

Rate Reduction Amendment: Recreation, Community and Culture

CM-11-21 Appendix A

Overview

- The disruption of COVID-19 has been significant and has impacted the user groups in various ways.
- Council approved a stepped down rental relief program through the 2021 budget for user groups and small businesses who use recreation facilities to run programs for the community, and whose operations have been negatively impacted by COVID related restrictions.
 - 20% reduction for Q1
 - 15% reduction for Q2
 - 10% reduction for Q3 (except playfields)
 - No further reduction for Q4
- The pandemic situation has been different than expected and given the various lockdowns, user groups have been more impacted than anticipated. As a result, staff are proposing an amendment to the rental relief program for 2021.

User groups are saying...

Some are questioning at this point whether they will survive much longer – potential second summer season some of the groups will not be able to play.

PSO [Professional Sport Organizations] not allowing them to collect registration fees so working on intentions of people returning so when registration comes, not everyone comes back. Exhausted funds so now have to rely only on new registrations fees.

We cannot afford to come back with so few players on the field at one time, plus PPE and lag time between rentals. It is not financially feasible to run and keep price reasonable to the end participant.

Some of the groups have decided to wait until Fall because of the uncertainty of open/close, lack of participant interest.

Adult groups will return once they can play games.

Options considered

Option 1 - staff recommended:

20% reduction for all rental fees, including playfields, retro to the start of Q2 and continuing until Dec 31, 2021. In this option, rental fees will be reduced by 20% for the entire 2021 year. The cost for this option is \$410,000.

Option 2:

20% reduction for rental fees, excluding playfields, retro to the start of Q2 and continuing until Dec 31, 2021. The cost for this option is \$245,000.

Option 3:

Continuation of the 10% reduction in Q3 until the end of the year from original plan (i.e. change Q4 from no planned reduction to a 10% reduction). The cost for this option is \$230,000.

Staff Recommendation

Direct the Director of Recreation, Community and Culture to implement the rental rate reduction program outlined as option 1 in report CM-11-21 and report back on the financial implications as part of the COVID updates.