

Municipality of Lakeshore – Report to Council

Growth & Sustainability

Community Services



To: Mayor & Members of Council
From: Frank Jeney, Division Leader – Community Services
Date: June 12, 2023
Subject: Belle River Marina and Lakeview Park Traffic Calming and Protection

Recommendation

Direct Administration to increase Lakeview Park parking lot and marina area traffic calming by completing Option #1 and Option #2, as measures to help protect the boat docks and boat slips at the Belle River Marina; all as presented at the August 15, 2023 Council meeting.

Background

At the Regular Council meeting of May 30, 2023, the following resolution was passed:

Resolution #153-05-2023

Whereas the month of May 2023 has seen another night time incident with racing motor vehicles and unlawful discharging of fireworks over the boats at the northern end of the Belle River Marina;

And whereas the marina slips renters have been asking Lakeshore to implement security measures to keep the Marina parking lot and boat slips safe;

And whereas to date, the current security plan has not been as successful as desired;

Now be it resolved that Administration quickly develops a parking lot and marina area plan for security. The slip renters preferred plan includes east to west fencing in addition to a security officer-controlled entrance of barrier gate arms at the parking lot entrance just north of the boat trailer section of the parking lot; and

Be it further resolved that the fencing have pedestrian gates along the walkways that can be shut by security when the Lakeshore Park and Marina area are closed.

Comments

The Lakeshore Waterfront consists of three main amenities. The West Beach, the Lakeview Park, and the Belle River Marina. The park driveways, and parking spaces are open twelve months per year, for any visitors to use.

The driveway at the waterfront grants access to many parts of the waterfront, including parking spaces for Lakeview Park, access to the boat launch and trailer parking, as well as the public parking lot adjacent to the Belle River Marina boat slips, and Belle River Marina building and restaurant.

Driveway Traffic

The driveway and parking lots at the Lakeshore Waterfront are heavily used. Whether it be early mornings to enjoy fishing, mid-day as a calm space to enjoy breakfast or lunch with a great view, or into the evenings to watch the sunset. This space is being used by many visitors, and at times experiences unsafe automobile usage.

Traffic Calming Measures

Lakeshore has recently worked alongside the OPP to increase traffic calming measures within the Waterfront Park. Traffic calming measures include:

- 15 km/h signs reminding visitors to navigate the space at a slower speed.
- Radar reminders, that allow visitors a reminder to slow down.

Additional traffic calming measures could include:

- Speed humps throughout the driveway space as a deterrent for speeding.

Complaints to OPP

Administration contacted the OPP in the development of this report to quantify for Council the volume of complaints being generated at the marina during overnight hours as it relates to the resolution from Council on this matter. The OPP have reported receiving the following:

38 complaint calls in 2020

42 complaint calls in 2021

31 complaint calls in 2022

22 complaint calls in 2023 (to July)

The majority of these complaints were related to drug offences, municipal bylaw / other provincial statutes, suspicious person / vehicle, trouble with youth. Of these calls for service there were a total of 35 charges laid over the last three and half years with the majority being over the years of the pandemic. These numbers are inclusive of west beach and Lakeview Parks complaint calls, in addition to the marina.

Belle River Marina Parking Lot and Security

Lakeshore is currently in an ongoing security contract with Commissionaires Security, for the security of the Belle River Marina boat slips overnight, for the entire Marina season (roughly May 1st to October 15th annually). The security contract originally included one security guard on foot patrol to monitor the marina slips, guarding against access to anyone that is not authorized.

Increased Marina Security Efforts

On May 18, 2023, Lakeshore increased its security measures at the Belle River Marina, adding a Commissionaires Security Fleet Vehicle to the current contract, allowing the security guard to patrol the area in a patrol vehicle, and also being capable of blocking the Belle River Marina parking lot entrance after 10:00 PM, when Lakeshore Parks close for the evening.

Parking Lot and Marina Area Plan for Security

Option 1 – Speed Humps Installed along driveway at Lakeview Park. (Green on attachment)

Estimated \$3000 per speed hump installed.

Option 2 – Fencing connecting the Marina Boat slip entrance gates North to South (White on attachment)

Estimated \$110,000 installed.

The location of Option 2 is in the image below, running North to South, along the Belle River Marina boat docks. This fence would connect to the current Marina boat slip access gates, further deterring entrance to these docks.

Option 3 – Fence and gates East to West. (Yellow on attachment)

Estimated \$40,000 installed.

The location of Option 3 is in the attached, running East to West at the entrance to the Belle River Marina parking lot. Option 3 includes six foot tall decorative aluminum fencing, an aluminum slide gate at the roadway, and a walkway swinging gate at the Marina sidewalk to the West and East.

The Lakeshore Waterfront is a heavily used, passive space, with many visitors from park opening to park close daily. This space is also used 12 months per year. Currently, the area is only staffed from April 1st to November 1st annually.

Should Council wish to increase security measures at the Marina, Administration recommends adding 5 speed humps to the Lakeview Park driveway, and to add north-south fencing that would connect the Marina slip gates, as protective measures for private boat slips renters. This is preferred to the east west fencing proposed at the entrance to the marina in order to continue allow the public access to the marina pier while protecting the private boat assets docked in the marina slips.

Given limited funding in Lakeshore's facility reserve, Administration recommends that Council consider the priority

Financial Impacts

Option 1 – 5 Speed Humps – Estimated cost \$15,000

Option 2 – Fencing North to South to Connect Gates – Estimated cost - \$110,000

Option 3 – Fencing East to West - Estimated cost - \$40,000

The recommendation of Administration is to perform both Option 1 and Option 2 at a cost of \$125,000 to be funded from the facilities reserve.

Attachments

Marina and Lakeview Park Protective Measures

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Belle River Marina and Lakeview Park Traffic Calming and Protection.docx
Attachments:	- Marina and Lakeview Park Protective Measures.jpeg
Final Approval Date:	Aug 9, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Prepared by Frank Jeney

Approved by Justin Rousseau and Truper McBride