

Last year Royal Athletic Park served as the City's recreation hub, providing many of the programs and services typically offered at the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre and a variety of other programs in partnership with the North Park Neighbourhood Association.

In April 2021, the City received a formal request from NPNA to host 14 hours a week of Association programming at RAP. The proposal includes art events, picnics, sport sessions, seniors' classes delivered in partnership with community providers, as well as a monthly farmer's market.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

To facilitate the safe use of the facility and associated building systems, City staff are required to be on-site at RAP when open to the public. Where possible, staff have coordinated access with the NPNA to align with City programming to limit fees applicable for the stadium's use; however, there are timeslots that are outside of the operating hours for RAP which would result in fees for the Association. The fees for this additional site access are outlined in the table below.

Program type	Number of hours	Total fees
NPNA Summer Programs	65	\$5,952
Monthly Farmer's Markets	67	\$4,034
Total	122	\$9,986

The Association has requested that all facility rental fees be waived. However, the fees and charges for the facility are outlined in *Recreation Fee Bylaw* No.06-056 and without an amendment to the Bylaw.

The NPNA could host the proposed programming at Central Park through the City's Build Back Victoria Program. Neighbourhood and community associations are eligible to apply for the use of park space under this program at no cost. Staff suggested the lower cost Central Park option to the NPNA, however, this was declined.

Should Council wish to support the Association's request, staff recommend the funds be allocated in the form of a grant, rather than a change to the *Recreation Fees Bylaw*, which would require more time to process.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1: That Council award a grant of up to \$9,986 to the North Park Neighborhood Association to fund the cost of hosting Association programs at Royal Athletic Park in 2021. (Recommended)

A grant award would fund the entirety of NPNA's request for use of RAP, including monthly farmer's markets and community programming time, outside of the City's planned operations.

Option 2: That Council decline the request from NPNA.

Council may choose to decline the request. This would require the NPNA find alternative means of funding costs related to farmer's markets and programming at RAP or pursue the option of hosting programs at Central Park or another park (ie Franklin Green) at low or no cost.

Accessibility Impact Statement

The program and services planned by NPNA are intended to ensure access for all citizens.

2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan

This report relates to 2019-2022 Strategic Plan Objective 5 (*Health, Well-Being and a Welcoming City*), and Objective 8 (*Strong, Liveable Neighbourhoods*).

Impacts to Financial Plan

Should Council wish to support the funding request, staff recommend awarding a grant that is funded through an existing grant stream or through Corporate Contingency.

CONCLUSIONS

The Royal Athletic Park facility is a unique community amenity able to serve a wide range of programs and services. The recent expansion of City and community-led offerings will provide additional opportunities for citizens to utilize this historic stadium in creative ways.

Respectfully submitted,

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Assistant Director

Thomas Soulliere
Director

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.

List of Attachments

Attachment A - *Recreation Fee Bylaw* No. 06-056