

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Andy O'Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator
Meeting Date: November 29, 2021
Report Code: CS-21-151
Subject: Ontario Boy Scouts of Canada 58th Annual Sunset Area
Winter Camp January 14-16, 2022 at Harrison Park

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-21-151 respecting Ontario Boys Scouts of Canada 58th Annual Sunset Area Winter Camp, City Council:

1. Approves the use of Harrison Park for the 58th Annual Sunset Area Winter Campout on:

Friday, January 14, 2022	4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
Saturday, January 15, 2022	12 midnight to 11:59 p.m.
Sunday, January 16, 2022	12 midnight to 11 p.m.

In accordance with the conditions outlined in Schedule 'A'; and
2. Directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize an agreement with the Provincial Council for Ontario Boys Scouts of Canada for the event.

Highlights:

- Ontario Boy Scouts of Canada has been hosting the annual sunset area winter campout in Harrison Park for 58 years.
- The Camp will utilize the Harrison Park Community Centre, Harrison Park Campground as well as other open areas within the park.

- Approximately 68 campsites will be occupied throughout the weekend campout.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

This report supports the delivery of Core Service

Background:

The Scouts winter camping event has taken place in Harrison Park for over 58 years. Every year Parks Staff work with the organizers to assist where required to ensure a smooth and efficient event, as well as an enjoyable and safe experience for the participants. In the campground area, Parks staff clears snow banks to allow access and to create open areas for locating portable washrooms, firewood storage and staging areas for events.

Scouts Canada intends to operate this winter campout as they have in the past, with Scout groups coming from the US and Canada. General COVID guidelines will be in place, and it will be the responsibility of each group leader at each campsite to enforce these rules. An established camp committee will enforce the hall rules and gatherings at the different events.

Analysis:

The Provincial Council for Ontario Boy Scouts of Canada is requesting Council approval for use of Harrison Park for the 58th Annual Winter Campout at on:

Friday, January 14, 2022	4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
Saturday, January 15, 2022	12 midnight to 11:59 p.m.
Sunday, January 16, 2022	12 midnight to 11 p.m.

Their campout consists of outdoor camping, a simulated rescue mission, scavenger hunt, log sawing, fire lighting and various other events. During a regular year, the winter camp occupies approximately 68 of the 101 campsites in Harrison Park Campground with activities staged in the campground and adjacent areas of the park. The winter campout also utilizes the Harrison Park Community Centre for activities and as a warming station.

A full COVID-19 safety plan and consultation with Public Health will be required as a condition of approval. Some activities may need to be modified to align with Staff recommendations or recommendations from Public Health.

The agreement will contain the following responsibilities of Scouts Canada:

- \$5-million-dollars commercial general liability insurance naming City as additional insured;
- \$1,000 damage deposit;
- A list and description of all activities planned in conjunction with this event, accompanied by a site map indicating the locations within the park where each event is to take place for review by the City to determine if there are areas within the park not suitable for use;
- Complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan with recommendations from Public Health;
- Comply with all municipal by-laws and any other applicable laws and regulations; and
- Secure all necessary licenses, permits and approvals as required by the City.

Financial Implications:

Campground Rental: \$557.00+HST

Community Centre Rental: \$543.45+HST

Firewood: \$225.00+HST

Total Revenue: \$1,325.45+HST

Communication Strategy:

City staff will liaise with the event organizer and applicable City Departments regarding arrangements for this event.

Consultation:

Brent Fisher, Manager of Community Development and Marketing

Adam Parsons, Manager of Parks and Open Space

Larry Gill, Parks & Cemetery Supervisor

Attachments:

1. Schedule 'A' Conditions of use
2. Schedule 'B' Site Plan

Recommended by:

Andy O'Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator

Reviewed by:

Brent Fisher, Manager of Community Development & Marketing

Supported by:

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Andy O'Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator at aoleary@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1255.