



Staff Report

Finance and IT Services

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: April 8, 2019
Report Number: FAF.19.033
Subject: Proposed Amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law, Solid Waste Management Fees By-law, and Planning and Engineering Fees By-law – Public Comments
Prepared by: Ruth Prince, Director of Finance and IT Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.19.033, entitled “Proposed Amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law, Solid Waste Management Fees By-law, and Planning and Engineering Fees By-law – Public Comments” for information purposes.

B. Overview

This report outlines the comments from the Public Meeting for the proposed amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law, the Solid Waste Management Fees By-law, as well as the proposed amendments to the Planning and Engineering Fees By-law, as well as Staff’s response to these comments.

C. Background

The proposed amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law, Solid Waste Management Fees By-law, as well as the Planning and Engineering Fees By-law were reviewed as part of the 2019 Draft Budget. On March 18, 2019, the Town held a Public Meeting to provide the public with the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law, Solid Waste Management Fees By-law, as well as the Planning and Engineering Fees By-law.

The 2019 budget process and document included the inclusion of the Fees and Charges for each Department. The draft By-laws were advertised as per the Town’s notice policy and included on the Town’s website since February 21, 2019.

Staff are proposing that these By-laws be presented for Council’s consideration at the April 24, 2019 Council Meeting.

The Town received 2 written comments (Attachment 1) prior to the Public Meeting and no verbal comments at the Public Meeting.

D. Analysis

Written Comments

Lise Garrette – Ravenna Hall Rental Increase – Concerned about the increase from \$39.55 per day to \$90.40 per day. Ms. Garrette suggests that the various Wellness instructors and service providers be included in the Healthy Life Style plan for Ravenna Hall and that instructors be charged a rate of \$20.00 per hour plus HST in order to keep the class rates where they are now which is \$15.00 drop in and \$12.50 prepaid with the class sizes anywhere from 7 to 12 people.

Cathy Shaw – Ravenna Hall Rental – Ms. Shaw is worried the proposed increase in rental fees will deter people from renting the facility. She feels it would be better to keep the fees a little lower and have it rented then to increase the fees a lot and have it sit empty.

Staff Responses

Both comments about the increase in fees include Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). The current rate to rent the Ravenna Hall is \$35.00 per day and the proposed increase is \$80.00 per day plus HST. The main driver for the increase is the cost of cleaning the halls at \$76.00/cleaning.

E. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational and Operational Excellence
Objective #4: To Be a Financially Responsible Organization

F. Environmental Impacts

None.

G. Financial Impact

The revenue generated from the increase in fees is included in the 2019 Draft Budget.

H. In consultation with

Senior Management Team
Ryan Gibbons, Acting Director of Community Services

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has been the subject of a Public Meeting which was held on March 18, 2019 and a Public Information Centre which took place on March 11, 2019. Those who provided comments at the Public Meeting and/or Public Information Centre, including anyone who has asked to receive notice regarding this matter, have been provided notice of this Staff Report.

J. Attached

1. Written Comments

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Prince
Director of Finance and IT Services

For more information, please contact:
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March 14, 2019 – Received via email

Good morning.

I understand there is a public meeting March 18/19 regarding the increase in hall rentals for the Ravenna Hall. I am unable to attend this meeting so thought I would send you a short note with some concerns I have.

This little hall is a landmark in our small community and greatly appreciated and utilized. I'm worried that the proposed increase in rental fees will deter people from renting the facility. I feel it would be better to keep the fees a little lower and have it rented then to increase the fees a lot and have it sit empty.

Last fall there was quite an issue with cleanliness and rodents partly due to the fact that the kitchen was rented for a commercial business which I don't feel was appropriate. There was to be a thorough cleaning done and I believe some cleaning was done. I attend a yoga class there once a week and it was not pleasant with the strong odors of food. I believe the increase in rental fees will greatly affect the yoga classes and their rates. Since this class has been available for several years and benefits a large number of people, we hate to lose it.

Our family rents the hall every fall for a dinner and has for several years. It is the perfect size for our group. Last Oct we hardly had enough chairs. There were less than 50 chairs available. Luckily we only had about 40 people attend. There used to be lots of chairs available. I'm wondering where they have gone? The capacity of the hall is 75 so there should be at least that many available.

Thanks for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely
Cathy Shaw

March 15, 2019 – received via email

To: Corinna Giles, Clerk, Town of Blue Mountains

Re: Ravenna Hall Rental Increase

Dear Members of Council,

I am writing regarding the proposed recommended rate increase for Ravenna Hall which is going from \$39.55 per day to \$90.40 per day.

I would like to recommend the following;

As part of the “Healthy Community” strategic plan Goal #3 to support a Healthy Life Style with the objective of promoting the Town as a Healthy Community, that Health and Wellness instructors and service providers who fall under this healthy lifestyle category be offered an hourly rate that make it both affordable for the instructor and the members of the community.

I currently offer two classes a day, which take up approximately 3 to 3 ½ hours in total and not the full day. This time is spent making sure that the space is ready for students, washing and cleaning the floors if necessary, class time and also time for students to discuss their health with me privately or simply for students to connect with each other after class.

Because this is a rural part of The Blue Mountains, the classes are an opportunity for people to achieve a healthy balance through yoga and to socialize, and to remove isolation by connecting and meeting at the hall for a common goal.

I suggest that the various Wellness instructors and service providers be included in the Healthy Life Style plan for Ravenna Hall and that instructors be charged a rate of \$20/hour plus HST in order to keep the class rates where they are now which is \$15 drop in and \$12.50 prepaid with class sizes anywhere from 7 to 12 people.

I would also suggest that signage indicating “Ravenna Hall” be installed as there are many newcomers moving to the area that have not been able to find the hall. It is obvious to those of us who live here but even a small sign would be helpful

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Lise Garrette