



Date 14 July 2012

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

Fr: Karen Brown

Re: Long Term Parking Strategy – Kenora Downtown Area

Recommendation:

That Council hereby accepts the City's 2012 Parking Strategy; and

That Council hereby approves the vision contained within that report of shifting longer term parking away from the Harbourfront through implementing the following recommendations, as outlined within that report:

- One half (40) of the long term leased parking spots in the South Harbourfront parking lot be eliminated as of May 1, 2013 and these spots be converted to hourly parking;
- One quarter (20) of the long term leased parking spots in the South Harbourfront parking lot be eliminated as of May 1, 2014 and these spots be converted to hourly parking;
- The remainder (20) of the long term leased parking spots in the South Harbourfront parking lot be eliminated as of May 1, 2015 and these spots be converted to hourly parking;
- The longest term renters be given the opportunity to be the last one impacted by this phase out;
- The monthly rate for long term parking rentals at the South Harbourfront Parking lot be amended as follows:
 - \$60, plus applicable taxes, effective October 1, 2012;
 - \$70, plus applicable taxes, effective April 1, 2013;
- The monthly rate for long term parking rentals at the North Harbourfront Parking lot be amended as follows:
 - \$68, plus applicable taxes, effective October 1, 2012; and

That Council hereby gives the following direction to City administration:

- Development of a communications plan, including an education program, to implement the approved changes to parking at the Harbourfront parking lots as outlined within this resolution, including a press release to be read at the August 13th, 2012 Council meeting;
- Review of the 2012 Parking Strategy, including the remaining recommendations as contained within the that strategy, following the implementation of the recommendations as contained within this report,

or on an as needed basis, with the vision of an amended parking strategy and recommendations to be brought before Council as appropriate based on the success of the strategy implementation;

- Investigate the options for a review of downtown traffic flows as part of the Downtown Revitalization Phase III works to ensure any potential recommendations are included as part of the design for those works; and

That the appropriate by-law be passed authorizing the amended rates for the North and South Harbourfront Parking lots; and further

That in accordance with Notice By-law #144-2007, notice is hereby given that Council intends to pass a by-law to amend its monthly parking rates for the North and South Harbourfront parking lots at its August 13th, 2012 Council meeting.

Background:

Attached is the City of Kenora 2012 Parking Strategy, developed jointly by Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk, and the writer of this report. Following initial development, the draft strategy was provided to the Brand Leadership Team (BLT) for discussion and input. The BLT was chosen to provide feedback as that group includes representation from BIZ, the LOWDC, including Tourism and Business Development, as well as a number of Chamber members and local businesses. Concrete feedback was obtained from this group, and the resulting draft strategy being presented to Council has been updated to incorporate the input received, resulting in a stronger strategy for implementation.

The strategy is a standalone document, and for the most part, other than the specific recommendations included in the resolution (above), the contents have not been repeated within this report. Rather, the strategy should be read as an integral part of this report and recommendation.

Traffic Flows:

One area for which feedback not included in the 2012 Parking Strategy was provided was the concept of reviewing traffic flows in the downtown core. It has been suggested that the overall vision for parking should include reviewing existing traffic flows and patterns and making sure that the City streets are designed to provide the best traffic flow solutions, while ensuring or downtown is a pedestrian friendly environment. Some of the ideas offered included the potential for implementing one-way traffic on certain streets which would allow the creation of more angle parking and identifying alternate truck routes.

It is recommended that the shift of long term parking away from the Harbourfront as recommended within the 2012 Parking Strategy be approved, independent of a potential traffic flow review. As part of the Downtown

Revitalization (DTR) Phase III works, plans are in place to ensure the traffic signals are coordinated with the new signals put in at Main & Second and Main & First. The ideal time to review the traffic flows would be during the design phase of the DTR project, and it is recommended that City staff pursue this option as part of those works.

Budget:

Other than some communications related expenses, there will be little cost to the implementation of the recommendations under the 2012 Parking Strategy, and these should be offset by the increased revenues resulting from the rate increases. The City will need to review to determine if the Harbourfront lots are being used to capacity as the phase out is occurring, or if part of the lot begins to sit vacant. In that situation, there could be lost monthly revenues as a result. This will not be known until the plan is being implemented.

With regards to the review of traffic flows, it would appear that there is an opportunity to partner with the BIZ on related costs. This will need to be further investigated.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

The development of a strong communications plan, as outlined within the parking strategy, will be a key factor in determining the success of the implementation of the strategy recommendations and addressing parking issues in the downtown core.

In accordance with Notice By-law #144-2007, notice shall be given that Council intends to amend its monthly parking rates for the North and South Harbourfront parking lots at its August 13th, 2012 Council meeting.

Cc: BLT Members