



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator

MEETING DATE: September 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Report APRAC10-31
Hours for Public Use Of Municipal Owned Parklands

PURPOSE

A report to request input from the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee regarding the possibility of the City of Peterborough enacting a by-law to Establish Hours For Public Use of Municipal Owned Parklands.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC10-031 dated September 21, 2010, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

That input be provided to staff concerning the value of enacting a by-law to Establish Hours For Public Use of Municipal Owned Parklands.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget or financial implications as a result of approving the recommendations of Report APRAC10-031.

BACKGROUND

In August 2010, Mayor Ayotte requested staff consider the viability of the City of Peterborough enacting a by-law that would establish specific hours for the public use of municipal owned parkland. The intent of such a by-law would be to decrease the occurrence of public nuisances within municipal parks during night time hours by:

- Establishing a set time period for City Parks to be closed to the public;
- Providing the Police with authority, during the time period the parklands are closed, to direct any person who remains on or in the parkland to move on;
- Providing the Police with the authority to charge offenders, when appropriate, under the Trespass To Property Act.

Attached, as “Appendix A” is an example of a by-law, which establishes hours for public use of municipal owned lands in the Municipality of Trent Hills (By-Law 2009-58).

Recreation Division staff contacted the Trent Hills municipal office to inquire about the impact this By-Law has made in their jurisdiction. The introduction of this by-law has not resulted in a decline in the frequency of nuisances occurring in their parks. However, the Police now have a designated authority to take appropriate action when individuals are found on municipal owned lands, during the time period they are designated as being closed.

The Peterborough Lakefield Community Police appreciate that there are incidents of property damage in public parks, on occasion. However, they don't see occurrences any more frequently in parks than in other public places. If suspicious activity is taking place during the early morning hours, Police Officers have no problem with approaching and questioning those present.

Both City Staff and the Police have some concern that there would be significant public push back, if the city were to enact a by-law restricting access to public spaces.

Staff would be pleased to receive input from the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee at this time regarding the potential value in the City of Peterborough creating a by-law similar to Trent Hills' By-Law 2009-58.

Submitted by,

Rob Anderson,
Recreation Division Coordinator

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Corporation Of the Municipality of Trent Hills By-Law 2009-58