
Parks and Recreation Levy and Community Centre Levy – Rates - 2017

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council:

1. That adjustments to the 2017 Parks and Recreation Levy rate, as outlined in this report, be approved; and
2. That the 2017 Community Centre Levy rates for each developing neighbourhood, as outlined in this report, be approved.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the proposed 2017 rates for both the Parks and Recreation Levy and the Community Centre Levy.

Report Highlights

1. The proposed 2017 Parks and Recreation Levy rebalances the neighbourhood and multi-district components, with the overall rate remaining unchanged.
2. The proposed 2017 Community Centre Levy rates will remain the same as the rates approved for 2016.

Strategic Goal

Under the Strategic Goal of Quality of Life, this report supports the long-term strategy of ensuring existing and future leisure centres and other recreation facilities are accessible, physically and financially, and meet community needs.

Background

The City of Saskatoon (City) established the Parks and Recreation Levy as a means to fund neighbourhood local parks (including core neighbourhood parks, neighbourhood pocket parks, village squares, and linear parks), district parks, multi-district parks, and approved recreation facilities.

At its August 15, 2012 meeting, City Council approved a single, blended City-wide formula for the calculation of the Community Centre Levy, beginning with the Kensington neighbourhood and all new neighbourhoods. The calculation of the Community Centre Levy is based on the year-to-year cost of acquiring 8.0 acres of potential school-site property in each developing neighbourhood.

Report

Parks and Recreation Levy

Table 1 summarizes the proposed Parks and Recreation Levy rate changes for 2017.

Table 1: Parks and Recreation Levy Rate Changes

	2016 Approved Rate	2017 Proposed Rate	Rate Change
Neighbourhood Parks	\$273.90	\$275.75	\$1.85
District Parks	\$103.30	\$103.30	\$0.00
Multi-District Parks	\$ 29.80	\$ 27.95	(\$1.85)
Total	\$407.00	\$407.00	\$0.00

The changes in the neighbourhood and multi-district park rates are a rebalancing that reflect a small increase to neighbourhood parks required for minor adjustments to parks sizes, offset by interest earned on the balance of the Parks and Recreation Levy accounts. The Administration is recommending that the neighbourhood and multi-district park rates be adjusted and that the overall 2017 Parks and Recreation Levy rate total remain at the 2016 approved rate of \$407.

Provincial Sales Tax (PST) changes in 2017 have resulted in PST being charged on materials and labour related to park capital projects that have been tendered after April 1, 2017. The Administration is recommending the Parks and Recreation Levy rate in 2017 remain unchanged due to the PST increase, as this increase has been offset by an economic slowdown and the City receiving competitive park project tenders.

Community Centre Levy

The proposed 2017 Community Centre Levy rates will remain at the 2016 approved rates. Calculation of the Community Centre Levy is based on the cost of acquiring land for potential school-site property in each developing neighbourhood. The serviced land cost used to calculate the Community Centre Levy rates for future neighbourhoods is 8.0 acres at \$800,000 per acre. The proposed Community Centre Levy rates are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Community Centre Levy Rate Changes

	2016 Approved Rate	2017 Proposed Rate	Percent Increase
Rosewood Neighbourhood	\$140.65	\$140.65	0.0%
Stonebridge Neighbourhood	\$123.30	\$123.30	0.0%
Evergreen Neighbourhood	\$192.10	\$192.10	0.0%
Future Neighbourhoods	\$186.00	\$186.00	0.0%

The Community Centre Levy rates for the Rosewood, Stonebridge, and Evergreen neighbourhoods were established based on individual neighbourhoods before the single, blended rate policy changed. Each of these neighbourhoods has a unique rate, primarily due to variations in the size of the neighbourhoods.

The Community Centre Levy rate for future neighbourhoods will be applied to new neighbourhoods, including Kensington, Brighton, Elk Point, Aspen Ridge, and all future neighbourhoods.

Options to the Recommendation

City Council could choose to not approve the recommendation; further direction would then be required.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

The new levy rates were tabled for comments with the land developers during the October 2, 2017 Developers Liaison Committee meeting. The land developers asked questions and received clarification on the proposed Parks and Recreation Levy rate adjustments.

Communication Plan

A communication plan is not applicable, as the land developers have been informed of the proposed 2017 rates for both the Parks and Recreation Levy and the Community Centre Levy. Of note, these rates came into effect January 1, 2017, and any servicing work that has been charged at 2016 rates will be adjusted. Although servicing work is primarily done in the spring and summer, most of the billing occurs later in the year.

Financial Implications

The financial implications have been outlined in this report.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no policy, environmental, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

No follow-up is required at this time.

Public Notice

Public notice, pursuant to Section 3 of Public Notice Policy No. C01-021, is not required.

Report Approval

Written by: Brad Babyak, Section Manager, Open Space Programming and Development
Reviewed by: Lynne Lacroix, Director of Recreation and Community Development
Approved by: Randy Grauer, General Manager, Community Services Department

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