verbal comment. Below is a summary of the comments received from the public.

Written Comments

Tim King

Mr. King noted that he has reviewed the document regarding the fees and it was enlightening to see all of the various town facilities that the fees apply to. He had no further comments.

Alex Maxwell

Mr. Maxwell expressed concerns with the reduction to ice time fees being proposed. Mr. Maxwell is concerned in how the Town will maintain the arena moving forward if it continues to subsidize ice time while not significantly affecting the tax payers.

Mr. Maxwell also notes that he would like to see the Town continue to look into options that would allow the concession booth at the arena to be open when the arena is in use.

Staff Response

Staff recommended some additional rates and subsidies that would help promote and market the ice time and create additional hours of rentals. Staff suggests that the proposed rates provide an incentive for users to commit to full season ice rentals as opposed to those that rent most weeks but not all. The subsidy also provides some assistance to minor sports that may help increase their program participation therefore require additional hours of use. Providing more options for rental rates created additional usage of the Community Hall and staff suggests the same rationale could provide additional use of the Ice Surface as well.

In regards to the concession, staff is committed to having the concession operational for the 2016/17 ice season. Staff is reviewing the options, however staff suggests that having the Town operate the concession for the first year would be beneficial, and then review the options of tendering out the concession operations or to remain as a Town operated service.

Verbal Comments

Bruce Wilson

Mr. Wilson spoke on behalf of the Beaver Valley Curling Club group. Mr. Wilson noted that the Curling Club group presented a proposal to Council and requested a subsidy for the use of the Beaver Valley Community Centre for a curling program. Mr. Wilson noted that this proposal was turned down because of a financial shortfall. Mr. Wilson noted that the Beaver Valley Community Centre should be used as much as possible, further noting that youth and seniors can both enjoy curling. Mr. Wilson noted that the Beaver Valley Community Centre should reserve a block of time that could be used for curling. Mr. Wilson noted that Town staff have worked with the Curling Club group, further noting that he still believes that curling at the Beaver Valley Community Centre will happen.

Staff Response

Staff continues to be in contact with the curling group, and will ensure that the potential use of the ice surface is considered as a potential option for ice rental use where it can be accommodated in a fiscally responsible way.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational and Operational Excellence
Objective #4: To Be a Financially Responsible Organization

D. Environmental Impacts

N/A

E. Financial Impact

The proposed fees and charges are included in the 2016 Budget.

F. In Consultation With

Shawn Everitt, Director of Community Services

G. Attached

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Prince
Director of Finance and IT Services

For more information, please contact:
Ruth Prince
rprince@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 228