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Town of Aurora
Committee of the Whole Report
No. CMS25-034

Subject: Municipal Alcohol Policy – 2025 Update

Prepared by: John Firman, Manager, Business Support

Department: Community Services

Date: September 9, 2025

Recommendation

1. That Report No. CMS25-034 be received; and
2. That the updated Municipal Alcohol Policy be approved.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Municipal Alcohol Policy.

- The Municipal Alcohol Policy is due for review.
- Staff considered input from various sources during the policy review.
- Minimal changes were required to update the Policy.

Background

The Municipal Alcohol Policy is due for review.

In response to changes in Provincial Legislation related to consumption of alcohol in outdoor public spaces, the Town prepared a Municipal Alcohol Policy update in 2014. This policy update was informed in part by a review of municipal alcohol policy recommendations conducted by York Region Public Health, in which Town of Aurora staff participated.

The resulting Municipal Alcohol Policy was approved by Council and came into effect on April 18, 2014. As this policy is now more than 11 years old it is due for a review.

Analysis

Staff considered input from various sources during the policy review.

During the policy review staff consulted with Parks Operations, Legal Services, Town Clerk, Accessibility Advisor, Bylaw and Special Events staff, considered feedback from clients from the past several years, and consulted with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Minimal changes were required to update the Policy.

No major change requirements were identified in the review process. The primary changes to the policy include:

- Ensuring compliance with requirements outlined in the AGCO's Liquor License and Control Act (which was updated in 2019) – only minor changes related to updates to Smart Serve certificates, definitions of event types, etc.
- Update insurance requirements to comply with Town's Facility Users Insurance Policy
- Updates to permitting process section
- Add guidelines for what is considered a "Municipally Significant Event"
- Updates to eligible and ineligible facilities

Advisory Committee Review

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, September 18, 2025, which recommended the policy should provide information about what level of security is considered sufficient. This has been addressed by outlining the different requirements for low/medium/high-risk events.

Legal Considerations

The updated Municipal Alcohol Policy serves as a proactive risk management tool, demonstrating the Town's due diligence and commitment to public safety, legal compliance, and responsible stewardship of municipal facilities. The proposed policy has been reviewed by key staff, the Corporate Management Team and the Executive Leadership Team in accordance with the Town's policy program.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Communications Considerations

The updated policy will be posted on the Town's website and provided to affected groups and individuals during the permit application process.

Climate Change Considerations

The recommendations from this report do not impact greenhouse gas emissions or impact climate change adaptation.

Link to Strategic Plan

Ensuring the safe use of Town facilities for events supports the Strategic Plan goal of *Supporting an exceptional quality of life for all* in its accomplishment in satisfying requirements in the following key objective within this goal statement: *Encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle*.

Alternative(s) to the Recommendation

1. Council can provide further direction.

Conclusions

That the updated Municipal Alcohol Policy be approved as presented.

Attachments

Municipal Alcohol Policy – 2025 (marked up)

Municipal Alcohol Policy – 2025 (clean)

Previous Reports

None

Pre-submission Review

Agenda Management Team review on November 12, 2025

Approvals

Approved by Robin McDougall, Director, Community Services

Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer