



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

File #: CM-21-014

Household Pool Booking

Notice given by: Councillor MacKay

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present a motion for which Councillor MacKay gave notice on April 23, 2021.

PROPOSED MOTION(S):

1. That the 21 day advance notice period for a Councillor's motion be waived in accordance with Section 23.8 of Procedure Bylaw 3/2018.
2. That the hourly fee for one-hour booking for household family swimming be set at XXXX/ hour. That the hourly difference be subsidized out of the previously approved COVID-19 supports.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Aquatics Facilities - Provision of public access aquatics facilities for scheduled and spontaneous recreation and sport activity according to the Pool Standards Act and the Lifesaving Society standards.

Booking Opportunities of City Facilities - Provision of booking opportunities and access to recreational and cultural facilities operated by the City.

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION

N/A

BACKGROUND:

The City of St. Albert had originally prepared to offer household pool bookings at Fountain Park Recreation Centre, beginning on May 1, 2021. On April 30, 2021, the Province updated the COVID-19 targeted restrictions resulting in the closure of all indoor recreation facilities including Servus Credit Union Place, Fountain Park Recreation Centre and Jarome Iginla & Kinex Arenas. On May 5, the Province of Alberta announced further province wide restrictions as stated: "All indoor sport and recreation is prohibited, including youth sports." for a period of 3 weeks.

All recreation facility services will continue to be adjusted as new provincial restrictions ease and are introduced. The points identified below reflect the restrictions that were in place at that time of the initial planning for household pool bookings.

- Restricted to private household groups – max of 10 individuals.
- Rentals are one hour to accommodate as many users as possible while balancing individual swim lesson and swim club bookings – 12 slots per week.
- Rental would include all available amenities excluding hot amenities.
- Enhanced cleaning and safety measures are in place in alignment with Provincial restrictions to provide a safe space for users.

St. Albert Aquatics Rental Rates:

In normal circumstances, rental of the small pool or leisure pool at Fountain Park Recreation Centre is \$66/hour and \$175/hour respectively. This allows exclusive use of only that basin (shared use of all other amenities) and is intended for birthday parties or special occasions.

During a normal rental, other areas of the pool would be operating with regular activities such as lane swimming, swim lessons etc., and the renter would not have exclusive use of the facility for the rental rate. The cost to delivery services at Fountain Park are looked at holistically with the scope of the whole facility in mind, not each element individually.

Administration established the fee for household pool bookings at Fountain Park Recreation Centre based on the following rationale:

1. Consideration of the net cost to provide the service

The cost to operate Fountain Park Recreation Centre for a one-hour booking is \$220/hour in direct costs. The proposed rental rate of \$175/hour represents a 20% City subsidy to the renter. Based on provincial restrictions, adjustments to operations have been made with the goal to balance service delivery with fiscal responsibility.

Direct costs include staff as per the minimum requirements according to employment standards, provision of the number of staff to meet safety protocols, and the additional cleaning and supplies related to COVID.

It is important to note that the cost estimate does not include the indirect cost of administrative overhead, permanent staffing, utilities, and other base facility operational costs.

2. Consistency with approaches taken regarding other facility fees, such as those for rentals and admissions.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, no reductions have been made for any admission fees (memberships and daily admissions) or facility rentals at Servus Credit Union Place (e.g. (Arena, Field House, Gymnasium) , Fountain Park Recreation Centre or for other community recreation amenities (Jerome Iginla/Kinex Arenas, Larry Olexiuk Field, Outdoor Playfields).

Facility access fees are included as part of Council Policy C-FS-16: Municipal Fees and Charges.

From a philosophical perspective, when looking at support to recreation opportunities, those that support single activities and are serving a narrow community need are a lower priority for City investment than recreation opportunities that are flexible and are serving a broad community need. This principle, illustrated in Figure 1: Funding Opportunity Spectrum, supports a low to minimal subsidy for household bookings as only a limited number of users can be accommodated based on the current Provincial COVID-19 restrictions.



Figure 1: Funding Opportunity Spectrum

Regional Comparators.

The following chart outlines information related to aquatics household bookings for other Municipalities in the Region as of April 26, 2021:

Location	Rate/Hour	Available Amenities
St. Albert	\$175.00	Full pool area, including water features
Leduc	\$42.00	Full pool area, including water features and hot amenities
Tri-Leisure	\$220.00	Full pool area, including water features and hot amenities
Town of Beaumont	\$85.50	Main pool diving, leisure pool and whirlpool
City of Edmonton	N/A	Not offering rentals
Strathcona County	N/A	Not offering rentals
Edmonton YMCAs	N/A	Not offering rentals
Fort Saskatchewan	N/A	Not offering rentals

Other key notes:

- Leduc's rental rate is only available to Leduc and Leduc County residents and each household is only able to book once.

Principles of Recreation Re-Entry

Operation of recreation programs and services through the COVID-19 Pandemic are required to adhere to Provincial Orders as disseminated through the Alberta Health Services Chief Medical Officer. The provincial orders outline the restrictions that apply to activities permitted in recreation facilities, and at what capacities. As COVID-19 cases in Alberta change so do the restrictions. In order to provide services to the Community, Administration must interpret the restrictions, and then design the program or service accordingly.

The following general principles are applied in the development of the re-entry of programs and services:

- Outdoor facilities will be prioritized over indoor, to the extent feasible.
- Facilities will be brought back when ready, using cost-recovery to the extent possible.
- Identify what regional partners are doing and consider the impacts of our decisions.
- Where possible, prioritize re-openings to meet the demand of user-groups.
- Impacts to service levels and resource capacity will be considered.
- Organizational risk and responsibilities.

Opening of Grosvenor Pool

Administrations' current plan is to open Grosvenor Outdoor Pool in mid-June. It is believed that initially the restrictions will be limited to household bookings only, as they were prior to April 30th. The intent is to use the same approach as Fountain Park Recreation Centre Household bookings, with a proposed rate of \$80.00/hr per household. The \$80.00/hr is the current approved rate to book Grosvenor Outdoor pool. As restrictions ease, Administration would move to a more public swim model whenever possible.

Options for Consideration

- Continue to offer FPRC Household Pool bookings at 175.00/hr., as proposed.
- Offer FPRC Household Pool bookings at \$175/hr., restricted to St. Albert residents only.
- Offer FPRC Household Pool bookings at \$175/hr. for St. Albert residents, Non-residents \$220/hr.
- Offer Fountain Park Recreation Centre at a different hourly rate.
- Do not operate the household pool bookings, in consideration of the limited number of users that can be accommodated.

Report Date: May 17, 2021

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