MAMMOTH LAKES TOWN COUNCIL
STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: March 15, 2023 **Date Prepared**: March 8, 2023

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Title: 2023/24 Parks and Recreation Department Fee Schedule Amendments

Agenda: Public Hearing

RECOMMENDATION:

Conduct a Public Hearing and approve by resolution the 2023/24 Parks and Recreation Department fee schedule amendments as presented in Exhibit B.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Parks and Recreation Department returned to full in-person programming and recreation activities in 2022/23 after the COVID-19 pandemic severely limited and constrained our activities. 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 2023 Annual Programming Menu and the Department's 2023 Strategic Priorities and Key Objectives, the proposed 2023/24 Fee Schedule completes the administrative framework necessary to deliver high-quality, innovative, and affordable recreation programming for our residents and visitors of Mammoth Lakes.

On March 7, 2023, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved by motion the 2023/24 Parks and Recreation Department Fee Schedule Amendments.

Included in this staff report are the following exhibits:

- Exhibit A: Resolution
- Exhibit B: Parks and Recreation Commission approved 2023/24 Fee Schedule Amendments.

ANALYSIS:

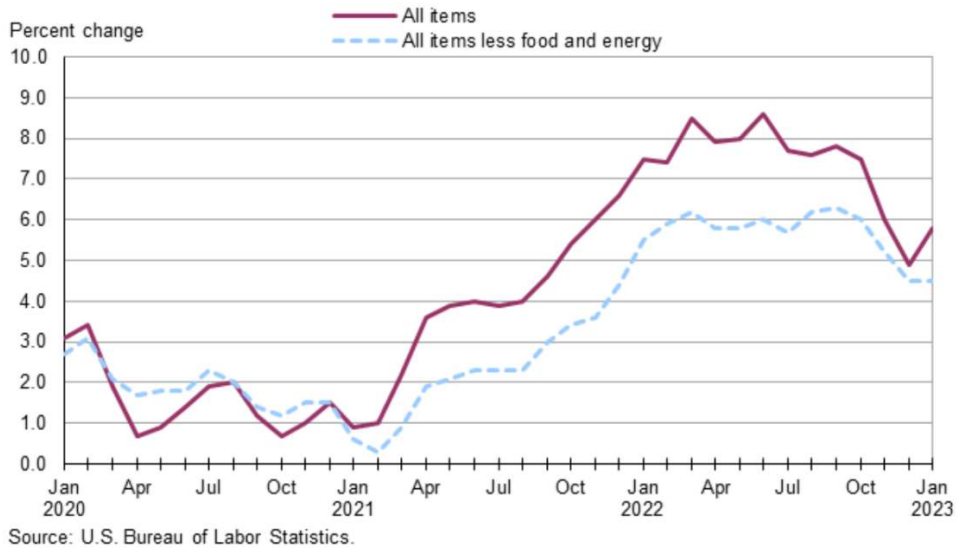
The Parks and Recreation Department annually reviews and recommends appropriate fees for the many adult and youth camps programs, including the establishment of fees for facility reservations. These fees are presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission, whose powers and duties as stated in section 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 Council by resolution may annually set a subsidy for certain fees or charges, thereby not requiring that one hundred percent of costs reasonably borne is 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.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) Increase in 2022

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics[1] reported that prices in the Los Angeles area, over the last 12 months, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 5.8 percent. Food prices increased 7.6 percent. Energy prices increased 17.5 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of natural gas service. For comparison, the CPI-U for 2021 was 6.6 percent.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, January 2020–January 2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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

Summary of Proposed 2023/24 Fee Amendments

Staff has provided an overview of the proposed 2023/24 fee schedule amendments below. The Department typically reviews facility rental fees every two years and revises recreation program fees annually, except during the 2021 pandemic. Reasonable fee recovery is based on a number of factors including the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI), along with direct costs reasonably borne 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 over 40-50% since 2018. Indirect costs, such as Department full-time employee salaries, healthcare and workers compensation expenses, as well as transportation costs, are not included in the cost recovery calculation.

It is the intent of the Department to annually adjust program fees based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), in the Los Angeles area, by no more than 5 percent. Facilities are reviewed annually for necessary amendments and adjusted every two years, based on the CPI-U and again by no more than 5 percent.

The 2023/24 Parks and Recreation Department Master Fee Schedule is attached for Town Council's consideration (Exhibit B). A summary of the fee amendments are listed below.

Special Event Administrative Permit

- No changes - fees were last amended in 2022/23

Facility Rental Fees

- Facility rental fees were increased by 5%
- The non-profit fee is calculated at a 20% discount from the regular rental fee.
- Included Cleaning Fee ($100) – charged to the guest if the facility requires additional cleaning following a rental.
- Included new "Pickleball Courts and Multi-Use Complex" per hour tournament fee for 6 courts. Courts are free for the public to use on a first come-first serve basis.
- Removed Mammoth Creek Park rental areas. Open space will be available to the public.

Whitmore Pool

- No changes - admission fees were last amended in 2022/23.
- Revised parking lot fee to align with other facilities.

LA Kings Ice at Mammoth Lakes

- For the 2023/24 winter season, the Ice Rink will operate in the Community Recreation Center (CRC)
- Admission fees were last amended in 2022/23.
- Eliminated midweek fees to simplify pricing menu.
- Revised Community Skate Special, skate rentals, skate assists and skate sharpening fees.

- Updated 5 Skate Pass and Season Pass fees to align with revised 7-day pricing menu.
- Mammoth Lakes Youth Hockey (MLYH) Season Pass is calculated at a 30% discount from the Youth Season Pass fee.
- Introduced parking lot fee to align with other facilities (subject to availability).

Mammoth RecZone

- For the 2023 summer season, the Mammoth RecZone will operate in the Community Recreation Center.
- No major changes - admission fees were last amended in 2022/23.
- Made minor adjustments to court and facility rental fees.
- Introduced NEW "Camp Mammoth" (weekly/daily drop-in) for Grades TK-K and 1-2.
- Introduced NEW "Kids Club" fee - supervised after camp program at Mammoth RecZone (Monday-Thursday, from 4-6pm).
- Revised Youth Special Event Participation fee (from $5 to $6/child), i.e. Halloween Carnival, etc.
- Introduced parking lot fee to align with other facilities (subject to availability).

Edison Theatre

- No major changes - facility rental fees introduced in 2022/23.
- Revised Library/Conference space fees to align with Community Center pricing.
- Introduced parking lot fee to align with other facilities (subject to availability).

Adult Programs

- No changes - fees were last amended in 2022/23.

Youth Camps/Programs

- Summer Camp fees increased by 5%.

Scholarship Fund

The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to administer youth scholarships through the *Tony Colasardo Scholarship Fund*. The fund provides 50%, 75% and 90% scholarships, based on availability, for the many popular camps and recreation programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. These scholarships can also be used to help with registration costs for local youth sports organizations. 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 2023 Strategic workplan and remains a priority for staff.

STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS:

The 2023 annual programming menu and associated fees and service charges were developed from an extensive analysis of recreation 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 2023/24 Parks and Recreation Department Fee Schedule to the Recreation Commission on March 7, 2023. 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.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Resolution of the Town Council of Mammoth Lakes, State of California, amending a schedule of fees and charges for town services.
B. 2023/24 Proposed Parks and Recreation Department fee schedule amendments.