



MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

REPORT NO. CS-016-23

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Director of Community Services and Facilities
MEETING DATE: November 14, 2023
SUBJECT: **Contract Extension – “The Playroom Experiment”**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. CS-016-23 be received for information;

AND THAT Council approve the Facility Usage Agreement extension with Mike Primeau, to operate his community program, “The Playroom Experiment”, at the FlightExec Centre, as detailed in this report;

AND THAT Council agrees to the continuation of waiving all rental fees, as specified in the agreement.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Report is to receive Council support for extending the Facility Usage Agreement with Mike Primeau, Program Director of The Playroom Experiment.

BACKGROUND:

At the May 8, 2023 meeting of Municipal Council, Council approved entering into a trial period with Mike Primeau, which provided him with free use of space at the FlightExec Centre in order to run The Playroom Experiment.

COMMENTS:

Since entering into the initial agreement with Mike Primeau, The Playroom Experiment has been extremely successful. Impressive details during the first 6 months of this agreement include, but are not limited to:

- a very successful open house, which saw over 50 visitors from the community
- over 4,500 games of pinball played in a 6-week window of time
- providing access to this space for children attending Thames Centre’s summer playground (day camp), which was very popular

- running activities not only for youth, but families, adults and seniors
- attendance of 25 to 50 people for each of the monthly community game nights
- over 20 people are active volunteers for The Playroom Experiment
- launching a new “pinball for student” program every Thursday and Friday right after school

After discussions with Mr. Primeau, it was agreed that it will be best to wait until the FlightExec Centre renovation project is done before determining a longer-term agreement. This is because the potential for The Playroom Experiment to move or expand to other space(s) within the FlightExec Centre can hopefully be considered and finalized before the end of 2024, at which point an appropriate new agreement would be finalized. The uncertain future use of the former co-op nursery, of the Creative Art Studio (once the Creative Art Studio is able to move into the expanded Senior Centre) and of the Lions Room (once VON is able to vacate this temporary location for their new space), results in various spaces that The Playroom Experiment may be interested in occupying (along with other interested parties). Any spaces that do become open will have a formal process for any/all interested parties to express interest and be included in the consideration for future use of that space. As a result of these unknowns at this time, a one-year extension of the existing contract (see attached) is recommended.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Historically, “Smitty’s Lounge” is rented only a handful of times each year, at a rate of \$18.46/hour. As a result, the impact of dedicating this space for The Playroom Experiment has very minimal impact on rental revenue, with the benefits far outweighing this loss in rentals.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Pillar: Community Development

Goal: Thames Centre will have opportunities for All to live a vibrant engaged life, making the municipality an attractive place to enjoy lifelong vitality.

CONSULTATION:

Mike Primeau – Program Director, The Playroom Experiment

REFERENCES:

Report #CS-007-23 – “The Playroom Experiment” Initiative – May 8, 2023
www.playroomexperiment.com

ATTACHMENTS:

Current Facility Usage Agreement with Marked Changes



Prepared by: S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services and Facilities

Reviewed by: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer