

Report to Council

Report Title: Summer Day Camp Update and Feedback Summary

Prepared By: Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services, Lynne Davidson, Recreation Programmer, Sonya Watson, CAO

Department: Recreation

Date: June 16, 2020

Report Number: REC2020-08

File Number: C11REC

Attachments: Summer Day Camp Feedback Summary

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2020-08 for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

At the meeting on June 9, 2020, Council considered staff Report Number 2020-06 – COVID-19 Summer Day Camp and Report Number 2020-07 Addendum to REC2020-06 COVID-19 Summer Day Camp wherein staff recommended cancelling the summer day camp chiefly due to safety and logistical concerns. The report outlined the requirements established by the Province of Ontario for the operation of summer day camps and provided an analysis of the risks and costs associated with operating under these guidelines.

Council decided to table consideration of the potential summer day camp closure to avoid reacting prematurely should the province make any additional announcements. Council also encouraged staff to engage with the affected stakeholders about the potential cancellation of the summer day camps.

Analysis:

At the time of writing, the Province of Ontario has not made any additional announcements about summer camps, pools, or splashpads aside from those described in the above mentioned report. Both Kincardine and Hanover have now official cancelled their summer day camps, along with numerous other municipalities of various sizes across Ontario.

Municipal staff have subsequently reached out to various stakeholders. For the most part, staff have found these one-on-one conversations more useful than a survey, as they allow for greater depth of engagement and insight into the concerns of families and businesses. These one-on-one conversations have also allowed

staff to explain the parameters that would need to be put in place to operate the summer day, so that individuals had all relevant information informing their decisions. A summary of the feedback has been attached to this report for Council's review.

The staff recommendation remains the same. This is a program with significant risk and liability to the Municipality and our staff that would affect families in the community. Unfortunately, the risks outweigh the benefits that can be offered. We are placing significant responsibility on the youth of the community. The requirements for summer camp are relatively the same for the Brockton Child Care staff who are trained extensively and will require additional specific COVID related training prior to opening. We strongly recommend the summer camp not continue for the 2020 season.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

The budgetary implication of the summer day camps was outlined in Report Number REC2020-07.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Mark Coleman

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonya Watson", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

Feedback Received on Summer Camp to Community Services Department:

During the past few days I have spoken to a number of parents about Summer Day Camp in regards to their thoughts on sending their children to day camp.

Key items discussed which focused on the camp experience included:

- the change in venue- no longer would we be able to run out of the Centennial Park Pavilion as we could not control access to only campers, lack of washroom facilities, not being able to use playground equipment, pool and at that time the Splash pad area.
- the Walkerton Community Centre- would be the alternate site to host the camp –using the main floor and the auditorium area only for separate smaller groups
- Registration would be for 1 week intervals verse option of selected days
- Play – incorporating mainly individual activities vs group activities
- Fun – would the summer camp experience be fun?

Recently parents have said that when the decision was made to close the pool that they then began to seek alternate summer arrangements for their child(ren). Some parents, who will be continuing to work from home during the summer thought it would be a nice break if the kids could have some camp time. A number of parents reflected that with these changes to the day camp that they likely would not send their child. A few essential workers have called to inquire and have stated that they would continue to register for the day camp should it be available.

Similar to surveys completed in Kincardine and Hanover, the feedback ranges from “how can you not offer the Summer Day camp” to “how can you possibly be considering offering the day camp”. Every opinion is valid yet many respondents will not be fully aware of the drastic increase in protocols required.

Some of the past Summer Day Camp success is based upon

- Registration requirements – 1 day
- Outdoor Camp
- Daily Swims
- Introduction of Tween Camp to address older campers interests & adventures

This year, none of these points will be part of the altered day camp experience.

Staff would not want to see Summer Day Camp 2020 have a negative impact on the camper’s decision to want to attend future camp adventures. We have always strived to provide the best camper experience in Brockton and fun is a key element that will be extremely difficult to provide with the increased protocols and social distancing requirements.

Day Camp Supervisor and Day Camp leaders

The Day Camp leaders have been hired for the Summer Day Camp 2020 program but at this time they have not been advised of the many new policies and procedures that will need to yet be developed and become part of the new norm for the 2020 Day Camp.

This will be a significant change in the job description which they had applied to and we currently cannot comment as to their comfort level in implementing a number of these new policies i.e .screening,

cleaning/disinfecting, monitoring for social distancing. Staffing may become a concern if the camp were to move forward.

Using available public/highschool students for personalized care in the home is a potential option for many families.

Consultation with the Business Improvement Area (BIA)

The Business Community was consulted at the June 10th BIA meeting. While it was noted that some Board members were aware of business owners needing child care, there was not significant interest raised in regards to the need for a summer camp to continue based on those representatives of the business community at the meeting. Many noted the uncertainties involved in sending children and that safety would remain paramount.

Consultation with the Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG)

The Municipal Emergency Control Group, whose main focus throughout the pandemic has been mitigating risk for residents, staff and the community of Brockton, has discussed this program and supports Mr. Coleman's recommendation to cancel the camp for the 2020 season due to the significant risks associated with summer student staff ensuring strict health and safety protocols were enforced. It was noted that, if one of the children in the cohort were to test positive, the remaining children and families would be required to self-isolate, which could have devastating impacts for those families.