

Report to Council

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| Report Title: | COVID-19 Support – Picnic Tables | | |
| Prepared By: | Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services | | |
| Department: | Parks and Recreation | | |
| Date: | June 8, 2021 | | |
| Report Number: | REC2021-14 | File Number: | C11REC |
| Attachments: | Picnic Table Rental Agreement | | |

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2021-14– COVID-19 Support – Picnic Tables, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services and in doing so directs staff to make picnic tables, that are accessible from its inventory, available to commercial parties requesting assistance, without charge during the COVID-19 pandemic period in 2021, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Report:

Background:

At the May 25, 2021 Council Meeting under New Business, a request was made that Council consider making picnic tables available from the Municipality’s inventory within the Parks and Recreation Department to local commercial businesses (restaurants) that may request support to help facilitate outdoor dining at their business locations. The ongoing restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic can present unique challenges and significant economic impacts to businesses with limited resources.

Currently Brockton does not have a policy in place regarding the loaning or renting of picnic tables with no established fee within the Fees and Charges By-law. Historically the Department has only supplied tables to community service organizations hosting large special events. In the summer and fall of 2020, the Parks and Recreation Department did make available a limited number of picnic tables to one commercial business and the two high schools within Walkerton, as well as opening the undeveloped Durham Street Park property to support outdoor dining and lunch periods.

Analysis:

The Parks and Recreation Department currently does not have a full compliment of picnic tables to ideally service all park and trail locations, including Lobies Park campground within Walkerton. Additional tables are planned to be requested and purchased in future budget years.

The municipality does have an inventory of about 50 tables at the Cargill Community Centre. With the extended provincial COVID-19 restrictions and current Re-opening Plan, the large outdoor events normally planned for the Cargill Community Centre have since been cancelled. As such, about 30 picnic tables could be made available from this location.

Most municipalities do not rent out picnic tables do to wear and tear and the demands it poses on limited staff and transportation resources.

In the spirit and good will of supporting our community and local businesses during these difficult times, staff recommend that Council for the balance of 2021, approve a motion directing staff to make picnic tables, that are accessible from its inventory, available to commercial parties requesting assistance, without charge during the COVID-19 pandemic period in 2021, on a first-come, first-served basis.

In the event, that the supply of tables cannot satisfy local requests for support, staff can direct those parties to other picnic rental businesses within Bruce/Grey and Wellington Counties as an option. A basic rental agreement form to track picnic tables loaned out and specific all parties responsibilities is attached for Council's awareness.

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? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Some staff time and transportation costs may be required to deliver and pickup picnic tables to be absorbed within the 2021 budget.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

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