



Date: October 8, 2002

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: 2003 Fees and Charges

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board approve the 2003 Fees and Charges be adjusted to reflect an inflationary increase of 2.75%.

POLICY

It is the Board's policy to consider staff recommendations for next year's Fees and Charges.

PURPOSES

The purpose of the Fees and Charges report is to recommend a new fee schedule for 2003 that reflects inflationary and market increases.

DISCUSSION

The proposed 2003 Fees and Charges are based on a fee structure commensurate with the Board's User Fee Policy (Appendix A) as outlined on the attached Fees and Charges Schedule. User fees and charges will be levied so as to recover all or a portion of overall operating costs. All rates and charges will be adjusted to accommodate the changes in operating and maintenance costs and market place.

The rate of inflation that the Board in consultation with City Finance staff projects for 2003 is 2.75%. Whenever possible all increases have been kept to 2.75%. In keeping with past practices and to ensure an easier application of fees at facilities, some admission rates have been rounded to the nearest \$0.25 and rental charges to the nearest \$1.00 after taking into account the increase and the appropriate taxes.

Bus parking rates have been adjusted to reflect the rate increase approved by the Board in 2002. Senior fees have been adjusted to reflect the rate increase approved by the Board in 2001.

There are several recommendations which include adjustments for factors other than inflation and these are accompanied by separate justifications:

Golf Courses

As part of the review of the Golf Course Financial Sustainability Plan, staff are currently assessing the golf market and evaluating revenues to date. Upon its completion, staff will recommend the 2003 green fees to the Board in a separate report early in 2003.

Children's Farmyard and Miniature Railway (Appendix B, page 12 of 16)

Prices for general admission to both these attractions, and to the 3 main special events, the Ghost Train, Bright Nights and Summer Train Event have been increased to more closely reflect their actual operating costs. The special events are continually being enhanced, and the added value justifies their higher admission prices. Bright Nights is priced slightly lower than the Ghost Train due to its smaller performance component and because its attendees are also requested to contribute directly to the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund on-site.

Parking (Appendix B, page 13 of 16)

No increases in pay parking rates are proposed for 2003. Significant increases went into effect in 2001. Due to a combination of these increases, improved functioning of pay station equipment and more consistent enforcement by the parking operators, pay parking revenues should meet the inflationary increases of 2.75% without further rate increases in 2003. Bus parking rates have been adjusted to reflect the rate increase approved by the Board in 2002.

Staff are currently reviewing the following operations and will report to the Board early in 2003 if there is any needs in rate changes:

- marina,
- ice arena,
- playing field,
- special events.

CONCLUSION

The proposed 2003 Fees and Charges are consistent with the Board policy and represent an average 2.75% increase based on the estimated rate of inflation in 2003.

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