

Date: August 21, 1998

SUBJECT: 1997 FEES AND CHARGES

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the attached Fees and Charges Schedule be approved by the Board for implementation on January 1, 1997.

BOARD POLICY

It is the Board's policy to consider staff recommendations for the next year's Fees and Charges Schedule after the document has been circulated to all interested parties and groups.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Fees and Charges report is to recommend a new fee schedule for 1997 that reflects inflationary increases within our own system. It also addresses any proposed new fees and charges that are higher or lower than the rate of inflation.

BACKGROUND

On October 3, 1996, the proposed Fees and Charges schedule was sent to all associations and appropriate groups. A covering letter was attached advising that the Board would be considering the proposed schedule on November 4, 1996, and that anyone wishing to make a presentation could appear as a delegation at that time. As of October 24, 1996, we have received no responses from any of these groups or Associations.

DISCUSSION

The proposed 1997 Fees and Charges schedule is based on a fee structure commensurate with the Board's policy as outlined in the Board's Master Plan:

1. Recreation services catering to a large portion of Vancouver residents will continue to be offered free of charge.
2. Fees will be charged for those services that require a relatively high operating cost or cater to a small group of individuals.

3. Annual increases in user fees will be made to reflect the increases in costs for the delivery of recreation services.
4. Impacts of pricing changes will be tracked to determine the effect on program participation and facility utilization.

Whenever possible all increases have been kept to 1.5%. This is the rate of inflation that the City projects for 1997. In some cases, however, either no increase or increases higher than 1.5% are recommended and these are accompanied by separate justifications.

All fees except those that are exempt, show a further 7% to take into account the Goods and Services Tax. A limited number of fees such as equipment rentals are also incremented by a further 7% to take into account the Provincial Sales Tax.

All fees have been rounded after taking into account the increases and the appropriate taxes. This ensures an easier application of the fees at all the facilities.

The report shows the breakdown of the inflationary increases and the taxes.

There are several recommendations which include increases for factors other than inflation. These are explained at the bottom of the applicable page and include the following:

Bloedel Conservatory (page 6)

The proposed seniors rate has been increased to 60% of the Adult rate based on a market survey of similar facilities. This is slightly higher than our normal policy of charging seniors 50% of the adult rate, but it is felt that it is appropriate in the current market.

VanDusen Botanical Gardens (page 7)

General and Group admissions proposals reflect an increase of 10% plus. The Association has approved these rates based on current market as well as the fact that rates were not increased in 1996. The proposal also recommends that these rates will remain in effect for three years.

Golf Courses (page 9)

Adult regular fees have been increased by \$1.00, resulting in a 2.09% increase. This is in keeping with current market. It also reflects the rates included in our funding projects for repayment of the course redevelopment loan.

Swim Lessons (page 23)

Proposed lesson fees have been increased by 5 to 13% to reflect market rates charged by other municipalities. Over the past few years, the Board's rates have been significantly lower than those being charged by our neighbouring

municipalities.

Ice Rentals (page 31)

The ice rental market has been significantly impacted with the addition of many new rinks (both private and public) over the past few years. As a result staff undertook a comprehensive review of this new and expanded market and revamped the rates being proposed. The main impacts over and above inflation are a 19% increase in general prime time rentals. 17.4% in Junior B Hockey rentals an 19% in mixed ages hockey rentals. Minor Hockey, Figure Skating and Community Association rentals were not affect and their proposed rates only reflect an inflationary increase.

Bus Parking Fees (page 42)

On April 1, 1996, as part of the Budget Management Program, the Board approved this new fee structure to be implemented on January 1, 1997. These fees have now been included for the first time.

JUSTIFICATION

The attached 1997 Fees and Charges schedule is consistent with Board Policy and represents in the most part an average of 1.5% increase based on the estimated rate of inflation for the City in 1997.

A review period has been provided to allow public input prior to the Board considering the recommended fees and charges that will be implemented on January 1, 1997.

Prepared by:
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Board of Parks and Recreation
City of Vancouver
/lw
Attachment

**FOR A COPY OF THE ATTACHEMENT
CALL 257-8453**
