

To: COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 06/08/21

Subject: Requests for Exemption to Noise By-law for 2021 Special Events

Submitted By: Danielle Manton, City Clerk

Prepared By: Jennifer Shaw, Deputy City Clerk / Manager of Council & Committee Services

Report No.: 21-172 (CRS)

File No.: C1101

Recommendation(s)

THAT Report 21-172 (CRS) Requests for Exemption to Noise By-law for 2021 Special Events be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the requests identified in report 21-172 (CRS) be approved.

Executive Summary

Purpose

- To obtain Council approval for exemptions to the City of Cambridge Noise By-law 32-04 for 2021 Special Events.

Key Findings

- On an annual basis, event organizers must contact the City of Cambridge to obtain approval for an exemption under the City's Noise By-law 32-04.
- With the continuation of provincial restrictions surrounding the current COVID-19 pandemic, most events have been suspended for the 2021 season or have transitioned to a virtual format.
- Staff have identified a few events, that if permitted to move forward with the easing of restrictions, will require Council approval for an exemption from the City's Noise By-law.

Financial Implications

- There are no financial implications.

Background

To streamline the process to obtain exemptions to the City of Cambridge Noise By-law 32-04 for Special Events, the Clerk's Office consolidates these requests in one report on an annual basis.

A number of charitable organizations and events apply on a yearly basis as it relates to Noise Exemption requests; however, due to provincial restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, most groups have suspended their events for 2021 or have moved to a virtual format.

Community Development staff have been in touch with the Clerk's Division concerning a few events, that if permitted to operate with the easing of restrictions, will require Council approval to play music beyond a certain time period into the evening; in this case, after 8:00 p.m. but not later than 9:00 p.m.

While none of the events are planned to go beyond 8 p.m. Council approval for noise exemptions is being sought as a precaution.

Analysis

Strategic Alignment

PLACE: To take care of, celebrate and share the great features in Cambridge that we love and mean the most to us.

Goal #3 - Arts, Culture, Heritage and Architecture

Objective 3.3 Facilitate, support and provide a diverse range of events and festivals that bring all people together from across the city, region and beyond.

These events help to promote participation in City of Cambridge initiatives and they encourage residents to engage in family fun entertainment and activities.

Comments

The following Special Events require approval for an exemption to the City's Noise by-law 32-04 (Section 600 – Noise) for the 2021 season as they will include live performances from local artists:

1. Summer Nights Live – Wednesday, July 7, 14, 21 and 28, 7 to 8 pm, Forbes Park and Wednesday, August 4, 11, 18 and 25, 7 to 8 pm, Churchill Park

2. Thursday Nights Live - Thursday July 8, 15, 22 and 29, 7 to 8 pm, Forbes Park
3. Cambridge Celebration of the Arts – Friday, July 9, 7 to 8 pm, Forbes Park and Friday, August 13, 7 to 8 pm, Churchill Park
4. Cambridge Rotary Ribfest (drive-thru) – Saturday, August 7, 11 am to 8 pm, Hespeler Arena Parking Lot

The above noted events will be free for participants to attend and delivered in a family friendly format.

In line with the provincial colour coding framework, should these events be able to take place, the maximum capacity of the event space will be limited to 100 people. Pre-registration and COVID-19 screening will be required for those who attend.

The Cambridge Rotary Ribfest (drive-thru) is the only non-City run event as it is operated by an independent volunteer committee. Community Development staff have advised that the Ribfest event has been subject to the City's event permitting process and that both City and public health staff have been working closely with its organizers to ensure they will be following all public health guidelines. Ribfest organizers have also been provided with a copy of the City's "COVID Guidelines for Outdoor Special Events on City of Cambridge Property".

The above noted events have been discussed with public health staff. For all events the designated special event space will be controlled with fencing and deemed entrance and exit points. COVID-19 safety precautions such as hand washing stations, signage, family pods, Personal Protective Equipment and permeable barriers will be incorporated as part of the event plans along with applicable COVID-19 safety training for staff working the events.

Existing Policy/By-Law

Section 2(2) of the City's Noise By-law 32-04 permits for organizations to request special exemption status to allow for noise (music) beyond certain times.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact.

Public Input

The above noted events have been held annually for a number of years. In the past, residents have been supportive of these events and have attended in large numbers. Active annual events contribute to residents' enjoyment of living in Cambridge and if permitted to go forward with the easing of provincial restrictions, these events are anticipated to be well received.

Internal/External Consultation

In preparing for these events, staff have notified Police, Fire, Health and Community Services Departments and have obtained any additional permissions and/or permits that may be required.

A list of the subject events and staff contact information for each has been supplied by Community Development staff and is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Conclusion

The occurrence of the above noted events is subject to the easing of provincial restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff are recommending approval of the noise exemption requests for these events, should they be permitted to go forward.

Signature

Division Approval



Name: Danielle Manton

Title: City Clerk

Reviewed by the CFO

Reviewed by Legal Services

Departmental Approval



Name: Dave Bush

Title: Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services

City Manager Approval

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Calder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Name: David Calder

Title: City Manager

Attachments

- Appendix A – 2021 Special Events requiring approval of Noise By-law exemptions

Community Development
The City of Cambridge
specialevents@cambridge.ca

May 5, 2021

Dear City Clerk of the Corporate Services Department:

The following special event committees would like to request exemptions from By-law No. 32-04 (Section 600 – Noise) from the Corporation of the City of Cambridge.

Summer Nights Live

Wed July 7, 14, 21 and 28, 7 to 8 pm, Forbes Park

Wed Aug 4, 11, 18 and 25, 7 to 8 pm, Churchill Park

Contact: Leanne Bond (bondl@cambridge.ca)

Thursday Nights Live

Thurs July 8, 15, 22 and 29, 7 to 8 pm, Forbes Park

Contact: Heather Melo (meloh@cambridge.ca)

Cambridge Celebration of the Arts

Fri July 9, 7 to 8 pm, Forbes Park

Fri Aug 13, 7 to 8 pm, Churchill Park

Contact: Leanne Bond (bondl@cambridge.ca)

Cambridge Rotary Ribfest (drive-thru)

Sat Aug 7, 11 am to 8 pm, Hespeler Arena Parking Lot

Contact: Cliff Steele (cliff@thestelegroup.ca)

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Yours truly,

Lisa Whelan
Recreation Coordinator