

Safe Opening of the Barry Zuckerman Amphitheatre

Date: April 12, 2021

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: York Centre

SUMMARY

In April 2021, City Council directed the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation in consultation with Toronto's Medical Officer of Health to report back to the April 28, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for the safe opening and operating of the Earl Bales (Barry Zuckerman) amphitheatre for summer 2021. This report will provide an overview of conditions for use and safe opening of the Barry Zuckerman Amphitheatre in accordance with public health guidelines and Provincial orders.

The Barry Zuckerman Amphitheatre is an important outdoor venue that has been the centre of arts and culture in North York for decades. With a safety plan in place, and pending public health conditions allowing for live entertainment, performances and gatherings to take place, Parks, Forestry and Recreation will issue permits to enable the facility to operate in summer 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. The Infrastructure and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendation in this report. Any costs associated with the reopening of the Barry Zuckerman Amphitheatre are included in the 2021 Operating Budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on March 23, 2021, The Infrastructure and Environment Committee requested the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in collaboration with Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, to report back to the April 28, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on the safe opening and operating of the Earl Bales (Barry Zuckerman) amphitheatre for summer 2021.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.IE20.21>

COMMENTS

The amphitheatre in Earl Bales Park known as the Barry Zuckerman Amphitheatre is an important outdoor venue that has been a centre of arts and culture in North York for decades.

Located in the park at 4169 Bathurst Street near the intersection of Bathurst Street and Sheppard Avenue, the Amphitheatre has a large outdoor stage and seating capacity for 1,200 people with accommodation up to 1,500 possible. The facility has sufficient capacity to allow for physical distancing in the seating area and the stage is large enough to allow musicians, performers and entertainers to distance safely.

Annually, the Amphitheatre is used by a variety of groups under permit from Parks, Forestry and Recreation. The "Tuesday/Thursday Night Live" entertainment series has been a fixture in the community over the past 16 years. Last run on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in July and August 2019, the series provides free entertainment that includes movies and live performances. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Amphitheatre did not operate in 2020.

Under the Province of [Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework](#), organized gatherings within the category of Performing Arts Facilities will not be allowed until the City of Toronto has entered the Orange-Restrict Zone. Within this zone, the maximum capacity of organized public events and gatherings is 100 people. Physical distancing and wearing of face masks will also be required. Additionally, all patrons will be screened and contact information will be collected. Performers and employees will be required to maintain separation of two meters distance except for purposes of the performance.

As public health conditions improve, Toronto Public Health regularly updates guidance documents to reflect changes in the Province of Ontario's reopening framework applicable to the City of Toronto. The City of Toronto website includes published [COVID-19 Guidance for Indoor & Outdoor Events & Gatherings](#) that will be provided to interested parties to facilitate development of safety plans. In addition, the Live Performance Health and Safety Advisory Committee and Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has published guidance titled [Live Performance Health & Safety during COVID-19](#), which provides comprehensive information for consideration in the production of live events and entertainment.

Once conditions allow, Parks, Forestry and Recreation will work with Toronto Public Health and event organizers to safely open the Earl Bales (Barry Zuckerman)

amphitheatre in accordance with the Province of Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework. Staff and event organizers will work to ensure compliance with any restrictions required under the Framework in addition to any applicable Toronto Public Health guidelines.

CONTACT

Kevin Carr, Interim Director, Client and Business Services,
Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Tel: 416-397-7470
Email: Kevin.Carr@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Janie Romoff, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS
