NOELLA ROBERT-KAPPEL AND MICHAEL KAPPEL

August 3rd, 2020

For Circulation List
Email: cityclerks@barrie.ca
Re: TYNDALE PARK OVERCROWDING

Dear Mayor Lehman and Members of Council:

This letter is a circulation list submission regarding our serious concerns regarding overcrowding and problematic behaviors at our local parks and beaches, specifically Tyndale Park for public record.

Barrie beaches have become inaccessible to residents of Barrie and an environmental and safety concern.

Temporary measures including no tents, no BBQs, anchoring picnic tables, resident-only parking on surrounding streets and most recently increased parking fines, have had a noticeable impact and I am proposing these measures continue and become permanent bylaws, and that further action is needed.

On Saturday August 1st, despite recent temporary new by-laws, Tyndale Park continued to see myriad of illegal parking, by-law and park regulation infractions, overcrowding and problematic behavior.

Please find our attached letter to be included in this week's circulation list.

Sincerely,

Noella Robert-Kappel and Michael Kappel

Dear Mayor Lehman and Members of Council,

This letter is a circulation list submission regarding our serious concerns regarding overcrowding and problematic behaviors at our local parks and beaches, specifically Tyndale Park, for public record. We have relied on Council to ensure that our parks, beaches and waterfront spaces are safe, clean and accessible to all Barrie residents. Increased out of-town visitors to Barrie's parks and beaches over the years have jeopardized residents' safe access to, and enjoyment of, our parks and beaches through overcrowding, illegal parking, disrespect and abuse of grounds, disregard for social distancing, dogs on the beach, loud music, smoking, alcohol use and excessive littering. Although some temporary measures have been implemented, we want to convey the need for further urgent action to address the following problems at Tyndale Park.

As referenced in our cover letter, below are the measures we propose be instituted at Tyndale Park effective immediately:

1. Reverse the planned installation of City barbecues at Tyndale Park.
    a. Barbecues encourage large crowds and discourage beachgoer turnover.
    b. Extra cost to the city for maintenance of city barbecues.
    c. Fire hazard when barbecues are left unattended.
    d. Barbecue smoke can negatively affect the health of people with respiratory illnesses and negatively impact the beachgoer experience.
2. Make "no tents, no barbecues" a permanent bylaw and implement "resident-only" parking on surrounding streets yearly from May through to October.
    a. Tents and barbecues encourage large crowds and discourage beachgoer turnover.
    b. Tents hide untoward behavior.
    c. Tents block parent's, guardian's and lifeguard's view of swimmers at the beach.
    d. Tents or barbecues are permitted at the numerous provincial campgrounds in this area for people who want this experience.
    e. Tents take up a disproportionate amount of space.
    f. Barbecues are left unattended and visitors do not remove charcoal from the park and has been found burning on grass and on the sand. This poses a fire hazard to the surrounding communities and a safety hazard for children who could inadvertently walk on them.
    g. Issue tickets for violations consistently and observe appropriate dismantling of tents and barbecues and safe disposal of charcoal. Warnings are not an effective deterrent and bylaw officers continue to issue some warnings as of August 1st instead of consistently issuing tickets despite clear signage of these bylaws at the Park.
3. Towing zone on both sides of Tyndale Park entrance road.
    a. We strongly recommend signage to indicate **towing zones** on **both sides** of the narrow Tyndale Park entrance road to allow for towing of illegally parked vehicles which would facilitate access by emergency services into the Park when needed. (videos sent to Mayor Jeff Lehman, and Councillors Jim Harris and Mike McCann to illustrate the severity of these issues on multiple occasions including Aug 1st)
    b. **Fund an additional By-law Enforcement presence** to prevent illegal parking on the road entrance of Tyndale Park.
4. On-site parking attendant/enforcement officer to enforce bylaws, park regulations and monitor problematic behaviors.
    a. **Fund an additional By-law Enforcement presence** to prevent illegal parking, enforce bylaws and Park regulations, enforce capacity limits, monitor problematic behaviors and deploy on-site security - **at minimum** during weekends of May-Jun-July-Aug-Sept yearly.

b. The City of Barrie is able to fund other services for Barrie beaches, such as lifeguards on duty for Centennial and Johnson's Beaches daily during summer months while Tyndale Park does not have **any on-site enforcement** of park regulations, bylaws or capacity limits.
c. The city has invested funds into upgrading the park to encourage more visitors (i.e. the large children's playground and Volleyball courts) but **have not paralleled their investment in bylaw and Park regulation enforcement.**
d. We urge council to **fund an on-site Bylaw Enforcement** presence to reduce sanitation concerns and abuse of the Park grounds and identify violations of bylaw and Park regulations.

5. Impose **Tyndale Park hours** of operation and **lock the gates** to Tyndale Park to limit access for safety and sanitary purposes after City of Barrie maintenance perform their last evening check and lock the washrooms. Enhanced signage would be needed to inform visitors that cars remaining in the Park after hours will not be accessible until the gates reopen the next day.
    a. Lack of on-site By-law enforcement presence is a major sanitary and safety concern at Tyndale Park as people resort to using other measures for their sanitation requirements which includes defecating and urinating in the forested area and trail of Tyndale Park. Unlike Centennial beach, Tyndale Park has private wooded areas that visitors can use to relieve themselves and there are no businesses within walking distance that might have public washrooms.

Until the permanent measures outlined above can be implemented to ensure Tyndale Park is safe, clean and accessible to Barrie residents, Council should strongly consider **temporarily limiting Tyndale Park access to Barrie residents-only.**

We have witnessed countless violations and lack of enforcement of City By-laws and regulations when visiting Tyndale Park and despite current measures, it is clear that this small neighbourhood park was not built for the increasing volumes of visitors. The increased popularity of Tyndale Park and its related problems have been ongoing and worsening over the past several years. Urgent action by Council is needed to address these serious areas of concern that have jeopardized residents' safe access to, and enjoyment of Tyndale Park.

Sincerely,

Noella Robert-Kappel and Michael Kappel