

Subject: Compensation to facility users during – Facility Restrictions, funded under COVID-19 Provincial Financial Relief

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2021-00063 re Compensation to Facility Users during COVID-19;

AND THAT Council approve the recommended facility rate reduction during COVID-19 – Red Control Level: compensation to Pelham Minor Basketball Association to offset loss of gymnasium during vaccination centre use; and unforeseen costs to offset Pelham Minor Lacrosse relocation for summer season;

AND THAT all expenses to be covered under COVID-19 Provincial Financial Relief Funding.

Background:

COVID-19 has taken a toll on local facility users. Many had received registrations based on a normal operating season. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions in Recreation Facilities continue to force drastic changes for users especially in RED Level where the restrictions are 10 participants at a time to a facility, when it would be normal to have at least 15 participants at a time. To comply with health regulations, the users may need to double the ice time to accommodate the registration.

Analysis:

Ice Users: Most Municipalities across the Region have offered a 50% rate decrease to all ice users while in RED Level. In Pelham's case, staff are recommending substituting prime time rates for non-prime time rates to provide financial relief to struggling community organizations which would see application of the Youth rate of \$87.00 (compared to \$148) and Adult rate \$114.00 (compared to \$207) per hour plus tax. (see attached Regional Rate Reduction chart for

comparison). The user groups have found these rates, although not the lowest in the Region, to be acceptable. When Niagara is no longer in RED the rates will revert back to the normal ice rates.

Pelham Basketball Association: Basketball is getting hit not only due to the participant limit, but also lack of facilities. As Council is aware, a vaccination centre will occupy one gymnasium and will be off limits to Pelham Basketball Association. This is a potential financial crisis, as registration fees were spent on uniforms, balls, facility use, etc. although didn't take into consideration not having the ability to use one gymnasium which could result in refunds. A couple of factors play into this, school gymnasiums are not available for use and originally the thought was staff would tear down vaccine set up between usage. This is not the case, set up is too cumbersome and not feasible. Therefore, the Association will only have use of one gymnasium for an undetermined amount of time. Until we know how long the vaccination centre will occupy the gymnasium staff cannot know the exact amount that will be compensated although it should not be more than \$5,000.00. Because the Town anticipates receiving compensation for use of its facility for vaccine distribution, it is fair and appropriate to compensate the PBA for its equivalent losses.

Pelham Minor Lacrosse Association: There may be additional costs to Pelham Minor Lacrosse Association in relocating their program to Welland Arena for the 2021 Season. This will be determined by the number of players allowed in the facility at a time, as well as the additional per hour fee.

Financial Considerations:

All costs related to these considerations will be charged against the COVID-19 Financial Relief Funding that has been received, as it is directly related to COVID-19 restrictions.

Alternatives Reviewed:

Do not offer relief to the user groups.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Build Strong Communities and Cultural Assets

By supporting relief to Community User Groups it allows for sustainability during this challenging year and builds strong organizations for future years.

Consultation:

Area Municipalities
Pelham Minor Basketball
Pelham Minor Hockey
Pelham Minor Lacrosse
Teresa Quinlin, Director of Corporate Services

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

Regional Arena Rental Rate Reduction – COVID-19 Red Restricted Level

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