



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 19, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Waiver of Park and Insurance Fees for Easter Egg Hunts and Like Events (HSC20008) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Dawn Walton (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4755
SUBMITTED BY:	Chris Herstek Director, Recreation Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Council, at its meeting of April 10, 2019 provided direction in relation to the waiving of rental and insurance fees for Easter Egg Hunts on City owned properties:

“That staff be directed to review the policy, compare it with other municipalities and report back by February 2020.”

INFORMATION

The Egg Hunts in Parks (Report CES17034) permanently waived rental fees for non-profit organizations that meet the requirements of the Recreation Fee Waiver/Reduction Policy and were proposing Holiday Egg Hunts in City owned parks.

Event organizers are still required to obtain a minimum of \$2 M in third-party liability insurance to protect the individual, the organization and the City from lawsuits that may arise from these events. The City of Hamilton Insurer cannot provide coverage arising from the negligence of others through the City's Municipal Liability coverage. The Recreation Division can assist access to the required liability insurance through an independent liability insurance program facilitated by the City's insurer. The rates are competitive and designed for events with 1,000 participants or fewer.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Municipal Comparison

An email query was conducted in November 2019 of municipalities associated with Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO). Municipal representatives were asked a few simple questions regarding fee waiver requests and insurance requirements for community organized egg hunts, holiday specials and other similar neighbourhood initiated events (attached as Appendix “A” to Report HSC20008).

Twenty responses were received, and 19 municipalities identified an existing process for waiving park fees including one or a combination of formal fee waivers; a process to request Council approval and grant programs available to organizers.

Liability insurance for organizers is an industry best practice for festivals and events. Due to high volume and higher risk rental requirements, many municipalities have limitations of coverage arising from negligence of third-party rentals and have mandatory insurance requirements for renters. Four of the municipal respondents currently issue third-party coverage in conjunction with a provider to provide greater access to affordable insurance. None of the respondents waive insurance fees for organizers.

Affordable Access

Recreation staff monitor and evaluate activities related to the Affordable Access to Recreation Strategy, identifying gaps in service and areas of growth to best utilize the program budget. The Affordable Access Strategy 5 Year Update (Report CES10047(b)) highlighted target initiatives in response to the emerging recreation needs from local neighbourhoods and communities identified through but not exclusive to the Neighbourhood Action Strategy (NAS).

Given that neighbourhood events and gatherings have a demonstrated recreation benefit for communities, Recreation took two actions to alleviate the cost associated with securing insurance for NAS events:

- a. A new lower fee insurance option intended for events that are only locally advertised and organized, with no alcohol, and do not exceed 250 participants was negotiated and made available through our insurance provider.
- b. Events hosted by NAS identified groups were deemed eligible to apply to have event insurance paid for through the affordable access funding if they met the Recreation Fee Waiver/Reduction Policy requirements and had no other source of funding/grants to cover the cost of insurance.

Next Steps

Recreation staff is committed to continuing to support historic annual events organized by neighbourhood and community level volunteer associations who have met the requirements of the Recreation Fee Waiver/Reduction Policy to assist with insurance related fee pressures. The identified funding will be allocated through the Affordable Access to Recreation Strategy.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report HSC20008: Municipal Event Query Responses