



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Phil Jacobs, Supervisor – Public Works Division

Meeting Date: November 20, 2018

Subject: Report APRAC18-023
People Found Living Rough in City Parks – Update

Purpose

A report to provide an update on the initial results of the new procedure for assisting people found living rough in City parks.

Recommendation

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC18-023 dated November 20, 2018, of the Supervisor of Parks and Forestry, as follows:

That report APRAC18-023 be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendations of Report APRAC18-023.

Background

On March 20, 2018 the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee received a presentation from the City's Supervisor of Parks and Forestry (Report APRAC18-009), providing information on a new procedure to assist people found living in the rough within City parkland.

The new City Procedure is as follows:

1. Someone is found or reported to be camping/living in the rough (City Property) is to be reported to the Public Works Division (705) 745-1386.
2. The Public Works Division will investigate the report of someone camping/living in the rough. The Public Works staff will ask the person to move voluntarily. The Public Works Division will contact the Social Services Division and ask them to visit the person(s) living in the rough.
3. The Social Services Division will have a period of five calendar days to contact and supply information that would assist the person(s) living in the rough, to move to another safe and secure environment.
4. If the five calendar days pass and the person(s) living in the rough is still at the same location, the Public Works Division will serve a notice of eviction giving the person(s) living in the rough another five calendar days to vacate the location in which they have set up camp.
5. If after a total of ten calendar days, and after being asked three times by City staff to move, the Public Works Division will break down any campsite, tents, or homemade shelter and dispose of all garbage in the City landfill. Personal belongings will be taken to the Social Services Division. The person(s) living in the rough can pick up their personal belongings from the Social Services Division.
6. All of the information reported will be recorded and kept on file by the Public Works Division. The Public Works Division will notify the Social Services Division, The City Police Department, and City Hall when a report of someone living in the rough has been initiated.

The Public Works Division responded to approximately 25 calls regarding persons living in the rough between January 1st and November 9th, 2018. The Supervisors in the Public Works Division attended these 25 sites and attempted to communicate with the campers. The communication was either face to face or by the Public Works Supervisor leaving his card. The Public Works Supervisor found campsites or campers at 17 of the 25 reported sites. The Public Works Supervisors then contacted all parties involved in the Living in the Rough procedure step 2. Social Services Division attempted to contact all persons living in the rough identified by the Public Works supervisor. There were Trespass Notices given to 8 campsites that did not respond to the Living in the Rough procedure step 3. Six of the eight campsites given the Trespass Notice were broken down and removed by City Staff. Only one camper was present when the City attended the breakdown of the campsite and all others were abandoned. Eleven persons responded to the Trespass Notice or communications between City staff in steps 1 & 3 and moved their camp voluntarily.

The Public Works Division maintains the City owned Parks and believes this Living in the Rough Procedure is working for both the residents of Peterborough and the persons

living in the rough. This procedure was developed to protect the enjoyment of City Parks as well as assist those persons who are found living in the rough.

Submitted by,

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