



Staff Report to Council

Report From: Amanda Johnston, Community Services Manager

Meeting Date: November 4 2024

Report: CSD- 08-2024
RZone Policy

Recommendation

That South Huron Council receives Staff Report CSD-08-2024 RZone Policy; and

That Council approves the RZone Policy; and

That the necessary by-law be brought back to Council for the required three readings.

Report Overview

Purpose of Report	For Approval
Council Priority Alignment	Community Safety and Well-Being
Consultations	Jeremy Becker, Community and Emergency Services General Manager
Attachment(s) to Report	Draft RZone Policy

Report Highlights

- The Report provides an overview of the RZone program, including a list of other municipalities who have adopted this policy.
- Staff have included a Draft- RZone Policy which includes a sample of the Incident Reporting Form and RZone Infraction Guidelines.

Context and Background

The RZone policy was originally developed by the Town of Oakville to create a code of conduct that was easily understood and recognizable by users of all recreational facilities. The “R” in RZone stands for Respect and Responsibility. Respect for yourself, Respect for others and Responsibility for your actions.

RZone is meant to be a proactive educational and awareness strategy to promote respectful and responsible behaviours from all patrons. The program applies to all recreational facilities, municipal properties, and municipally run programs, events and meetings. The program requires all individuals visiting or using a facility, park or program to respect others and take responsibility in helping to maintain a positive environment.

The policy promotes positive behaviour and gives users, visitors, and staff tools to help discourage individuals from creating spaces that are threatening, negative or unsafe.

RZone Application:

The RZone Policy applies to all recreational facilities, municipal properties, as well as municipally run programs, events and meetings. It applies to spectators, players, fans, coaches, officials, parents, caregivers, volunteers, user groups and staff. Anyone in the building, or on the property, is bound by the RZone Policy.

Prohibited Behaviours:

Inappropriate behaviours and violence for the purpose of the RZone policy include, but are not limited to:

- Threats/ attempts to intimidate
- Aggression
- Illegal consumption of alcohol or drugs
- Harassment
- Verbal assault/use of profane or abusive language
- Physical assault/harm
- Vandalism
- Racism
- Theft
- Attempts to goad or incite violence
- Bullying, mistreatment which intimidates, humiliates, or demeans another person
- Possession of weapons or firearms prohibited under the Criminal Code
- Any contravention of other Federal or Provincial laws, Regulations, Municipal By-laws or policies deemed inappropriate behaviour
- Refusal to follow the rules established by the Municipality of South Huron for use of its facilities or spaces.

RZone Responsibilities:

If a staff member or patron witness any of the behaviours listed above it needs to be reported within 24 hours. If an incident is witnessed at a facility or in a program the individual can report it to the onsite staff member who will assist with filling out the RZone Incident form. If a person witnesses an RZone infraction and staff are not present they can contact the Municipality for assistance with filling out an incident form.

Once an RZone Incident form is submitted to the appropriate Manager, they will review the information, determine the next steps with the CAO, and follow up. All user groups will be made aware of the RZone Policy and asked to inform and educate their membership.

It should be noted that if a staff member, individual or group feels personally threatened they should call the police immediately.

Consequences for Violating the RZone Policy:

Consequences for an RZone infraction will depend on the severity of the incident. All reported incidents will be followed up in the form of a phone call, email or in person meeting with the department Manager and CAO. Consequences beyond a warning may include, being asked to leave the site, denying entry into a facility, program, meeting or event for a designated amount of time, or issuing a no trespass notice. Consequences may be applied to one site or multiple locations depending on the incident. Other actions may be taken such as a report to the police and charges to reimburse for the cost of Municipal losses or damages in instances such as theft or vandalism.

Other Municipalities Who Have Adopted the RZone Policy

Bluewater	Perth East	North Perth
West Grey	Ingersoll	Strathroy-Caradoc
Leamington	St Marys	East Zorra-Tavistock
Huron Kinloss	Oakville	Town of Shelburne
City of Sarnia	Guelph	Brockton
St Catherines	South Bruce	City of London

Discussion and Staff Recommendation(s)

Staff recommend that Council adopt the RZone Policy. This program has been adopted by neighbouring communities and is becoming a well-known symbol in many municipal facilities. Patrons travelling between municipalities easily recognize RZone signs and understand the expected standards of behaviour in those designated spaces.

Impact Analysis

Financial Impact

The financial impact of adopting this policy includes educating the public and printing promotional materials. There are no additional costs to train staff, as this topic will be covered at regularly scheduled staff meetings. Some staff time would be dedicated to developing social media posts and educational pamphlets to disseminate to the public. These pamphlets will be shared, electronically, with users who book Municipal facilities. The Town of Oakville grants permission to use their resources and RZone logo. Staff estimate the cost to print RZone logos and pamphlets to be approximately \$500.00 in the first year. This cost will be covered in the Recreation & Cultural Services operating budget. Costs are expected to decrease after the first year.

Community Impact

The Community will be informed of the RZone policy by publishing information on the South Huron website and social media. Organizations who regularly book municipal facilities will be informed of the policy via email. In addition, RZone decals will be placed on the entrances of South Huron Municipal Facilities to inform the public that they are entering an RZone space. The decal will include information on where patrons can learn more about the program.

Linkages

- None

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Johnston, Community Services Manager

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CSD-08-2024 - RZone Policy.docx
Attachments:	- RZone Policy - Draft.docx
Final Approval Date:	Oct 30, 2024

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

Jeremy Becker - Oct 24, 2024 - 3:48 PM

Alex Wolfe - Oct 25, 2024 - 12:25 PM

Erin Moore - Oct 25, 2024 - 12:38 PM

Rebekah Msuya-Collison - Oct 30, 2024 - 3:33 PM