



Report Number: PFC2021-0618

Meeting: Priorities & Finance Committee

Meeting Date: 2021 April 27

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Pilot Program – Public Consumption of Alcohol in Calgary Parks

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Gian-Carlo Carra, Evan Woolley

WHEREAS the public consumption of alcohol is regulated by the provincial Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act which permits the consumption of alcohol at designated picnic sites;

AND WHEREAS the Province now allows alcohol in some Provincial park sites, including two sites at Fish Creek Park within Calgary;

AND WHEREAS Calgary has no municipal bylaws which prohibit the public consumption of alcohol in most City parks;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions has Calgarians looking for outdoor social gathering opportunities;

AND WHEREAS The City has seen successful uptake of other outdoor initiatives including public winter fire pits;

AND WHEREAS The City has piloted several temporary COVID pilots in response to the pandemic and the shift in the daily habits of Calgarians;

AND WHEREAS The City has seen an increased usage of outdoor amenity spaces, including parks;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity for a temporary designation of some City picnic sites to allow for public consumption of alcohol;

AND WHEREAS a 2019 Engage survey indicated 56 per cent of Calgarians supported allowing liquor in Calgary Parks;

AND WHEREAS Calgary's Winter City Strategy Survey Conducted in 2020 December found that 79 per cent of respondents indicated a support for consumption of alcohol at small social gatherings in parks;

AND WHEREAS engagement on the Parks Bylaw review conducted in 2018 received a large number of unsolicited responses requesting that alcohol be permitted in parks;

AND WHEREAS the Ward 9 office often receives requests by citizens and business owners requesting that that alcohol be permitted in parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to allow for the consumption of alcohol at temporarily designated City Parks picnic sites as a pilot, beginning 2021 June 1 and ending 2021 September 7 – or earlier at the discretion of the Director of Parks;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the locations and any regulations associated with the proposed picnic sites be identified on Calgary.ca;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to report on outcomes of implementation no later than 2021 November.