



SQUAMISH

HARDWIRED *for* ADVENTURE

Fees and Charges for Recreation Services –Compilation of January 25, 2016 Workshop with Stakeholders

Values

1. Ensure a fair and consistent rate-setting practice that reflects both the means and demands of our community

Was Value 1 Achieved?

- Yes
 - Yes
 - Yes
 - Mostly. Youth sports see a 625% increase, but recognize it is inevitably
 - Rates for seniors and youth was dramatically higher than others
 - Fees for Aquatics we agree with the new proposed user fee
 - Don't think so, seniors concerned about their programs. Distinction between 55+ and 65 years of age
 - Adults increase ok, kids be careful
 - Not entirely. The public should be provided with data to show how the rate increases will contribute to operational costs. What is the cost to maintain the current level of serves? What are the projected increases in costs over the new few years to maintain the level of service.
2. Encourage effective and frequent use of services and facilities.

Was Value 2 Achieved?

- Yes
 - Yes
 - Yes get away from blanket bookings
 - TBC -Rates may impact demand
 - Recommend monitoring use levels to determine impact of increased user fees
 - In some areas
 - The goal is obvious in the package but no sure that the goal was actually achieved
 - We need to be careful about families that can't afford and they are too proud to ask for help
 - Not entirely. Increasing rates without properly educating the publics about why there needs to be an increase will discourage people from using services and facilities. It's not enough to simply compare Squamish's rates with those of other community; this is over simplifying things, it's one-sided and it's inaccurate. The whole picture should include how and why money is being spent. People are likely to be more receptive to rate increases if they understand the "how's" and the "why's"
3. Ensure affordable and accessible recreation services for all social and economic groups, families and individuals in our community.

Was Value 3 Achieved?

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Not entirely. With the increase in the cost of living in Squamish, fee increases will no mean that recreation services are affordable and accessible for everyone. There will likely be RAC applicants which will result in reduced revenues because people will be receiving more discounts.
- Yes
- Yes – perhaps encouraging youth groups to partner with some of the disadvantaged kids groups
- No not with this draft
- Affordability is an issue for all user groups so with an increase in rates makes affordability less
- We need to be careful about families that can't afford and they are too proud to ask for help

Objectives

1. Revenue needs to increase in order to maintain the current level of service (without raising taxes disproportionately). » *Develop a moderate incremental fees structure to bring fees in line with other similar and neighboring communities over 3 to 5 years.*

Objective 1 met?

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Object to field use fees for tournaments
- Yes, assuming usage doesn't decline
- Will need to wait and see
- Not sure
- My worry is that it won't meet the plan and will need more increases
- Yes

Equity needs to be achieved between what the various user groups pay.

» *Introduce a moderate fee to Youth Field Groups using artificial turf, grass and gravel fields*

Objective 2 met?

- Yes
- Increase is fairly significant, but we will manage it
- Appears so- however changes are significantly different so user groups appear to have lack of equity
- Yes
- Yes
- Field user could pay even more to equate to at least 30% of costs
- I think this seems to be accomplished
- Agree but be careful
- Yes

2. A procedure needs to be developed to deal with the issue of blanket booking.
» *Transition to an hourly rental rate for sport fields, by 2018.*

Objective 3 met?

- Yes
- This will be tricky and require considerable discussion with user groups over the next year. Need to discuss rates and process
- Yes this would be more fair
- Hourly rates may decrease usage
- No work with groups to ensure they don't blanket book
- Tbc, I believe blanket booking will still occur
- All for it
- ?
- Yes I like this

3. Explore new revenue opportunities.

Objective 4 met?

- Yes
- I think more work can be done on this
- Yes though unsure that all options presented are viable
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- ?
- Of course check other venue
- Not entirely. Since this was deemed to be "out of scope" more investigation needs to be done to determine what this would look like and how it would impact overall revenue. Evidence based, statistical analysis is necessary.

COMMENTS:

Definitions: need to clarify application of "youth" definition

14.1 Brennan Park Recreation Centre

14.2 Aquatic Centre Rentals

The pirates have no problem with the proposal fee increases

14.3 General Admissions

14.4 Arena Rentals

14.5 Advertising Fees

14.6 Cancellation and Refund Fees

14.7 Parks Facility Rentals

My concern is rental for fields on our tournament. I calculated that will cost more than \$1200 rental of the fields for 2 days. Going to try and work out what tournament will cost compared to this year.

For Soccerfest, our local teams- seem to be double dipped, depends on how many teams are registered and when we have to pay

Schedule 17 – Squamish Seniors’ Centre Hourly Rates

Needs more discussion