



# Corporate Report

2005

NO: R042

COUNCIL DATE: February 28,

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## REGULAR

TO: Mayor & Council                      DATE: February 23,  
2005

FROM: General Manager, Parks,      FILE: 1810-01  
Recreation and Culture

SUBJECT: 2005/06 Fees & Charges - Parks, Recreation &  
Culture

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## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- 1) Council approve the fees and charges increase as outlined in the report.
- 2) Council authorize the City Clerk to give three (3) readings to the Amending By law with the new Schedule A as attached to the report.

## DISCUSSION

At the Parks and Community Services Committee meeting held on February 16, 2005, the proposed 2005/06 Fees and Charges were presented for review and comment. A general 2% increase in fees and charges for 2005/06, effective September 1, 2005 is recommended to meet the 2005 budget. The Parks and Community Services Committee provided positive comment on the fee proposal; however due to a lack of quorum, a formal recommendation from the Committee to Council could not be provided. The proposed fees and charges are listed in the Schedule "A" as attached.

The Committee also reviewed fee comparisons on admissions and rentals for some other communities in the Lower Mainland. These comparisons show that Surrey is within market range on most fees and charges. Staff continually monitor the fees in relation to other comparable facilities.

The introduction of new facilities and emerging operating efficiencies require a few exceptions to the general 2 % increase as outlined in points 1 to 9 listed below. Please note that the 2005 budget continues to be achievable with the application of the proposed exceptions.

1. *Museum and Archives*

With the opening of this new facility, Heritage Services will move from a donations base to a fixed cost admissions model. The Adult Admission of \$5.00 (G.S.T included) is recommended to be set as a base rate; Seniors and Students, 75% of the base rate at \$3.75; Youth and Children at 50% base rate at \$2.50 and; Preschool (0 to 5yrs) free of charge.

An Annual Pass of \$12.00 is also proposed with the same age category pricing. Adults paying 100%, Seniors and Students 75%, Youth and Children 50% and Pre school (0 to 5yrs) free of charge.

New rental facilities in the Museum and Archives (Theatre, Foyer and Program Room) will be added to the appropriate room rental pricing category determined by their capacity.

## *2. Outdoor Sports Facilities Age Group Definitions*

Currently, Adult user groups are defined as 18 and over; Youth as younger than 18 years. Staff are recommending that these definitions be amended to Adults, 19 and over; Youth 18 years and under. This would be consistent with definitions in use by the Department for facility admissions and program registration.

## *3. Lit Practice Fields*

There is currently a 28 cent/hour differential between the 2004/2005 Youth Rate for lit grass sports fields (\$4.02/hour) and the Youth Rate for lit all weather (gravel) practice fields (\$4.30/hour). Staff are recommending that these rates be consolidated so that there is one rate for both of these facilities (\$4.30/hour) and that this consolidated rate then be increased by 2% for the 2005/2006 season, at \$4.39/hour.

Grass sportsfields represent a much higher quality facility than gravel fields and community sport associations have indicated that game play on grass should not be at a lower rate, as is currently the case. The City has only one (1) lit grass football field and three (3) lit ball diamonds, so the impact of this rate consolidation to community sports groups will be minimal.

## *4. Grass Sports Fields and Game Courts*

Staff recommend that sports boxes and tennis, volleyball and basketball courts be added to this category. Growth in participation and increased organization of sports using these additional facilities have created a demand to reserve bookings. Note that these facilities will remain free for drop in use when not reserved through permit.

## *5. Implementation of Adult Rate for Adult Users of Lit Grass Practice Fields*

In the 2004/2005 fees and charges, there was not Adult Rate listed for grass practice fields, only a Youth Rate. If the recommendation of the lit grass practice fields are consolidated with the lit all weather fields, then it is recommended that the existing Adult Rate for lit all weather fields (\$5.98/hour) apply to adult users of lit grass practice fields. This Adult Rate will be increased a further 2% for the 2005/06 fees and charges schedule. This will affect two (2) community sport associations that have adults within their associations.

#### 6. *Dollar Rounding of Theatre Rental Rates*

Staff recommend the acceptance of dollar rounding of the base rate fees for the Art Centre Theatre facilities be accepted. The base rate is the fee before GST is added. Consistent with industry practice, staff giving telephone quotes use the base price. Theatre rentals are complex and usually include numerous additional services according to customer need. Dollar rounding improves communication by simplifying the prices quoted.

#### 7. *Ward's Marina*

Staff are recommending that moorage charges at Ward's Marina remain unchanged, due to the limited services this Marina offers compared to market survey. This would reflect the reduction in the value of moorage at the marina.

#### 8. *Seniors' Centre Member Fee*

Staff are recommending that Annual Seniors' member fee be increased by 1.5% to \$16.75. This lesser increase provides balance for the previous year when the fee was increased by 3.1%. This higher amount in 2004 was due to price rounding.

#### 9. *Arts Centre Ticket Service Charges*

Staff recommend that Art Centre ticket service charge remain at its current price of \$1.45.

Prices are rounded to the nearest five (5) cent increment. Five cents added this year would result in an increase of 3.4%. No increase would follow the practice of implementing a fee increase every other year. In 2004/05, the fee was raised by five (5) cents or 3.6% (the general increase was 2%).

## CONCLUSION

Surrey Parks Recreation and Culture programs and services provide diverse opportunities for leisure experiences in the community. The fees are established to meet budget expectations and are reflective of the general market pricing for municipal services in the Lower Mainland. Staff are confident that the proposed 2% fee increase provide services to the community at a reasonable cost while ensuring that budgets expectations can be met.

It should be noted that Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture encourages the involvement of all City residents in the enjoyment of leisure activities. The Department's Leisure Access Program provides assistance to individuals that are economically challenged to ensure financial need does not present barriers to participation.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation and Culture

LC:dlg

Attachments

CITY OF SURREY

BY LAW NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A by law to amend the provisions of "Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Fee-Setting By law, 2004, No. 15391".

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The Council of the City of Surrey, in open meeting assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. "Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Fee-Setting By law, 2004, No. 15391" is hereby amended as follows:
  - (a) Schedule "A" is deleted in its entirety and new Schedule "A", attached hereto and forming a part of this by-law, is inserted in its place.
2. This By law shall be cited for all purposes as "Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Fee-Setting By law, 2004, No. 15391, Amendment By law, 2005, No. \_\_\_\_\_."

PASSED THREE READINGS on the day of , 200.

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed with the Corporate Seal on the day of , 200.

\_\_\_\_\_MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_CLERK