



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Parks & Recreation Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Paul Anthony, Director Parks & Recreation Services

Date to Council: March 10, 2020

Report Number: PRS-2020-05

Subject: Optimist Club's Victoria Day Weekend Fireworks 2020

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That, the Town of Tecumseh **pay** the cost for enhanced OPP service during the 43rd annual Victoria Day Fireworks event to be held on May 16 or 17, 2020, estimated to be in the order of \$1,400 and

Further that this cost **be funded from** the Police Contracts budget.

Background

This year marks the 43rd annual Victoria Day Fireworks event hosted by the Optimist Club of St. Clair Beach (Optimist Club). This event is free to the community and generates little to no revenue for the Optimist Club. Historically, in an effort to help minimize costs to host this community event, the Town has assisted the Optimist Club by waiving user fees.

During and immediately following the 2019 event, there were issues associated with aggressive behaviour, with some people experiencing physical assault as well as bullying and abusive language. Attendance by youth, without their parents, was common at the event. Post event media coverage and community member conversations with the OPP further highlighted public safety concerns around the event.

Following the 2019 event, the Optimist Club met with Town Administration and the Tecumseh OPP to discuss areas to improve the event's overall safety and security. Because of these discussions, the Optimist Club plan to coordinate additional volunteers from the Tecumseh Community Policing Committee and Crime Stoppers to assist with supervision at the event.

Additionally, the Optimist Club in partnership with the Tecumseh Community Policing Committee coordinated a public information session - a 'Community Conversation' - on March 4, 2020, with the goal to discuss ways for the community to establish expectations at community events such as this.

Comments

The annual Victoria Day Fireworks event is scheduled on Saturday, May 16, 2020 with a rain date scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 2020.

The Optimist Club has been meeting with Administration and the Tecumseh OPP to review the plans for the 2020 event. The Optimist Club is preparing a Safety Plan that includes identified safety / security zones that will be monitored by event volunteers wearing safety vests to clearly identify them to the event attendees. Event volunteers will be equipped with radios to allow them to communicate with the lead event organizers as well as with onsite Tecumseh OPP officers. The Tecumseh OPP will be stationed throughout the area to monitor key areas that have experienced problems or issues in previous years. The Optimist Club in consultation with the Tecumseh OPP plans to increase its marketing campaign to encourage families to attend the event together.

The public open house was not well attended; attendance consisted primarily of Optimist Club members and a few residents. Those in attendance confirmed they are generally happy with the event and understand the challenges of keeping outdoor events safe for attendees. One of the recommendations from open house attendees was to have an enhanced OPP presence to help oversee activities, both during and after the event.

A second recommendation was to increase advertising letting the public know of the enhanced security presence ensuring visitors understand it is a family event so it is important to attend together as a family. Ads will also make it clear that those in attendance who cause problems will be dealt with accordingly by the law.

Administration has confirmed that the proposed Victoria Day Weekend Fireworks display event is in accordance with the Outdoor Special Events Policy # 85.

The Optimist Club will once again engage the services of K & H Distributing (K & H). In accordance with By-law Number 2013-50, a by-law to regulate the sale and use of fireworks, K & H will be required to submit a letter to the Fire Department confirming the fireworks display along with applicable insurance documentation. Any persons involved in the transportation and/or discharge of the display's materials must be licensed by the Explosive Division, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada, and all regulations set out by the agency must be strictly adhered to.

Tecumseh Fire and Emergency Services will attend at the event as part of its Public Education campaign.

Consultations

Fire & Emergency Services

Tecumseh OPP
Optimist Club of St. Clair Beach

Financial Implications

Traditionally, to assist the Optimist Club with the annual fireworks event, Council has waived the user fees associated with the community centre, park rental, and fireworks permit.

As a result of advice received at the March 4, 2020 Public Information Centre, the fees associated with the enhanced / additional OPP paid duty officers estimated at \$1,400 is recommended to be covered by the Town. It is intended that the source of funds will be from the Town's Police Contracts budget which has contingency for such events.

Tecumseh Fire and Emergency Services plan to attend the event as part of its Public Education campaign and as such, no additional costs will be incurred.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable

Website Social Media News Release Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Kerri Rice
Manager Recreation Programs & Events

Reviewed by:

Paul Anthony, RRFA
Director Parks & Recreation Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
None	None