



SUBJECT: Request by Rotary Club of Burlington Lakeshore to extend park hours

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Parks & Recreation Department

Report Number: PR-01-18

Wards Affected: 2

File Numbers: 965-01

Date to Committee: June 4, 2018

Date to Council: June 18, 2018

Recommendation:

That the Director of Parks and Recreation uphold by-law 019-2003 Nuisance and Noise Control and Parks by-law 035-1976 on August 30, 2018 at Spencer Smith Park.

Purpose:

A City that Grows

- Promoting Economic Growth

An Engaging City

- Community Building through Arts and Culture via Community Activities

The Rotary Club of Burlington Lakeshore (RCBL) submitted a request to host a kick-off event on opening night (Thursday August 30, 2018) of their annual four day Ribfest event with extended hours until 1:00 a.m.

In accordance with by-laws 019-2003 Nuisance and Noise Control and Parks by-law 035-1976 any amendments need to be approved by Council.

Background and Discussion:

The RCBL launched Canada's Largest Ribfest in 1996 to raise money to assist charities, programs and services in Burlington and all over the world. Over the past 22 years, Canada's Largest Ribfest has raised over \$3 million dollars for local charities.

In addition, Ribfest is a well established signature event on Burlington's waterfront and was recognized by Festivals and Events Ontario as one of the Top 100 events in 2017 attracting an estimated attendance of 180,000 residents and tourists over the course of the weekend.

For 2018, Ribfest has requested extended hours on Thursday August 30, 2018 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Brant Inn by hosting a ticketed DJ dance party called the "Sky Club". The event would begin at 6 p.m. with dinner in the park and live music provided from 7 – 9 p.m. followed by the DJ dance party from 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. RCBL is estimating attendance of 2,000 people for this event. RCBL estimates this kick-off event will raise an additional \$200k for the community. This is in addition to the monies raised during Ribfest weekend and contingent on the event running until 1 a.m. Weather and attendance figures will also be a factor.

Strategy/process

In the past couple of years Ribfest has hosted a Thursday night kick-off to go until 11 p.m. This year, RCLB is asking to extend the hours and add this new element of a dinner dance to go until 1 a.m. Although Festivals & Events (F&E) staff supports the proposed kick-off event, any request to extend the hours for this event requires Council approval to amend the by-law.

However, staff does not support extending the hours past 11 p.m. because it is a weeknight (Thursday) and could be disruptive to surrounding residents.

In the past there has been a by-law exemption made on a Thursday night for Sound of Music Festival. Members of Committee may recall the number of resident complaints received as a result. In addition, staff knows that noise is a concern for residents. Whether it is music on a restaurant patio or a baseball game in a park, many residents express their concerns around noise.

Furthermore, with the popularity for large festivals and events taking place in Spencer Smith Park during the busy summer season, staff does not want to set precedence as we anticipate more weeknight requests would come forward for this reason.

Options considered

End the event at 11 p.m.

Host this event at an indoor venue.

Financial Matters:

N/A

Other Resource Impacts

Extending the hours on August 30, 2018 will impact City of Burlington staffing requirements in:

- Roads, Parks and Forestry (RPF) for park clean up. RPF bills the organizers directly for their services.
 - City Building Department to manage any nuisance and noise complaints.
 - Service Burlington staff to manage complaint calls.
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Connections:

Downtown Core Commitments and mobility hub planning.

Public Engagement Matters:

Since the proposal to run the “Sky Club” operates within the realm of the annual Ribfest event application, no public engagement needs to be undertaken.

Conclusion:

F&E is supportive of RCBL adding the “Sky Club” element to Ribfest weekend as long as there is compliance with the Noise & Nuisance Control and Parks By-Laws. Ribfest is a well established landmark event in the City of Burlington that is enjoyed annually and has become a traditional way for many residents to celebrate the end of the summer season.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Maxwell

Supervisor, Festivals & Events

905-335-7600 ext. 7724

Appendices:

- A. Letter to City Council on behalf of the Rotary Club of Burlington Lakeshore

Notifications:

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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.