



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Sheldon Laidman

Meeting Date: September 8, 2020

Subject: Report CSRS20-005
2020 Ontario 55+ Summer Games Deferral Request

Purpose

A report to inform Council that the Ministry of Heritage Sport Tourism and Culture Industries has postponed the 2020 Ontario 55+ Summer Games to 2021 as a result of COVID-19 and has requested the City consider alternatively hosting the Games in 2021.

Recommendations

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CSRS20-005 dated September 8, 2020 of the Commissioner of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That the Province's request of the City to postpone hosting the Ontario 55+ Summer Games to 2021 be granted, on the condition the Province commits to increase the hosting grant to cover all additional costs resulting from postponing the Games to 2021;
- b) That if the Province does not commit to increase the hosting grant to cover all additional costs resulting from postponing the Games to 2021, that their request to host the Games in 2021 be declined; and
- c) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign any required Transfer Payment Agreement amendments with the Province, in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor.

Budget and Financial Implications

As per the recommendations of report CSRS18-001 dated January 29, 2018 Council committed a one-time municipal contribution of \$135,000 from the 2018 Capital Levy Reserve in support of the 2020 Ontario 55+ Summer Games over-all budget of \$654,000.

If recommendation (a) of this report is approved, the estimated additional cost to postpone the Games to 2021 and to fully recoup this cost from the Province is \$147,325. The additional cost results from increased expenses for items such as accommodations, event venues, food, transportation, translation services, and staffing, as well as an anticipated loss of revenue through the sponsorship and donation categories.

If Recommendation (b) is approved, Section A11.1 of the Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) between the City and the Province would be enacted. This section of the TPA permits the Province to terminate the agreement with 30 days notice. The Province has provided more than 30 days notice that the Games will not take place in 2020, as per the TPA, due to the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, section A11.2 (c) of the TPA would be triggered, meaning the Province is to determine the reasonable costs for the City to wind down the project and either permit the City to offset such costs against the amount the City owes, or to provide funds to the City to cover such costs. This would result in the Province covering all expenses incurred to date, and the City retaining its \$135,000 municipal contribution.

Background

As per the recommendations of report CSRS18-001 dated January 29, 2018 Council directed staff to submit a bid to host the 2020 Ontario 55+ Summer Games, and if successful hire a fulltime Games General Manager. On April 26, 2018, the Province notified the City that it was successful in its application to host the Games. The Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) between the City and the Province was signed February 15, 2019. A Games Organizing Committee (GOC) was established, consisting of City staff and representatives from the County of Peterborough, Hiawatha First Nation, the Provincial Games Unit, Fleming College, Trent University, Peterborough and Kawartha Economic Development, Ontario Senior Games Association, Loomex and Community Volunteers. Twelve sub-committees were established with each focusing on specific aspects of the Games.

On June 4, 2020 the Province formally notified Mayor Therrien through a letter from Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage Sport Tourism and Culture Industries that the Games would not take place in 2020, due to the implications of COVID-19. The Provincial Correspondence is attached as Appendix "A". It is the Province's desire to postpone the Games to the summer of 2021. While the City is not obligated to host the Games in

2021, the Province has requested that the City consider extending its hosting commitment by an additional year.

Staff are recommending that Council extend its hosting commitment of the Games to 2021, on the condition the Province covers all additional costs associated with deferring the Games to 2021. Work of the GOC and its sub-committees was halted in early April 2020 when the Province was unsure if COVID-19 would impact the ability to hold the Games in 2020. If Recommendation (a) of this report is approved, that work can resume focusing on reorganizing the arrangements that were put in place for 2020 by each of the 12 sub-committees.

Staff have surveyed the organizing committee, sub organizing committees, and volunteers to ensure that these necessary groups and persons are interested and able to continue in their roles to the proposed 2021 date. Staff are satisfied that the commitment level from these groups warrants the City being able to commit to host the 2021 games. Furthermore, staff have also surveyed the original venue partners and determined that the venues will be available for the new 2021 date.

If the Province does not commit to cover all additional costs associated with deferring the Games to 2021, recommendation (b) of this report would apply. The Games Organizing Committee (GOC) and its sub-committees would be dissolved, reservations for event venues and accommodations would be cancelled, deposits would be recouped, and the net costs incurred to date will be reconciled and covered by the Province, with the City retaining its \$135,000 municipal contribution.

Staff have provided the Province with an amended budget to host the Games in 2021, at an estimated additional cost of \$147,325, with a request the Province confirm its financial commitment. At the time this report was completed, no response from the Province has been received. It would have been ideal to have received this confirmation from the Province prior to bringing this report to Council, but due to the significant planning lead time needed to host these games in 2021 it was necessary to seek Council direction prior to this provincial confirmation.

Summary

The Province has decided not to hold the 2020 Ontario 55+ Summer Games, due to implications of COVID-19. Alternatively, the Province has requested the City consider hosting the Games in 2021. Staff recommend the City support the deferral on the condition the Province covers all additional costs associated with the deferral. The necessary organizing and volunteer infrastructure is in place to be able to successfully host the games in 2021 if provincial funding is confirmed.

Submitted by,

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Commissioner of Community Services

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Attachments:

Appendix A: Letter from the Minister of Heritage Sport Tourism and Culture Industries