

--	--

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 29, 2012
FROM:	WILLIAM C. COXHEAD DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT:	Amplified Sound and Hours of Operation of Special Events

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Parks & Recreation, with the concurrence of the Executive Director of Community Services, the following report **BE FORWARDED** to a public participation meeting on June 19, 2012 before the Community Services Committee to receive comments related to the following options, with respect to Section 13.0 Noise Policy in the Special Events Policies and Procedures Manual:

Allowable Sound/Decibel Levels at Special Events

Option A - No change, maintain the current policy whereby all amplified concerts shall not exceed a sound pressure of 90 decibels beyond 30m (100 feet) from the front edge of the stage with no allowance for peaks/crescendos.

Option B - Increase decibel levels to not exceed a sound pressure of 100 decibels beyond 30m (100 feet) from the front edge of the stage and 5 peaks/ crescendos (a gradual increase, especially in the volume or intensity of sound in a passage).

Option C - Increase decibel levels to not exceed a sound pressure level somewhere between the range of 85 and 100 decibels beyond 30m (100 feet) from the front edge of the stage and 5 peaks/crescendos (a gradual increase, especially in the volume or intensity of sound in a passage).

Hours of Operation at Special Events

Option A - No change, maintain the current policy whereby the amplification of sound for Special Events will be limited to the hours of **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

Option B - allow amplified sound at Special Events between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and **midnight**

Option C - allow amplified sound at Special Events between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and **1am.**

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
--

--	--

Permissible decibel levels range from 90 to 95 decibels across the Municipalities surveyed (Appendix C). Sarnia’s by-law has no limits on decibel levels; it is up to the discretion of the officer if any complaints arise from noise.

Hours of Operation

Civic administration undertook a Municipal scan of five (5) other municipalities and summarized allowable times and noise levels for amplified music in Appendix C.

- Of the municipalities surveyed ending hours of amplified sound varied from 11pm – 1am.
- Sarnia Bayfest is allowed to operate until 11:00 pm during the week, 12:00 am on Saturday and Sundays and are allowed to extend playing up to an hour if there are rain delays.

OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

Civic Administration proposes 3 options for considering the request to increase the allowable decibel levels and 3 options for extending the hours of operation at special events.

Allowable Sound/Decibel Levels at Special Events

Option A - No change, maintain the current policy whereby all amplified concerts shall not exceed a sound pressure of 90 decibels beyond 30m (100 feet) from the front edge of the stage with no allowance for peaks/crescendos.

Option B - Increase decibel levels to not exceed a sound pressure of 100 decibels beyond 30m (100 feet) from the front edge of the stage and 5 peaks/ crescendos (a gradual increase, especially in the volume or intensity of sound in a passage).

Option C - Increase decibel levels to not exceed a sound pressure level somewhere between the range of 85 and 100 decibels beyond 30m (100 feet) from the front edge of the stage and 5 peaks/crescendos (a gradual increase, especially in the volume or intensity of sound in a passage).

Hours of Operation at Special Events

Option A - No change, maintain the current policy whereby the amplification of sound for Special Events will be limited to the hours of **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

Option B - allow amplified sound at Special Events between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and **midnight**

Option C - allow amplified sound at Special Events between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and **1am.**

Staff would continue to restrict the number of days of amplified sound and events at Harris Park, limit the number of major Special Events in Victoria Park between June to Labour Day to nine and retain the 70 decibels maximum at Springbank Gardens.