

Request for Decision

Draft Parks By-law - Results of Community Consultation

Presented To: Community Services
Committee

Presented: Monday, Jun 25, 2012

Report Date Wednesday, Jun 13, 2012

Type: Managers' Reports

Recommendation

WHEREAS the Community Services Committee at the March 26, 2012 meeting directed staff to hold public consultations on the proposed City parks By-law, and;

WHEREAS consultations were held at six sites across the City, and;

WHEREAS an online survey was made available to the public and 166 individuals responded to the survey, and;

WHEREAS the concerns of the public were rated as follows:
Cleanliness - 62% Vandalism - 53% Smoking - 43% Animal Control - 42% Motorized Vehicles - 26% Safety - 22% Noise - 16% Public Gathering - 11% Hours of Operation - 10% Commercial activities - 2%

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT parks cleanliness and safety be prioritized in the City operations through annual operating budgets, and;

THAT the no smoking By-law be amended as part of the draft parks By-law to include: while in a park, no person shall smoke tobacco or hold lighted tobacco within a nine meter radius surrounding the edge of any playground safety surface or any playground equipment, public seating areas, playfields, wading pools, amphitheatres, gazebos, outdoor rinks, splash pads, and ski lifts, and;

THAT consideration to manage the public boat launching facility equipped with boat washing capabilities such as Ramsey Lake be referred to future budgets, and;

THAT the draft parks By-law be brought back to the Community Services Standing Committee at the September 24th, 2012 meeting for review, and;

THAT the parks By-law for the City of Greater Sudbury be presented to Council on October 30, 2012 for final approval.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Real Carre
Director of Leisure Services
Digitally Signed Jun 13, 12

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community
Development
Digitally Signed Jun 13, 12

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Jun 13, 12

Background

At the March 26, 2012 Community Services Committee, a report and presentation on the drafts parks by-law was provided to members of the Standing Committee. The report provided background information on the existing Parks by-law from the former City of Sudbury along with a recommendation on the public consultation dates, locations and online survey. A number of issues were identified which required consultation as we move towards establishing a Parks By-law for the City of Greater Sudbury.

The concerns and issues identified included:

1. Motorized vehicles in Parks
2. Dog leash free zones
3. Smoking
4. Public boat launching facilities
5. Midways/Carnivals
6. Commercial activities
7. Parks security/Closing hours

In addition to the above, the Standing Committee at the April 30, 2012 meeting requested that we include as part of the public consultation the requests from an individual interested in operating a flight seeing business off Ramsey Lake (Bell Park). The business proposal included using the existing docks located at the McNaughton Terrace to pick up and drop off passengers for flight seeing tours over the City.

Surveys/Community Consultation

Citizens were invited to attend public input sessions to have their views on the use of Municipal Parks. In addition, those who were unable to attend the sessions were encouraged to fill out a questionnaire on line at www.greatersudbury.ca/parks (copy of the online survey is attached).

The consultation sessions were held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. as per the following schedule:

Wednesday, May 16th at Chelmsford Community Centre/Arena (Hall)
Thursday, May 17th at Dr. Edgar Leclair Community Centre/Arena (Hall)
Wednesday, May 23rd at T.M. Davies Community Centre/Arena (Hall)
Thursday, May 24th at Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre
Wednesday, May 30th at Garson Community Centre/Arena (Hall)
Thursday, May 31st at Tom Davies Square (Lobby)

Overall, the consultation sessions were not well attended by the public. Citizens provided the majority of their input by completing the online survey. For Council's information, a copy of the on line survey has been attached.

Summary of Online Survey

As of Friday, June 4th, 2012, there were 166 who responded to the survey. Attached is a summary of the parks By-law survey: The highest percentage of the respondents were from the former City of Sudbury. As part of the survey, it was important to identify if citizens had encountered any issues/concerns while visiting a City of Greater Sudbury park. 69% responded yes, while 31% indicated that they had not encountered any issues/concerns.

The following is a summary of issues/concerns identified:

Cleanliness	62%
Vandalism	53%
Smoking	43%
Animal Control	42%
Motorized Vehicles	26%
Safety	22%
Noise	16%
Public Gathering	11%
Hours of Operation	10%
Commercial activities	2%

Public Input on Concerns and Issues Identified at the March 26th Meeting

1. **Motorized Vehicles in Parks:** Motorized vehicles in parks was identified 5th overall (26%) regarding issues and concerns encountered while visiting City of Greater Sudbury parks. The respondents expressed concerns related to ATV's destroying grass and using multi-use trails. The draft By-Law will recommend that motorized vehicles not be permitted on park properties. The By-Law will however provide exceptions to include emergency vehicles and City maintenance staff.

2. **Dog Leash Free Zones:** Animal control was identified 4th overall (42%). There were comments specific to the lack of off-leash dog parks, dog owners not abiding by the poop/scoop by-laws and dogs not on leashes within park properties. A draft by-law to establish/regulate use of off-leash dog parks will be presented to the Community Services Standing Committee scheduled on Monday, June 25, 2012. The by-law will be presented to Council on July 10, 2012 for final approval.

3. **Smoking:** Smoking was identified 3rd overall at 43% expressing concern. The concerns expressed included smoking near play structures, parks, playgrounds, etc. A resolution has been prepared for Council's approval related to an amendment to the current smoking by-law.

4. **Public Boat Launching Facilities:** There were two questions related to City owned public boat launching facilities:

Should municipal boat launches be used for:

a) Washing boats prior to launching. There were 84 responses.

- 54% in favor

- 46% not in favor

b) Winter access to lakes by cars/trucks. There were 80 responses.

- 60% in favor

- 40% not in favor

The boat washing recommendation has been referred to future capital budget.

5. **Midways/Carnivals:** There were no issues or concerns related to midways/carnivals. It is recommended that midways/carnivals be authorized as per the current zoning by-law which permits carnivals on properties zoned C5 - shopping Centre for commercial only.

6. **Commercial Activities:** Commercial activities was not identified as major concerns (2%). Staff

recommends that while in a park, no person shall, except as part of an activity authorized by permit to operate any commercial activity within the parks.

7. Parks Security/Closing Hours: Safety and vandalism were identified as concerns. It is recommended by staff that these concerns be prioritized in the City operations through annual operating budgets. 92% expressed satisfaction on the current hours of park operation (6 a.m.- 11 p.m.)

8. Commercial Float Plane Sightseeing Venture - Bell Park: In regards to the proposal to operate float plane sightseeing venture in Bell Park, 109 individuals responded to the question.

- 54% supported the proposal
- 46% did not support the proposal

General Comments were:

- only during specific times
- concerns about noise, safety, water pollution

Staff have prepared options for Council's consideration as per the report on Docking Requests/Bell Park which is also scheduled as part of the Community Services Standing Committee meeting of June 25th, 2012.

Next Steps

Standing Committees direction on certain issues will be incorporated in part of the draft Parks By-law. The draft By-law will be presented Standing Committee on September 24th, 2012. The By-law will be presented to Council for final approval on October 30th, 2012.