

April 25, 2014

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### **Minor increase recommended for some fitness user fees**

Changes to fitness/weight room and racquet court fees could come into effect this September.

*“Based on a thorough review conducted by the City’s Recreation & Culture Department fitness staff, the increases recommended for fitness/weight room and racquet court fees would keep these facilities competitive compared with the private sector and facilities in other municipalities,”* says Ross Milnthorp, the City’s general manager of parks, recreation and culture.

If approved, the rate changes would:

- Eliminate fitness/weight room and racquet court passes for families and groups of 8 to 11 people due to poor sales,
- Eliminate combination fitness/weight room/court pass due to zero sales in recent years.
- Change the group pass size from 12-plus to 12 to 20 people (to match group parameters established in other municipalities and increase front counter processing efficiency)
- Change the group pass discount from 20 per cent to 15 per cent, in line with charges in other municipalities.
- Increase youth/senior individual and group pass rates for fitness/weight room and racquet courts to compare more closely to fees for other people using these facilities.

Examples of fee increases:

- \$2 increase for six-month youth/senior fitness/weight room pass
- \$5 increase for nine-month youth/senior fitness/weight room pass
- \$6 increase for one year youth/senior fitness/weight room pass

*“User fees recover only a small portion of the overall costs related to sustaining community wellbeing through City programs and facilities, and these costs have been rising steadily since the last rate increase in 2010. At that time youth and seniors rates were not adjusted,”* says Milnthorp. *“Increasing our efficiency and raising the rates will help support our efforts to continue offering high quality recreation opportunities for people of all ages, stages and abilities.”*

These recommended increases have been reviewed and endorsed by the City’s Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission and will be presented for consideration at the April 29 Council meeting.

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