



Date: November 20, 1998

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: 1999 FEES AND CHARGES

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the attached Fees and Charges Schedule be approved by the Board for implementation on January 1, 1999.

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 1999 that reflect 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 November 10, 1998, 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 30, 1998, and that anyone wishing to make a presentation could appear as a delegation at that time.

DISCUSSION

The proposed 1999 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 small group of individuals.
3. Annual increases in user fees will be made to reflect 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 Board projects for 1999. In some cases, however, either no increase or increases higher than 1.5% are recommended and these are accompanied by separate justifications.

All fees have been rounded after taking into account the increase 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:

VanDusen Botanical Gardens (Page 6 & 7)

In 1997 the general and group admissions were increased by 10%. The association approved these rates based on current market as well as the fact that rates were not increased in 1996. This proposal also recommended that these rates remain in effect for three years.

Golf Courses (page 8 &9)

Adult regular fees have been increased by \$1.00, resulting in a 3.1% increase. This is in keeping with current market. It also reflects the rates included in our funding projections for repayment of the course redevelopment loan.

Driving Ranges rates have not been increased as current rates are in keeping with the local market.

Adult Pitch & Putt rates have been increased in keeping with the local market.

Swim Lessons (Page 18)

Proposed lesson fees have been increased by 4-5% to reflect the market rate charged by other municipalities. The Board's rates have been significantly lower than neighboring municipalities.

Skating (Ice rinks) (Page 21)

A general increase of 5% brings rates closer to comparable rates in other municipalities and recovers a portion of the lost revenue.

Current strip ticket prices represent a 20% discount. Recommendation reduces discount to 10%.

Ice Rentals (Page 23)

As in 1998, the rate increase beyond inflation are in response to rapidly changing market factors which have had a significant impact on revenues in Vancouver Park board ice rinks. These increases will be part of a multi-year process to bring rates closer to comparable rates in other facilities in the Lower Mainland.

Pay Parking (Page 28)

No increase in pay parking is being recommended for 1999 as these were increased in 1997, and any changes require an operational adjustment in equipment.

Bus Parking (Page 29)

A rate increase of \$2.00 reflects the 20% increase in rate. As part of the Budget Management Program, this fee structure was implemented on January 1, 1997.

SUMMARY

The attached 1999 Fees and Charges schedule is consistent with Board Policy and represents for the most part an average of 1.5% increase based on the estimated rate of inflation in 1999.

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, 1999.

Prepared by:
Corporate Services Division
Board of Parks & Recreation
Vancouver, BC
AH/ss

