

To: COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 09/14/21

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

Submitted By: Lesley Head, Director of Recreation and Culture

Prepared By: Lisa Whelan, Recreation Coordinator

Report No.: 21-255(CD)

File No.: C1101

Recommendations

THAT Report 21-255(CD) Requests for Exemption to Noise By-law for Fall 2021 Special Events be received;

AND THAT the requests identified in report 21-255(CD) be approved.

Executive Summary

Purpose

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

Key Findings

- On an annual basis, event organizers must obtain approval from the City of Cambridge for an exemption under the City's Noise By-law 32-04.
- With the continuation of provincial restrictions surrounding the current COVID-19 pandemic, City special event staff are working with event organizers to keep current with public health regulations.
- Staff have identified a few events that, if permitted to move forward, will require Council approval for an exemption from the City's Noise By-law 32-04.

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, City staff consolidates these requests in one or two reports annually.

There are a few events which will require Council approval to allow music to be played beyond a certain time period into the evening, typically after 8:00 p.m. Some events listed below do not go past 8:00 p.m. but are included 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 promote participation in City of Cambridge initiatives and encourage residents to engage in family fun entertainment and activities.

Comments

The following special events are going through the City's Special Event permitting process and are seeking a request for exemption to the City's Noise By-law 32-04 (Section 600 – Noise) for the 2021 fall event season as they will include live performances from local artists:

1. Summer Nights Live – Wednesday, September 15, 7 to 8 pm, Churchill Park
2. Freedom Vendor Festival – Friday, September 17 4 to 8 pm, Saturday, September 18 10 am to 8 pm & Sunday, September 19 12 to 6 pm, Riverside Park
3. Hot Springs Music Festival – Saturday, September 18, 12 to 11 pm, Central Park
4. Hespeler Harvest Festival – Saturday, September 25, 10 am to 3 pm, Forbes Park
5. Main Street Music Series – Thursdays until end of October, 5 pm to 7 pm, Main Street (road closure from Water St to Ainslie St)

6. Latin Music on Queen – Saturdays until end of October, 5 pm to 9 pm, Queen St East (road closure from Tannery St to Guelph Ave)

All events will follow provincial and regional public health restrictions. City staff and event organizers often consult with Region of Waterloo Public Health. All special event organizers are provided with a copy of the City’s “COVID Guidelines for Outdoor Special Events on City of Cambridge Property”. Special event organizers understand that regulations can change at anytime and may be required to modify their event plans based on Provincial or Public Health guidelines.

Should this recommendation not be endorsed, event staff would advise event organizers of the need for a firm 8:00 p.m. end to music. Bylaw staff could attend to the events and advise the event organizers the live performances must stop immediately and cannot proceed.

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 Covid-19 restrictions, are anticipated to be well received.

Internal/External Consultation

In preparing for these events, staff and event organizers have consulted with Region of Waterloo Public Health and events will obtain any additional permissions and/or permits that may be required.

Conclusion

The occurrence of the above noted events is subject to final approval of the City’s special event staff. Staff are recommending approval of the noise exemption requests for these events, should they be permitted to go forward.

Signature

Division Approval



Reviewed by the CFO

Reviewed by Legal Services

Name: Lesley Head

Title: Director of Recreation & Culture

Departmental Approval



Name: Hardy Bromberg

Title: Deputy City Manager – Community Development

City Manager Approval



Name: David Calder

Title: City Manager

Attachments

- N/A