

Request for Decision



To: Committee of the Whole
From: **Engineering and Development**
Date: May 7, 2018
Subject: Fees and Charges Bylaw Amendment – Business Fees and Charges
Recommendation: **THAT Committee of the Whole recommends to Council to give the first three readings to the “City of Grand Forks Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1958-A5, 2018” at the May 22, 2018 Regular Meeting.**

Background

Business Fees

The City often receives event requests for the use of municipal properties for commercial purposes like festivals or sale of goods. Two concrete examples from the last couple of years are the outdoor movie theatre and the camping in Dick Bartlett Park for Cannafest. The old Policy 114 included guidance on charging for the temporary use of the property, but when it was updated last year, Council decided to not include the “Business Fees and Charges” schedule in the Fees and Charges Bylaw amendment. Recent Council correspondence has indicated a fresh interest in the ability to charge businesses when they are using municipal property. Staff are reintroducing the schedule so that the City may charge businesses using municipal properties in 2018.

Council considered this topic at the April 9, 2018 Regular Meeting when it was combined with the campground fees and charges amendment. They requested that this portion come back to a Committee of the Whole to ask additional questions. Questions were raised about how the fee schedule would impact non-profits using City properties. Although there is no specific direction in the Fees and Charges Bylaw about different rates for non-profits or charities, there is a provision in the proposed schedule that states “**A separate fees and charges agreement may be created at the discretion of the Chief Administrative Officer or designate**”. This gives the City the ability to consider commercial use of its property by non-profits or charities on a case by case basis.

Benefits or Impacts



Fiscal Responsibility

- Charging businesses for their use of municipal property will allow the City to recoup some of its costs.

Policy/Legislation

This adds Schedule “I” to the Fees and Charges Bylaw.

Attachments

City of Grand Forks Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw No. 1958-A5, 2018

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Options

1. RESOLVED THAT Committee of the Whole accepts the recommendation.
2. RESOLVED THAT Committee of the Whole does not accept the recommendation.
3. RESOLVED THAT Committee of the Whole refers the matter back to staff for further information.