



Settle down.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2015

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO MAAP DECISION TO DISBAND ORGANIZATION

Grand Forks, BC – At the March 23 Regular Meeting, Council made the decision not to extend the MAAP five year lease to ten years.

This council was elected to be stewards of the community, responsible for the city's assets and accountable to all of the taxpayers and residents of Grand Forks. The decision to not extend the lease from five to ten years was in no way intended to affect the operation of Whispers of Hope or BETHS in their current location.

Council understands the benefits these organizations provide to our community, and commends the work, time and energy that has gone into the MAAP project.

After much deliberation and time spent reviewing the project, Council determined the importance of considering the long term impacts of transitional housing in Grand Forks. The City will be seeking grant funding to support the development of a professional planning report, which will provide guidance on the immediate and long term transitional housing needs of the community. The City hopes to leverage our assets in order to develop the community for sustainable growth. With this in mind, Council wanted to step back and review the actual needs of the community.

Mayor Konrad pointed out that “we are primarily a new council who has yet to develop our strategic planning strategy and are reluctant to make a decision until we have a clear idea of what our vision is for the future, and what the exact needs of the community are in regards to transitional housing.”

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