



Subject: Centennial Park - Cedar Bay Beach Residency Exceptions
To: Council
From: Corporate Services Department

Report Number: 2021-165

Meeting Date: June 14, 2021

Recommendation:

That Corporate Services Department Report 2021-165 be received as information.

Purpose:

In response to the referral from Council to explore potential exemptions to residency requirements at Centennial Park – Cedar Bay Beach, staff have prepared various options for consideration.

Background:

New operational guidelines for the 2021 season have limited the parking at Centennial Park – Cedar Bay Beach to residents of Port Colborne, the Niagara Region or anyone with proof of occupancy, such as a short-term rental, in the City of Port Colborne.

At the May 25, 2021 Council meeting, Council received a request from one individual to consider exemptions to these guidelines and Council subsequently referred the request to staff for a report.

Discussion:

Potential reasons for exemptions could include, but not be limited to; previous resident of Port Colborne, relative named on the Cenotaph, history of vacationing in the area, relative is permanent resident but cannot accompany during a visit, part of a special interest group.

To vet these requests, staff propose the following options for consideration:

1. Staff administer with discretion. Can be overseen by staff currently on site, with no additional measures to current operations. Allows for consistency and fairness while achieving efficiency.

2. Staff Ad hoc Committee – on a request basis with discretion. Requires time and resources to meet and review applications. Allows for a potential higher perception of consistency and fairness.

3. Council Ad hoc Committee – on a request basis with discretion. Requires time and resources of both Staff and Councillors to meet and review applications. Allows for a potential higher perception of consistency and fairness.

If Council desires to move forward with exemptions to residency restrictions at Centennial Park – Cedar Bay Beach, staff suggest that option one be approved with successful exemptions to be treated as Port Colborne residents and given access to the beach free of charge.

Financial Implications:

All options could allow each qualified exemption to be treated like a Port Colborne resident (free of charge) or be treated like a Niagara resident (\$25 weekday/ \$35 weekend).

Conclusion:

Having identified the above, staff would recommend option 1 as being the most simplistic and efficient to implement if Council desired to provide exemptions. An additional recommendation would be that successful exemptions are treated like a Port Colborne resident and therefore can access the beach for free.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Theal
Manager of Recreation
905-835-2901 ext. 535
Bryan.theal@portcolborne.ca

Report Approval:

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