

Item No. 3
Halifax Regional Council
January 28, 2014

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by Director
Dave Hubley, P.Eng., Acting Director, Transportation and Public Works

DATE: January 2, 2014

SUBJECT: Limited Use Camping in HRM Parks by Not-for-profit Organizations

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

September 17, 2013, Item 12.2 - Regional Council approved the following Motion:

“Moved by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Halifax Regional Municipality request a staff report investigating the potential for allowing limited use camping permits in HRM parks to not-for-profits, limited to no more than once per year per not-for-profit, and with limited availability of one camping opportunity per HRM Park per quarter in designated parks only.”

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Power to make by-laws, s.188(1)(c) By-law Number P-600 – Municipal Parks By-law.

BACKGROUND

Under By-law Number P-600, “Park” means any land, owned, leased, or controlled by the Halifax Regional Municipality, designated or used as parkland or as a trail, including gardens, playgrounds, sports fields and beach areas.

By-law Number P-600 addresses camping and special events as follows:

Camping

8. (1) Camping is prohibited in a park unless otherwise posted or by permission.
- (2) No person shall erect or place in a park anything for the purpose of temporary or permanent accommodation without permission.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), the Africville Genealogical Society may hold their annual picnic or reunion in Seaview Park, subject to obtaining the approval of the Director¹ as to the date therefor, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Special Events

9. Community festivals, ceremonies, and celebrations which have traditionally utilized Municipal Parklands on an annual basis for more than five consecutive years may continue to be held at the same location, subject to the approval of the Director, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

DISCUSSION

The motion from Regional Council is very specific and as such may require a revision of By-law P-600 to best implement. As a result, By-law Number P-600 will be reviewed within the scope of the By-law Review currently underway in Legal Services. In the short term, staff from TPW Municipal Operations, Community and Recreation Services, Civic Events and Planning and Infrastructure have investigated the proposed uses and feel that requests from not-for-profit organizations wishing to camp within municipal parks for community events can be managed using the existing booking process with an additional step added to include a referral to HRM’s Special Events Task Force (SETF) for review and recommendation to the Director of Transportation & Public Works. SETF is an operations based committee chaired by civic events staff with representation from HRM Business Units, Provincial and Federal Departments with direct “care and control” for elements of internal and external organised special events. SETF members include representatives from Traffic and Right of Way Services, Halifax Regional Police Service, Municipal Operations, RCMP, Metro Transit, City Hall, Solid Waste Resources

¹ “Director” means the Director of Works and Natural Services or designated assignee

and Fire & Emergency Services. SETF can review, evaluate, and make recommendations on such matters through its established terms of reference and mature business process.

The permit process, managed through HRM's Facility Scheduling Office, would include insurance requirements and site restoration costs. Each request will be evaluated based on scope, security requirements and proposed amenities.

It should be noted that the majority of parks within the urban core would be excluded because of the impact on the residential neighbourhoods in which they reside.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was completed in preparation of this report as it is only providing information to Council.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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