



Report to Council

Department: Community Services
Division: Community Services
Date: May 4, 2020
Prepared by: Doug Sweet, Director of Community Services
Report Number: Community Services-2020-04
Subject: 2020 Essex Fun Fest Update
Number of Pages: 4

Recommendation(s)

The following recommendations are provided for Council's consideration:

1. That Community Services Report 2020-004 entitled "2020 Essex Fun Fest Update" be **received**, for council information; and
2. That Council **approve** the Essex Fun Fest Committee's recommendation to cancel the 2020 Essex Fun Fest scheduled July 2-5, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Purpose

To update Council on the recommendation by the Essex Fun Fest Committee to cancel the 2020 Essex Fun Fest scheduled from July 2-5, 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Background and Discussion

The 33rd annual Essex Fun Fest is scheduled to take place July 2-5, 2020 at the Essex Centre Sports Complex grounds. Currently, with the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a Provincial Order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act effective April 1st that all outdoor

recreation facilities are to be closed and this current order has been extended to May 6th, 2020. It is anticipated that this order will be extended beyond this date. The provincial order also includes restrictions on social gatherings of more than 5 people and any gathering needs to ensure social distancing at a minimum of 2 metres. Health Professionals are predicting that the pandemic and restrictions could last quite some time, and this has led to a number of municipalities cancelling all festivals/events currently scheduled in 2020. Below is a current listing of local events that have officially cancelled due to the pandemic and the restrictions on social gatherings:

- Taste of Tecumseh Festival
- Lasalle Strawberry Festival
- Art in the Park
- Carrousel of Nations
- Kingsville Folk Fest
- Annual Detroit Fireworks

In addition, Festival and Events Ontario has provided an update that most festivals in Ontario have been cancelled until the end of June and they are now being notified of festival cancellations for July and August.

It is uncertain whether the current restrictions will be lifted by July 2nd when the Essex Fun Fest is scheduled to start however, festival planning would need to be completed in the very near future in order to ensure the successful delivery of the event. Much of this pre-planning involves confirming particulars of the festival that require deposits that may not be refunded if the festival is cancelled at a later date. Typically, at this point in time, the following would be in progress:

- Confirming of all site logistics such as tents, fencing, stage/sound, porta-johns, lights and electrical
- Reserving security personnel
- Booking all entertainment including the main stage, and fireworks

- Parade arrangements and recruiting participants
- Securing sponsorships and donations
- Reserving advertising and promotional materials
- Recruitment of volunteers; and
- Recruiting food and non-food vendors

The Essex Fun Fest Committee met on April 22nd by video conferencing to discuss the current provincial orders and the impact it has on holding a community festival. After discussion and concerns on ensuring social distancing, ability to attract sponsorships, vendors, entertainment, volunteers and potential patrons, the Committee unanimously voted to cancel the 2020 Essex Fun Fest scheduled from July 2-5, 2020. The Committee wants to ensure if a festival was to occur that it would be in a safe environment and with the current pandemic and restrictions they felt this could not be accomplished at this time.

Financial Impact

To date there were a number of facility items reserved (tents, fencing, porta-johns, security, etcetera.) but only one deposit has been made. The Vendor has been contacted and they have agreed to keep a credit for the deposit on the Town's account to be used for a future event or the 2021 festival.

Consultations

Essex Fun Fest Committee

Link to Strategic Priorities

- ☐ Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure which meets current and future needs of the municipality and its citizens.
- ☒ Create a safe, friendly and inclusive community which encourages healthy, active living for people of all ages and abilities.
- ☐ Provide a fiscal stewardship and value for tax dollars to ensure long-term financial health to the municipality.
- ☐ Manage responsible and viable growth while preserving and enhancing the unique rural and small town character of the community.
- ☐ Improve the experiences of individuals, as both citizens and customers, in their interactions with the Town of Essex.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CS-2020-Essex Fun Fest Update - Community Services-2020-02.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 29, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Nepszy".

Chris Nepszy, Chief Administrative Officer - Apr 29, 2020 - 10:03 AM