

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report DCS 30-2023

Council Meeting Date: November 28, 2023

TO: Mayor Cook and Members of Council
FROM: Ashley Farr, Director of Community Services
RE: YMCA Agreement Renewal

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report DCS 30-2023 regarding the “YMCA Agreement Renewal” be received; and

THAT staff be directed to negotiate a three-year agreement renewal with the YMCA to be presented at the December 19, 2023 Council meeting.

SUMMARY

This report provides background information on the existing operating agreement with the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario for the operation of the Suncor Wellness Centre and seeks Council direction to negotiate a three-year extension with the YMCA.

BACKGROUND

The YMCA of Southwestern Ontario (YMCA) has operated the Suncor Wellness Centre at the Shores Recreation Centre since the facility opened in 2007.

In 2014, Council directed staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the operation of the wellness centre. After review of the submissions, it was determined that the YMCA would offer the best value for service and therefore Council approve a three-year operating agreement with the YMCA. This agreement included an option to renew for an additional three-year period. The agreement was renewed in 2017 and again in 2021. The current agreement expires December 31, 2023.

Since 2007, the YMCA has been successful in providing recreation programs and services to members. In addition to providing the necessary expertise needed to provide a valuable service to the community, the YMCA is a non-profit organization, and has financial assistance available for members unable to afford the full monthly fees to ensure there are no financial barriers to participation.

The YMCA has worked with existing service providers in the community to complement, rather than duplicate services. Additionally, the YMCA has been responsive to community need, adding programs where gaps may exist. In the last three years the

YMCA has expanded programs to Port Franks to address programming gaps. In the new year, they plan to expand fitness programs to Grand Bend. The YMCA continues to monitor programming needs and can increase programs as needed throughout the Lambton Shores community.

The YMCA in Lambton Shores provides programming for ages 4 and up. Programming is geared to all ages and abilities. In addition to fitness programs, the YMCA has offered home alone/babysitting courses, youth sports conditioning, PA day camps, summer camps, Pickleball, basketball, child minding and more.

All fitness equipment located in the Suncor Wellness Centre belongs to the Municipality and replacements are budgeted for annually.

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

Council may choose to direct staff to issue a RFP for the operation of the Suncor Wellness Centre. The current agreement with the YMCA has provided an excellent partnership opportunity with the Municipality. Further, the YMCA offers expertise in the fitness industry, and provides consistent service throughout all of its branches. The financial arrangement with the YMCA provides an excellent value for the service.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The recommendation is that staff be directed to negotiate a three-year agreement extension with the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario for the operation of the Suncor Wellness Centre.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no direct financial impact associated with this report. Historically, the agreement with the YMCA has been very cost-effective for the Municipality. The existing agreement with the YMCA includes a management fee of 15.5% on actual revenue, with a revenue sharing clause whereby the Municipality receives 40% of membership revenue beyond a 350 threshold, which helps to offset the management fee. There is currently 488 members at the Lambton Shores YMCA.

CONSULTATION

Steve McAuley, CAO
Janet Ferguson, Director of Financial Services

Attached:

1. YMCA Agreement 2021-2023