



Subject: Fishing Tournaments & Grant Framework

To: Council

From: Corporate Services Department

Report Number: 2022-80

Meeting Date: May 10, 2022

Recommendation:

That Corporate Services Department Report 2022-80 be received; and

That Council approve the associated Fishing Tournament Grant Framework attached to Report 2022-80 as Appendix "A"; and

That Council delegate authority to Staff to allocate the approved budgeted grant funding up to a maximum of \$25,000, waive user fees and provide approval for use of H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park subject to the conditions set out in the Fishing Tournament Grant Framework.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to introduce a Fishing Tournament Grant Framework that Recreation staff have created to accommodate and where applicable allocate fishing tournament grants. The Fishing Tournament Grant Framework is attached as Appendix "A" and will be used to select and award applicants.

Background:

Council has approved \$25,000 annually to support fishing tournaments/events in Port Colborne. Tournament organizers typically have requests above and beyond this financial contribution. These additional requests have included discounted transient dock fees for tournament participants, waiving of boat launch fees for tournament participants, and permission to utilize H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park as a camping location for tournament participants.

The Budweiser CanAm Walleye Challenge is one of the largest Walleye Tournaments on the Canadian Shores of Lake Erie and is an example of one of the tournament grant applicants. In 2018 and 2019 over 95 teams entered the tournaments, with over 400

people participating. Teams travelled from all over southern Ontario. In 2019, there were also 16 teams from the United States.

Discussion:

The purpose of the fishing tournament grant program is to:

- Grow sport fishing in the City to drive tourism activity in support of local businesses.
- Enhance the Port Colborne name recognition outside of the City.
- Showcase the Sugarloaf Harbour Marina, and public boat launch with a goal towards increasing net revenue.

To accommodate annual grant requests to support fishing tournaments, Recreation staff have created a Fishing Tournament Grant Framework to assist with selections and administration. The framework allocates points based on identified factors.

Staff identify this framework and it is being proposed and implemented as the fishing tournament season begins which has complicated the points calculation for initial implementation. In future years, all applications will be due March 31.

In this respect, based on history of working with Erie Tracker and the information provided, the Budweiser CanAm Walleye challenge will receive \$10,000 as a grant amount. This amount is the same grant they received in 2019. Staff anticipate the grant to be close to this amount when the final point calculation for fishing tournaments is finalized. The Budweiser CanAm Walleye challenge like all other 2022 fishing tournaments will follow all other aspects of the Fishing Tournament Grant Framework.

Marina

Requests regarding a discount on dock fees at Sugarloaf Marina and the waiving of boat launch fees for tournament participants will be administered by staff. The discount rates for docks are as follows: 10 to 24 boats for a discount rate of 15%, 25 to 49 boats for a discount rate of 25%, and for 50+ boats for a maximum discount rate of 35%. These discounted rates have been provided by the city to major fishing tournaments and regattas in the past and have proven to promote Sugarloaf Marina as a destination for sport tourism.

Camping at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park

The Fishing Tournament Grant Framework will grant staff the approval to permit camping at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park for fishing tournament applicants that successfully meet the criteria.

To facilitate early arrival of participants, event organizers have requested permission for RV camping/parking at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park to begin at 12:00 p.m. Staff

recommend the designated RV camping/parking site be defined using snow fencing. As per the Fire and Emergency Services Department, fires are not permitted in the park.

The event organizer will be responsible for waste management and for ensuring the event is supplied with sufficient waste receptacles and recycling containers. Waste collection will be managed by the tournament volunteers and will be augmented by security services.

Using photographs, staff will document the state of the park and designated RV camping/parking site before and after the event to document any damage claim. The City has accommodated camping in the park for other events and the City has not received any complaints from the public regarding camping in the park in prior years.

Certificate of Insurance

The event organizers must comply with the City's Festival & Event Insurance Requirements. They required to provide a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000, naming the City as additional insured, for the duration of the event.

Internal Consultations:

By-law Enforcement Division:

The following by-laws govern the activities listed in this report:

- By-law 5503/100/10, Being a By-law to Manage and Regulate Municipal Parks - Section 29(2):

"No person shall in any park, unless expressly authorized by a Permit that is clearly displayed in the driver's side front windshield of the vehicle in such a manner as to be readable from the exterior of the Vehicle:

Park or leave a Vehicle, except during the times the Park is open to the public, as defined in Section 4 of this By-law or in an area designated for such overnight parking."

If parking of vehicles is within the Permit camping area, no additional permit would be required under the Parks By-law (see Camping By-law). If parking within the boat ramp launching area, permits will be provided by the event organizer.

- By-law 5642/73/11, Being a By-law to Provide for Permission to Camp and to Establish Rules and Regulations for Camping in H.H. Knoll Park, Lions Park, Nickel Beach and Centennial Park (Section 5(xviii)):

“The Camping Organization that has been issued a permit to camp in a municipal park shall be responsible for and comply with the following:

Permit any tent in excess of 60 m² to be set up/installed or used within the camp area, however the Camping Organization may apply to the Chief Building Official for a tent larger that may be used for purposes of the Camping Organization; however, such tent may not be used for overnight accommodation”.

Waiving of Building Permit fees for tents on City property at City sanctioned events has normally been granted in the past. Unless expressly authorized by Council this privilege may change (Section 8):

“Unless expressly permitted or provided for by a permit pursuant to the Camping By-law and authorized by the Council of the City of Port Colborne, in accordance with various other municipal by-laws concerning conduct on municipal property, any person or group permitted to camp in a municipal park shall not:

Section 8(xix) - Park vehicles in area other than those designated for camping,
Section 8(xx) - Park overnight except in an area designated for overnight parking and camping.”

If Council approves the recommendation of this report, Council would be expressly permitting the camping and parking of vehicles, therefore no additional permits would be required.

Fire & Emergency Services Department:

Parking in and around event is to be controlled to ensure access for emergency vehicles.

Financial Implications:

Council approved the establishment of an account dedicated to supporting local fishing tournaments during its 2019 budget deliberations and allocated a total of \$25,000 to the account for this purpose. Staff will allocate the funds from this account based on the Fishing Tournament Grant Framework of Appendix A.

Public Engagement:

In 2021, the city supported the Big Bass Championship fishing tournament that operated out of Sugarloaf Marina. As a condition of the financial support, staff required the Big Bass Championship tournament participants to take part in a post tournament survey, that one member of each team was required to complete. The survey was

designed to collect information with regards to where tournament participants travelled from, where participants purchased fuel for their boats, whether tournament participants supported local businesses and restaurants, the number of days the tournament participants spent pre-fishing in Port Colborne, whether the tournament participants required overnight accommodations, and general feedback on the tournament and our facility. The results of the survey are listed in Appendix "B". Staff note that an updated survey will be provided to organizers to distribute prior to their tournament/event.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
 - City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces
 - Governance: Communications, Engagement, and Decision-Making
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Conclusion:

In conclusion, staff seek Council approval to implement the Fishing Tournament Grant Framework as a tool for allocating financial support to successful fishing tournament applications.

Appendices:

- a. Fishing Tournament Grant Framework
- b. 2021 Post Fishing Tournament Survey Results

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.