

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2006

PRESENT: MAYOR NEIL KROG
COUNCILLOR ANN GORDON
COUNCILLOR TOM HINTER
COUNCILLOR CHRIS MOSLIN
COUNCILLOR PATRICK O'DOHERTY
COUNCILLOR GENE ROBERT
COUNCILLOR TOM SHKRABUIK

CITY MANAGER V. Kumar
CITY CLERK L. Burch
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER D. Zabinsky

GALLERY.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

➤ None

MOTION: GORDON / HINTER

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADOPTED, AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

- a) **Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce, Loretta Robinson – Operation of the Visitors' Information Centre**

Mayor Krog welcomed Loretta Robinson to the meeting. Ms. Robinson began her presentation to Council on the history and the operation of the Visitors' Information Centre by stating that she was here to report on activities of the Grand Forks Visitors' Information Centre. She stated that the City is an important contributor, providing 50% of the required funding for the operation of the VIC.

Ms. Robinson provided information on the Staffing of the centre, the role and responsibilities of the Supervisor as well as Travel Counselors, indicating to Council that all employees of the VIC must be trained travel counselors.

Ms. Robinson outlined local tourism activities, as well as outlining the publications produced and distributed by the VIC.

In conclusion, she requested the City's decision on their premises for the tourism year 2006. She stated that the Chamber desires space in the Courthouse as temporary quarters. On a question from Council she stated that assessment reports of the local VIC can be made available to the City.

MOTION: HINTER / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION ON THE OPERATION AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE VISITORS' INFORMATION CENTRE FOR THE YEAR 2005, AS PRESENTED BY LORETTA ROBINSON, CHAMBER MANAGER, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED.

Mayor Krog thanked Ms. Robinson for her presentation.

b) The Land Conservancy, Shawn Black and Merlin Rosser – Update on the Hardy Mountain Doukhobor Village Restoration Project

Mayor Krog welcomed Shawn Black and Merlin Rosser to the meeting. Shawn Black began the presentation by outlining who the Land Conservancy is, and that this organization is independent from government. He stated that at the request of the community, the land conservancy purchased the Hardy Mountain Doukhobor Museum site and the collection of the artifacts. He stated that the Conservancy believes in partnerships and named, the USCC, the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce, etc. He outlined the Historical research conducted on the site, and in particular the changes made to the site over the years. He advised that application has been made to have the site declared a Canada National Historical site and it should be confirmed within the next 6-12 months.

Mr. Black went on to outline the partnership agencies and presentations made to date. He advised that the preservation of site plan will be completed by the end of March. He discussed the Vision for site, being a Doukhobor village about 1912 – mid 1920's, concentrating on Doukhobor lifestyles, food, culture, etc.

Mr. Black outlined the benefit of the site to the community, stating there is potential to develop a premier tourism product. In closing he advised that the Land Conservancy would like a strong partnership with the City of Grand Forks and will forward more specific information to the City as soon as possible.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SHKRABUIK

RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION ON THE STATUS OF THE RESTORATION OF THE HARDY MOUNTAIN DOUKHOBOR VILLAGE MUSEUM, AS PRESENTED BY SHAWN BLACK, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED.

Mayor Krog thanked Mr. Black for his presentation.

QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Krog stated that City Council is interested in hearing from the public on the issues it is dealing with or on any other issue that is of interest to the general public. To ensure that this process is open and does not feel uncomfortable to anyone, he advised that Council has set up some parameters to follow. He requested the gallery that prior to speaking about their issue that they would advise Council of the following:

1. Identify yourself, stating your name and place of residence and the issue you are bringing forward.
2. The subject of your participation should be limited to items of broad public interest, not personal to your property. This is not a forum for complaints. Any complaints will be dealt with by Staff and can be made by calling or attending City Hall or other City department during business hours.
3. Presentations: You must limit your questions and or comments to a maximum of five (5) minutes including questions from Council. This will permit time for all that are present to participate.
4. Council may not make any decisions at this meeting and if Council wishes, the item would be referred to Staff for follow-up and recommendation for Council to consider at a regular meeting of Council.

Dan Lebedoff

Mr. Lebedoff advised that he is currently the Acting Chair for the Boundary Museum, and advised that there is a proposed viewing of courthouse space on Wednesday of this week. He invited members of Council to join them.

Bob Smith

Mr. Smith brought forward his concerns regarding an increase in property taxes. Mr. Smith was advised that there has been no meeting of Council on the proposal for tax structure.

Mr. Smith also brought forward his concerns as to the renovations being done in the Reception area of City Hall. He was advised that the minor renovations are required to make things more efficient.

Mr. Smith brought forward his concerns as to the relocation of the VIC. He stated that the previous Council determined not to use the Courthouse for the VIC or the Museum and inquired why this decision is being revisited. He was advised that the new Council will make the decision on the location of the VIC.

In conclusion, Mr. Smith made comment as to the delay for the construction of the Community Centre.

None

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

a) City Clerk Report – Proposed Zoning Amendments

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SHKRABUIK

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT STAFF BE DIRECTED TO DRAFT AN AMENDMENT TO THE GRAND FORKS ZONING BYLAW PROPOSING TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF AN ACCESSORY BUILDING ON A LOT IN A MOBILE HOME PARK FROM 55 SQUARE FEET TO 140 SQUARE FEET, WITH A LIMIT OF ONE ACCESSORY BUILDING PER LOT AND THAT THE HOLDING OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THIS BYLAW BE WAIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 890 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT STAFF BE DIRECTED TO DRAFT AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOBILE HOME PARK BYLAW ALLOWING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUNDECKS ON MOBILE HOMES WITHIN MOBILE HOME PARKS.

CARRIED.

b) City Manager Report – General Government Policies

Brought forward for discussion were policies numbered 601 – 617. It was determined that Policy 603 required a minor amendment in the top heading to correct a type o.

MOTION: HINTER / MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, CONTAINING PROPOSED GENERAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES, BE APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED BY MARCH 31, 2006, EXCEPT POLICIES 603, 605 AND 609.

CARRIED.

MOTION: HINTER / MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT POLICY 603 BE APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED BY March 31, 2006, SUBJECT TO A MINOR AMENDMENT IN THE TOP HEADING TO CORRECT A TYPE O.

CARRIED.

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT POLICY 609 BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM 13 IN THE POLICY.
MOTION DEFEATED.

MOTION: HINTER / SHKRABUIK

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT POLICY 609, AS PRESENTED, BE APPROVED. CARRIED.
Councillors Moslin and O'Doherty opposed the motion.

MOTION: HINTER / SHKRABUIK

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT POLICY 605 BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. CARRIED.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT POLICY 701 BE APPROVED.

Prior to the question being called, the City Manager clarified that 701 consolidated the intent of three previous policies into one comprehensive policy on minimum benefits.

MOTION: HINTER / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, CONTAINING PROPOSED GENERAL GOVERNMENT - FINANCE POLICIES, BE APPROVED AND IMPLEMENTED BY MARCH 31, 2006, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF POLICY 804, THE PROPOSED NEW PURCHASING POLICY, WHICH IS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD AT A LATER DATE. CARRIED.

c) Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Report – GFSS Scholarship Policy

MOTION: MOSLIN / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT THE DEPUTY CLERK / TREASURER'S REPORT ON POLICY 520, THE GFSS SCHOLARSHIP POLICY, BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.

REQUESTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

LATE ITEMS:

None

REPORTS, QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL (VERBAL)

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:38 P.M.

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

MAYOR NEIL KROG

CITY CLERK – LYNNE BURCH