

January 16, 2009

To: Board of Health

From: Parks and Environment Committee

Subject: Proposed Amendment to Municipal Code, Chapter 608 Parks, to Prohibit Smoking around Playgrounds and Other Areas in City of Toronto Parks

**Recommendations:**

**The Parks and Environment Committee:**

1. **Forwards the report (December 9, 2008) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and Medical Officer of Health, to the Board of Health for endorsement; and**
2. **Advises the Board of Health that it has recommended to City Council, for its meeting on January 27, 2009, that:**
  - (i) **smoking tobacco and the holding of lighted tobacco be prohibited within a 9-metre radius of the edge of playground safety surfaces or any playground equipment in Toronto parks, and within a 9-metre radius of the edge of wading pool basins or safety surfaces of splash pads operated by Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division;**
  - (ii) **smoking tobacco and the holding of lighted tobacco also be prohibited within zoos and farms managed by Parks, Forestry and Recreation;**
  - (iii) **the City Solicitor be directed to amend Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks, to prohibit smoking tobacco and holding lighted tobacco within a 9-metre radius surrounding the edge of playground safety surfaces or any playground equipment in Toronto parks, within a 9-metre radius surrounding the edge of wading pool basins or safety surfaces of splash pads, and within zoos and farms operated by Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division, substantially as outlined in Appendix A of this report, subject to any necessary minor substantive or stylistic refinements as may be identified by the General Manager and the City Solicitor;**

- (iv) the amendments to Municipal Code Chapter 608, Parks, come into force the day after the set fine order is issued by the Province;
- (v) signage be designed and installed identifying the smoking prohibition and identify the relevant provisions of Municipal Code, Chapter 608, Parks; and
- (vi) the City Solicitor be authorized to introduce the necessary bills to give effect to these recommendations.

**Decision Advice and Other Information:**

**The Parks and Environment Committee also:**

- A. requested the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to review parks and playgrounds in the City of Toronto where there are concerns with smoking in playgrounds, so as to:
  - (i) identify the target groups so that effective strategies can be developed;
  - (ii) erect signs that indicate the area is smoke-free and include effective messages to promote social awareness; and
  - (iii) conduct strategic education by Toronto Public Health.
- B. requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to the Parks and Environment in one year's time:
  - (i) on the effectiveness of the proposed amendment to Municipal Code, Chapter 608, Parks, To Prohibit Smoking around Playgrounds and Other Areas in City of Toronto Parks; and
  - (ii) on the success of the implementation of the amendments, such report to outline the following:
    - a. the number of persons fined for violating the new prohibitions;
    - b. the number of reported violations;
    - c. the City's overall success in enforcing the prohibitions; and
    - d. a survey of participants using playground and wading pool areas on their experience following the introduction of the by-law;
- C. requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report back to the Parks and Environment Committee, through a consultation with the Toronto Sports Council and league permit holders, in one year's time, on approaches to limiting and/or restricting smoking in Parks, Forestry and Recreation owned and operated sports areas; and
- D. requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to consider adding a phone number to the signage.

Background:

The Parks and Environment Committee on January 16, 2009, considered a report (December 9, 2008) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the Medical Officer of Health, proposing amendments to Municipal Code, Chapter 608, Parks, to prohibit smoking tobacco and the holding of lighted tobacco in City of Toronto playgrounds, wading pools and splash pads, and within zoos and farms that are managed by Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

The Parks and Environment Committee also considered the following:

- e-mail (January 13, 2009) from Heidi Loney; and
- written submission (January 16, 2009) from Andrew Noble, Senior Coordinator, Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario Division.

Speakers:

The following persons addressed the Committee:

Andrew Noble, Senior Coordinator, Public Issues, Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario Division; and  
Tahreem Mahmood, Peer Leader, Tobacco Don't Own Toronto (T-DOT).

City Clerk

Dela Ting/bp

Item: PE21.5

Attachments

- c. Medical Officer of Health  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation  
Interested Persons