

October 18, 2021

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Aaron Bisson, Manager of Recreation and Culture

RE: User Fee Bylaw Addition October 2021 for 6.13.7

An update to Townshend Theatre user fees.

We are proposing an additional fee be charged as a user fee for events held at the Townshend Theatre to cover the cost of hiring contract vaccination proof checking screeners. This additional fee is necessary to cover the additional costs the Town will incur due to the new Provincial mandate for vaccine proof to attend event space and theatres. The Town cannot allow the users/renters to perform this service and do not have the staff internally to provide the service, thus an outside contractor will need to be obtained. The rate for this service will be set at \$40 per hour, which would allow the Town to recover its' costs for this service.

After conversation with Tour De Fort, they indicated that they operate 6 shows on average per year with each event needing approximately 4.5 hours of screening time from start to finish. The total cost of the screening for the season is projected at \$1,080.00 for the Tour De Fort shows. Tour De Fort has offered to provide screeners for the events; however, this is strictly prohibited as per the Health Unit, and the Town is not allowed to contract the user groups to provide their own screening.

We had reached out to Kids and Company but have not heard back at the time of this report. In general, they operate 4 or 5 shows per year with approximately the same required time for screening of approximately 4.5 hours per show. The total cost of the screening for the season is projected at \$900.00 for Kids and Company.

Both user groups have indicated that the fee would negatively impact them.

If Council decides to cover the cost of vaccine verification checks at the Theatre, Covid funding or Theatre reserves could be used to offset the losses this would create.

Recommendation

The Community Service Division recommends to Mayor & Council to cover proof of vaccination screening costs at the Townshend Theatre for the 2021/2022 season with covid funds, if covid funds are not available then theatre reserves will be used.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Bisson

Aaron Bisson
Manager of Recreation and Culture

<p>Council approval of this report will agree to the recommendation of the Community Services Executive Committee to cover proof of vaccination screening costs at the Townshend Theatre for the 2021/2022 season with covid funds, if covid funds are not available then theatre reserves will be used.</p>
