MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL
STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: March 16, 2022 **Date Prepared**: March 4, 2022

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Title: 2022/23 Parks and Recreation Department Fee Schedule Amendments

Agenda: Public Hearing

RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct a Public Hearing and approve by resolution the 2022/23 Parks and Recreation Department fee schedule amendments as presented in Exhibit B.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Following two years of limited, constrained and stop-start programming, the Parks and Recreation Department is planning for a full return to in-person programming and recreation activities in 2022/23. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge and major disruption to our way of life for both residents and visitors alike. The pandemic highlighted – and continues to highlight – what has been true for many years: parks and recreation provide essential services and infrastructure critical for the physical and mental well-being and resilience of our community.

It is well documented that having access to quality parks and recreation services improves physical and mental health, reduces crime and violence, increases access to healthy foods, drives community connection and boosts economic activity. It is the mission of the parks and recreation department to provide multi-purpose, year-round, indoor, and outdoor recreation opportunities accessible to all residents and visitors. Combined with the 2022 Annual Programming Menu and the 2022 Strategic Work Plan, the proposed 2022/23 Fee Schedule completes the administrative framework necessary to deliver high-quality, innovative, and affordable recreation programming for our residents and visitors to Mammoth Lakes.

Included in this staff report are the following exhibits:

- Exhibit A: Resolution
- Exhibit B: Recreation Commission approved 2022/23 Fee Schedule Amendments.

ANALYSIS:

The Parks and Recreation Department annually reviews and recommends appropriate fees for the many adult and youth camps and programs, including the establishment of fees for facility reservations. These fees are presented to the Recreation Commission, whose powers and duties as

stated in section 2.40.040 of the Municipal Code, empower this advisory body to "advise the town council and the town manager in all matters pertaining to all Town-owned or managed parks, recreation, facilities, trails, special events and all other associated activities as prescribed by ordinances or by town council action."

Municipal Code Section 3.39.040 requires an annual review by Town Council of Town fees and service charges. In addition, Ordinance No. 08-11 states that the Town Council by resolution may annually set a subsidy for certain fees or charges, thereby not requiring that one hundred percent of the Town's costs in providing a service are recovered by that certain fee or charge. Based on historical Town Council adopted subsidies (Ord. 91-08 & Ord. 95-07) for recreation programs, and the philosophy of the Parks and Recreation Department to provide broad and considerable community benefit and enhanced quality of life, the department applies a high subsidy (approx. 80%) for youth programs and facility operations and a lower subsidy (approx. 20%) for adult programming.

The Parks and Recreation Department has conducted an extensive and exhaustive analysis of its services, the costs reasonably borne of providing those services, the beneficiaries of those services, and the revenues produced by those paying fees and charges for special services. In accordance with the Municipal Code, public testimony was received by the Recreation Commission on March 1, 2022 regarding the proposed fees and the proposed fees were unanimously approved by motion by the Recreation Commission.

Staff is presenting the amended 2022/23 Parks and Recreation Department Fee Schedule (Exhibit B) to the Town Council for their consideration.

Summary of Proposed Fee Amendments

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics[1] reported that prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 6.6 percent in 2021. Food prices increased 7.0 percent. Energy prices jumped 33.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 4.4 percent over the year. For comparison, the CPI in 2020 was 1.5 percent.

COVID-19 Pandemic

In 2021, staff made the decision to freeze certain fees that were directly impacted by CPI, such as our many popular summer camps and programs. The pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge for both our residents and visitors alike and the department did not want fees to be a barrier for participation. In addition, facility rental and admission fees remained at 2020 levels.

[1] https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/consumerpriceindex_losangeles.htm

Summary of Proposed 2022/23 Fee Amendments

Staff has provided an overview of the proposed 2022/23 fee schedule amendments below. The department typically reviews facility rental fees every three years and revises recreation program fees annually, except in 2021 during the pandemic. Reasonable fee recovery is based on a number of factors including the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI), and direct costs incurred by the Town to provide parks and recreation services. Direct costs include seasonal staff wages, cost of contract or skilled instructor(s), excursion/overnight costs, and equipment/supply expenses. Many of these expenses have increased significantly. For example, seasonal staff wages have increased by 36% (min. wage: $11/hr. to $15/hr.) since 2018. Indirect costs, such as department full time employee salaries, healthcare and workers compensation expenses, are not included in the cost recovery calculation.

Below are the highlighted amendments to the 2022/23 Master Fee Schedule. Please review the attached Parks and Recreation Department Master Fee Schedule (Exhibit B) for detailed proposed fee amendments.

Special Event Administrative Permit

- Fees were last amended in 2019.
- Regular permit fee increased by 10% over the 2019 fee.
- Introduced an administrative permit fee for temporary road closures. The $500 fee is a direct cost recovery for staff to draft, submit, and process a Town Council resolution to temporarily close a Town street, along with staff costs to prepare and/or deliver traffic control signs for placement on the Town right of way.

Facility Rental Fees

- Facility rental fees were last amended in 2018.
- Fees were increased by approximately 10% over the 2018 fees.
- The non-profit fee is approximately a 20% discount from the regular rental fee.

Whitmore Pool

- Admission fees were last amended in 2018.
- Daily admission fee age categories for the pool were aligned with all facility admission fee age categories[2]. Admission fees were increased between 50 cents and $1.75 per visit (10-20%).
- Use and lesson fees increased by approximately 10% over the 2018 fees.
- Mammoth Lakes Youth Swim Team Season Pass is calculated at a 20% discount from the Youth Season Pass fee. Swim Team pool rental fees are discounted by approximately 20%.

[2] Adult (18-64 yrs.), Senior (65+ yrs.) / Military (ID), Youth (<18 yrs.) and child (<5 yrs.)

Mammoth Ice Rink

- Admission fees were last amended in 2017.
- For the 2022/23 winter season, the Mammoth Ice Rink will be operating in the Community Recreation Center.
- Admission/lesson fees increased by 10-15% over the 2017 fees.
- Mammoth Lakes Youth Hockey (MLYH) Season Pass is calculated at an approximately 20% discount from the Youth Season Pass fee.
- Facility/tournament rental fees increased by approximately 10% over the 2017 fees.
- Introduced new curling sheet fee.

Mammoth RecZone

- Admission fees were last amended in 2017.
- For the 2023 summer season, the Mammoth RecZone will be operating in the Community Recreation Center.
- Daily admission fee age categories were aligned with all facility admission fee categories.
- Includes fees for court rentals, multi-purpose room/space rentals, recreation and instructional program fees, youth/adult league and tournament fees.

Adult Programs

- Fees were last amended in 2020.
- Program and tournament fees increased by 10-20% over the 2020 fees.

Youth Camps/Programs

- Fees were last amended in 2020.
- Youth camp pricing has been simplified representing two camp products offered Monday to Thursday from 9am-4pm and on Friday from 9am-noon. Many camps were previously 2 and 3-day camp products.
    - Camp Type 1: Summer Camps operated by Town staff at the CRC or seasonally. Camps include: Sport Camp, Park n' Play camp, Nature Camp, and Sampler Camp. Fee per camper/week is $160.
    - Camp Type 2: Signature Summer Camps operated by Town staff and contracted personnel, that may also include excursions, overnight stays and meals and equipment. Camps include: Adventure Camp, Aquatics Camp, Mountain Biking Camp, Climbing Camp, Art Camp, and Backpacking Camp. Fee per camper/week is $220.
- Introduced a High School Counselor in Training (CIT) Camp offered at the beginning of summer to meet the demand for teen age camp products and to provide training for teens interested in summer employment. The Town would potentially recruit counselors from this program, based on availability. Fee per camper/week is $240.
- Introduced Instructional and Recreation Program fees. These are typically multi-day products offered by the Town or by contractors/recreation providers.
- Other camp and program products increased by approximately 10% over the 2020 fees.

Scholarship Fund

The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to administer youth scholarships through the *Tony Colasardo Scholarship Fund*. The fund provides full or partial scholarships, based on availability, for the many popular camps and recreation programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. These scholarships are intended to remove financial barriers facing a family when deciding to participate in our many camps or programs. The implementation, promotion, and management of the scholarship program is incorporated in the 2022 Strategic workplan and remains a priority for staff.

STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS:

The 2022 annual programming menu and associated fees and service charges were developed from an extensive analysis of 2020 and 2021 products and services that are aligned with the existing and planned staffing levels within the Parks and Recreation Department.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Municipal Code Section 3.39.040 requires an annual review by Town Council of Town fees and service charges. In accordance with the Municipal Code, staff presented the amended 2022/23 Parks and Recreation Department Fee Schedule to the Recreation Commission on March 1, 2022. The proposed fee schedule was unanimously approved by motion.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Each year the Town of Mammoth Lakes conducts an extensive and exhaustive analysis of its services, the costs incurred by the Town in providing those services, the beneficiaries of those services, and the revenues produced by those paying fees and charges for special services. Based on historical Town Council adopted subsidies (Ord. 91-08 & Ord. 95-07) for recreation programs, and the philosophy of the Parks and Recreation Department to provide broad and considerable community benefit and enhanced quality of life, the Town applies a high subsidy (approx. 80-90%) for youth programs and facility operations and a lower subsidy (approx. 10-20%) for adult programming. It should be noted that actual subsidies may vary based on several factors including program content, required staff, direct expenses (food, transport, and activities), and participation.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics[3] reported that prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 6.6 percent in 2021. Food prices increased 7.0 percent. Energy prices jumped 33.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 4.4 percent over the year. For comparison, the CPI in 2020 was 1.5 percent.

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[3] https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/consumerpriceindex_losangeles.htm

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Resolution of the Town Council of Mammoth Lakes, State of California, amending a schedule of fees and charges for Town services.

B. 2022/23 Proposed Parks and Recreation Department fee schedule amendments