

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Andy O’Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator
Meeting Date: February 15, 2023
Report Code: CS-23-008
Subject: 2023 Summer Camps for Youth

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-23-008 respecting 2023 Summer Camps for Youth, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council directs staff to:

1. Undertake the necessary preparations to offer 2023 Summer Camps for Youth as outlined in the report;
2. Execute agreements for camp instruction;
3. Bring forward a by-law to amend the City’s Fees and Charges By-law to add appropriate fees for the camps; and
4. Provide notice of the City’s intention to amend the Fees and Charges By-law in accordance with the Notice By-law.

Highlights:

- 2023 Summer Camps will fill a void for many families in providing childcare throughout the summer months and will result in many positives for both the City and Community.
- The City’s website and software booking system will be utilized for online registration.
- Staff will use 2023 as a trial year with the hope of expanding with proven success in enrolment and execution of summer camps.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: This report supports the delivery of Core Service

Previous Report/Authority:

None.

Background:

The City offers youth specialty camps at City-owned facilities that provide affordable and inclusive recreation opportunities. The programs focus on skill development that support participation in sports and consist of hockey skills and power skating camp run over an 8-week summertime period and two week long soccer camps in July and August. The city also offers public swimming at the Harrison Park outdoor accessible pool.

At the completion of summer programs each year, Staff conducts a survey with families who participate to obtain feedback on ways to improve the City's programs. A suggestion that is often provided is to expand to full-day programs or camps similar to the City's soccer camp where parents can bring their children each day for an entire week.

The purpose of this report is to provide a proposed outline of these camps for 2023.

Analysis:

In recent years, citizens have seen an increased need for summer camps for youth in our community. Camps are provided by a variety of groups and organizations and in recent years there are wait lists of children who cannot be accommodated.

Staff approached instructors of current programs to gauge interest in expanding on the number of programs offered. Based on feedback from previous years and discussions with a service provider, staff are proposing the following for summer 2023:

July 3 to July 7 – Soccer Camp at Victoria Park

July 10 to July 14 – Lacrosse Camp at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre

July 17 to July 21 – Harrison Park Sports Camp

August 1 to August 4 – Soccer Camp at Victoria Park

August 7 to August 11 – Hockey Camp at the Julie McArthur Regional Rec Centre

August 14 to August 18 – Harrison Park Sports Camp

The purpose is to utilize City facilities while not disrupting any current users or their camps that have been operating previously.

Washrooms and shelter will be provided at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre and Harrison Park Senior Centre. Other facilities that will be rented throughout the summer months include Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre (ice and floor), YMCA pool, Victoria Park sports field, Harrison Park – pool, pickleball court, Putt n’ paddle, etc. Staff will work with local groups and organizations to co-exist at these locations.

Schedules are subject to change once summer ice requests and sports field bookings are received.

Financial Implications:

Similar to the programs previously offered by the City, these programs are intended in part to assist in providing affordable recreation opportunities for children while utilizing City facilities. Programs are forecasted to generate revenue of approximately \$3,000 to \$5000. Additionally, the City will pay full rental costs relating to facility use where applicable.

The financial revenue is based on sharing a percentage of overall registration revenue on a 70% (instructor) 30% (city) basis. Costs would be taken into account prior to the revenue sharing.

It is anticipated that the cost for a week long registration will be approximately \$200- 250 per child (depending on the camp). If Committee supports this initiative, an amendment to the Fees and Charges bylaw will be required to establish this fee.

Communication Strategy:

Various marketing will be used to inform the public including the City’s website, media releases, social media and digital media screens.

Consultation:

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services
Paul McGrath, Manager of Community & Business Development
Lauren Stewart, Community Services Administrative Assistant
Carrie Saunders-Willis, Director of Health, Fitness and Aquatics – YMCA.
Staff have emailed the Y for feedback however, at the time of writing the report, comments were not yet available.

Staff has consulted with the operator at the Harrison Park Senior Centre who will work together with Parks Staff to accommodate the camps.

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Andy O’Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator
Paul McGrath, Manager of Community and Business Development
Pam 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.