

Smudging Ceremonies

(S. Hamilton)

Recommendation

That the October 28, 2020, Citizen Services report CR_8126, be received for information.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the February 19/21, 2020, City Council meeting, Councillor S. Hamilton made the following inquiry:

Can Administration provide the following in a brief report to City Council through Committee:

- How many smudging events take place in City facilities throughout the year and what does the City charge for each event?

Executive Summary

Smudging ceremonies conducted in City of Edmonton facilities are not centrally tracked or coordinated. Approximately 165 smudging ceremonies took place in 2019. Organizers were charged applicable facility rental fees but in the majority of cases, no additional costs were charged. In some instances incremental costs associated with temporarily bypassing smoke detection systems were billed back to the event organizer.

Due to the City's response to COVID-19, many facilities have been closed since March 2020. As such, very few smudging ceremonies were held in 2020 and the data is not representative of normal years.

Report

Facilities That Hosted Smudging Events

In 2019, the following City facilities hosted smudging events:

- Commonwealth Stadium Fieldhouse
- Prince of Wales Armouries
- The Orange Hub
- Mill Woods Seniors and Multicultural Centre
- Alfred H. Savage Centre

- City Hall
- Sir Winston Churchill Square and City Hall Plaza
- William Hawrelak Park
- Victoria Park
- Fort Edmonton Park
- select recreation and leisure centres

Costs Associated with Smudging Events

In most cases, there are no costs associated with smudging activities other than the applicable facility rental cost. In some instances where smoke detection systems need to be bypassed, the incremental cost of an electrician to perform this work is passed onto the event host (usually \$75 per event).

The City operates some registered programs where smudging is incorporated as an activity. In these instances, including the Nikaniw Indigenous Youth Leadership Program, the cost is built into the program budget.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome: Edmontonians are connected to the city in which they live, work and play.			
Outcome	Measure	Result	Target
First Nation groups utilize City facilities to celebrate cultural and spiritual events	Number of smudging ceremonies held in City facilities	2019: 165	Ongoing: Maintain or increase

Attachments

1. 2019 Smudging Events Summary

Others Reviewing this Report

- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor