



PARKS, FACILITIES AND RECREATION SERVICES

Staff Report

REPORT NO: PFRS 2022-031

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sandy Jackson, Director Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services

PREPARED BY: Sandy Jackson, Director Parks, Facilities and Recreation Services

REVIEWED BY: Sharon Chambers, CAO

DATE: June 27, 2022

SUBJECT: Parks Rental Fees – Full Moon Ceremony

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council authorize the free use-of-space for an Indigenous full moon ceremony event planned for July 16, 2022, in New Hamburg; and further,

THAT the park rental fees and insurance be funded from the Council Special Events operating budget line.

SUMMARY:

The Township has received a request from a local Indigenous community group to access parkland at Norm Hill Park, or another suitable park in New Hamburg, to host a full moon ceremony on July 16, 2022. Staff are recommending the park rental fees and insurance be funded via the Council Special Events operating budget.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021, staff brought forward report COR 2021-029 Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan – Update and Actions. Within this report, staff sought direction for the Township to recognize

September 30, 2021, as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and waiving rental fees associated with use of municipal parks, and facilities for recognized Indigenous organizations to lead cultural and ceremonial events for that date. The report also sought direction to develop a Corporate Guideline to support access and use of public spaces by Indigenous peoples to carry out cultural and ceremonial practices.

REPORT:

Township staff have been participating in meetings with the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (RAPWG) with the goal of engaging and building relationships with Indigenous communities and individuals and developing policy and practices to provide access to parkland and facilities for Indigenous ceremonies and activities.

Staff received a request for use of park space in New Hamburg on Saturday, July 16, 2022, beginning at dusk to perform a full moon ceremony. Staff will work with the event organizers to finalize a location that is suitable within a suitable park. The event will include a ceremonial fire that will be contained in a fire pit frame that will be brought to the site. The event organizers will be required to have a fire extinguisher on site and to remove the fire pit and the fire remnants upon completion of the ceremony.

Within staff report COR 2021-029, the framework of RAPWG was outlined including descriptions of the sub committees as follows: learning and development, honorariums, place keeping and land opportunities, communications and events, and heritage and cultural landscapes. As these groups continue to meet and work with the Indigenous communities throughout the Region, policies related to access to lands by Indigenous peoples will be brought to Wilmot Council and Council's across the Region. Until this work is complete, staff will bring forth requests such as this parkland use to Council for approval.

As a result, staff are recommending approval of unbudgeted funding through the Council Special Events Operating Budget for the use of parkland on July 16, 2022.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

This report supports the Strategic Plan goals of Quality of Life and Responsible Governance.

ACTIONS TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

- 10. Reduced Inequalities
- 16. Peace and Justice

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The park rental fees are valued at approximately \$425 for a special event use. The annual operating allocation for Council Special Events is \$1,400. These funds were intended for the Living Well Festival, Canada Day and Citizen of the Year. YTD Council has approved un-

budgeted allocations to the U-15 Fastpitch National Championships (\$500), and sponsorship of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Bike Safety Event (\$280).

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A