



SUBJECT: Peanut free environment at all City facilities

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Parks & Recreation Department

Report Number: PR-11-17

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 925-01

Date to Committee: May 1, 2017

Date to Council: May 15, 2017

Recommendation:

Approve Option #1 for implementing a peanut-aware environment at all Parks & Recreation facilities as outlined in parks and recreation report PR-11-17.

Purpose:

- A Healthy and Greener City
- Healthy Lifestyles

This report is in response to the staff direction shown below:

“Direct the Director of Parks and Recreation to provide a recommendation on the feasibility of implementing a peanut-free environment at all City facilities.”

Background and Discussion:

To provide some context around the current state of peanut-free facilities in parks and recreation, below highlights the current practices and limitations within various areas of the Parks & Recreation department (P&R) including: Facilities and Programs and also includes information regarding Food Service Providers.

Recreation Facilities:

At the present time, the general public has open access to our facilities, without any prescreening requirements to gain entry. The public can access any community centre,

pool and arena without the need to sign in or go through a pre-screening process. Open access facilities are different than other more controlled facilities like schools. Based on policy and regulation, schools are highly controlled and have pre-screening and monitoring systems in place. Moreover, schools also have a roster of all students inclusive of emergency contacts and known medical conditions. A controlled and monitored school environment is much different than an open access community centre.

Programs:

At the present time, peanut aware and peanut restrictions are done for specific recreational program areas. For example, day-camp program participants are asked not to bring in foods which contain peanut products as participants are in attendance over an extended period of time, over a meal period. Disclosures of known medical conditions are also requested as part of the registration intake process for specific programs like camps. Specific action plans are developed for each child with a disclosed medical condition. These protocols are not in place for other program types (e.g. swimming lessons, exercise classes, etc.) that are shorter in length and do not have a food component directly associated with them.

Food Service Providers:

At the present time, the City has three distinct categories of food service providers under specific license agreements:

1. Vending Services (e.g. snack machines)
2. Banquet / Restaurant Service (e.g. Bistro at Seniors Centre, Tyandaga, Paletta and 414 Locust)
3. Concession Services (concession booths at Tansley Woods Community Centre, Arenas and Beachway Park)

No restrictions on limiting or restricting peanut products have been incorporated as part of any of these third party contracts. Applying restrictions on what products can be sold will have a direct impact on sales, which in turn will have a direct impact on rent paid to the City, and ultimately impact service levels and customer expectations.

At the present time, each of the three food services categories provides annual revenues to the City at approximately:

Vending	Banquet / Restaurant	Concessions
\$85,000	\$800,000	\$50,000

Strategy/process

To set context regarding peanut limitations at City facilities, below highlights a continuum from a basic Peanut Aware level to a more highly controlled and monitored, Peanut Free level. Understanding this common terminology will assist in understanding what is being recommended by staff for moving forward.

Peanut Aware	Peanut Restrictions	Peanut Free
<p>General awareness with information and campaigns highlighting various allergies through signage and information bulletins.</p> <p>Targeted awareness campaigns to specific program participants.</p>	<p>Identified recreational programs that have restrictions in place regarding certain food products.</p> <p>Restricting the sale of products that have peanuts in them through vending machines and concessions.</p>	<p>No trace of peanut products in City facilities. Inclusive of on-site monitoring. This would include full awareness of everyone who is in a given facility and would require full controls at the point of entry. This level would completely change the open access operating model of all recreation facilities.</p>
Currently in Place in P&R	Only in Place for Programs	Not in Place

As previously mentioned, presently there is some basic Peanut Aware information available to the general public. Specific information is supplied directly to specific program areas like day-camps. In addition, elevated Peanut Restrictions have also been applied to specific program areas like day-camps restricting campers from bringing peanut products as part of their lunches.

Without highly controlled entrance points at each facility and without knowing exact details of all participants and users of each of the facilities at all times, moving towards Peanut Free would be virtually impossible to implement.

Considerations:

Potential for Peanut Aware (Option 1):

At the present there is little peanut awareness visible at our facilities in Parks & Recreation. Information on allergies is given to certain program areas (e.g. day-camps)

in an effort to educate and inform. It would be recommended by staff to enhance awareness opportunities through signage at facilities, and some promotion campaigns supported by information provided by Public Health. Signage and information can be posted at front desks, information boards as well as some awareness signage around vending and concession areas. **Staff is recommending Option 1 at this time.**

Potential for Peanut Restrictions (Option 2):

An imposed peanut restriction approach would attempt to limit peanut products from entering the building and also restrict what is being sold. Food products are sold at a variety of locations within Parks & Recreation including vending machines, concessions and our banquet / restaurant operations. Examples for each are:

Vending	Banquet / Restaurant	Concessions
Simple coin type operated vending machines and candy type machines.	Tyandaga, Bistro at Seniors Centre, LaSalle Pavilion, Spencers, etc.	Arena Concessions, Beachway Concessions, Tansley Woods Café, etc.

Most of the locations are operated by a third party agreement. All agreements presently do not contain clauses that restrict the sale of peanut products. Also, all agreements have varying expiration dates between 2018 and 2026.

As previously stated, each of these operations provides revenues back to the City. Based on other municipalities that have piloted this type of program, if the decision is made to restrict the sale of peanut products, staff would estimate a direct reduction in revenues of approximately 25%-50%.

Staff is not recommending this for the Banquet / Restaurant operators as the financial cost is very high and the restaurateur service already manages this within their operation (e.g. asking customers directly if they have any food allergies).

Moreover, imposing a restriction on Vending and Concession services may also result in the service provider no longer being able to sustain service levels resulting in a potential closure or complete loss of service. **Staff is not recommending Option 2 at this time.**

Potential for Peanut Free (Option 3):

It would not be feasible for recreation facilities in Parks & Recreation to be Peanut Free as:

1. Facilities would require highly controlled entrance points at all facilities

2. Staff would need to know medical details of everyone in our facilities to ensure messaging and expectations are clearly understood and communicated

For these reasons, staff is also not recommending Option 3.

Financial Matters:

In an effort to move forward with a Peanut Aware approach (Option 1), one-time funds would be required for signage as well as promotional and marketing material. Staff is estimating the amount to be relatively minor at approximately \$3,000-\$5,000. This cost would be drawn from the corporate Master Signage Strategy account. If council does not approve the recommended Option 1 in favour of one of the other options listed in this report, the following staff direction should be considered: "Direct the Director of Parks and Recreation to determine the feasibility of Option X as well as the financial impacts to be incorporated into the 2018 budget process".

Conclusion:

In an effort to support Peanut / Allergy Awareness in Parks & Recreation facilities, staff are recommending Option 1 to Council for consideration. This option would include on-site messaging and awareness campaigns throughout the year. Once budgets are approved, staff would proceed with implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

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Manager of Recreation Services

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Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.