

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY MARCH 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.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- None

MOTION: ROBERT / GORDON

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY MARCH 20, 2006, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

a) Community Centre Focus Group, Linda Shilling – Facilitator's Report

Mayor Krog welcomed Linda Shilling, Facilitator for the Community Centre Focus Group. Ms Shilling began her presentation, stating she would be brief, as her summary was previously submitted. She stated that the different groups spent many hours preparing materials and specific presentations for these Community Centre proposals.

Mayor Krog thanked Ms. Shilling for her presentation.

b) The West of Dick Bartlett Park Group – Al Kneeland and Al Lebedoff

Mayor Krog welcomed Al Kneeland and Dan Lebedoff to the meeting. Mr. Lebedoff began by presenting a power point presentation proposing the west end site located west of Dick Bartlett Park for the proposed community centre. Mr. Lebedoff made mention of his group's view of looking at the issue with a wider focus, stating their view encompasses expansion of the west end, becoming the geographical centre of the valley.

Mayor Krog thanked Mr, Lebedoff and Mr. Kneeland for their presentation.

c) The Use of Existing Downtown Spaces Owned by City Group – Rosemary Phillips

Mayor Krog welcomed Rosemary Phillips to the meeting. Ms. Phillips began the presentation by outlining her group's particular presentation, stating they are supportive of a community centre downtown. She made mention of the example of the City of Nanaimo, outlining that Community's downtown community centre, arts and cultural centre, and conference centre. She referred to the City of Grand Forks OCP recommendations, stating that in her opinion reinforce the City centre proposal, accenting the heritage values, and retaining the downtown as the heart of the community.

Mayor Krog thanked Ms Phillips for her presentation.

d) Boundary Mall Location Group – Peter Matheson

Mayor Krog welcomed Peter Matheson to the meeting. Mr. Matheson began the presentation by outlining his group's concept of a community centre being located in the Boundary Mall. He proposed that the City purchase the Boundary Park Mall property, and eventually renovate it to house a community centre. He discussed uses of the proposed centre geared towards generating revenue to assist in operating the centre. He made mention of the process and expressed appreciation to Council for providing the process and the facilitator.

Mayor Krog thanked Mr. Matheson for his presentation.

e) Uses of Community Hall – Dave Milton

Mayor Krog welcomed Dave Milton to the meeting. Mr. Milton began by making a power point presentation outlining how a new community centre could anchor new economic development. He outlined his proposal for a community centre in city park on the current site of the Seniors Citizens Drop-In Centre. He suggested that the community centre could be used for such things as a teaching kitchen, skills and trades centres, trade shows and conferences, seniors facilities, VIC, as well as Chamber of Commerce facility. He stated that in his opinion groups with needs for indoor and outdoor spaces can have both in the City Park location. He concluded by suggesting ways to fund the construction of such a centre.

Mayor Krog thanked Mr. Milton for his presentation.

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.

George Longden:

Spoke to the location of the Community Centre. He discussed the use of fossil fuels and the proposed constant increase in the price of oil. He stated that choosing a community centre location based on driving outside the downtown core may not be wise.

Shawna Schuh:

She stated her preference that the Community Centre will be built next to Dick Bartlett Park, central to other recreation facilities. She advised that we live in rural community, and not everyone lives in the downtown core that would access these services without the use of vehicles. She suggested that the VIC be located between the Skateboard Park and the Aquatic Centre.

Ray Lafleur

He advised that he is currently the President of Boundary District Arts Council. He discussed the Art Council's interest in working with City Council on an Arts and Council Policy, making sure that there is art space, practice space, display space and show space.

The Mayor advised that the Grand Forks Aquatic Centre, representatives present in the gallery at this time intend to make a presentation to Council on April 10th.

Steve Maskall

Stated that he prefers the west end site beside Dick Bartlett Park for the new Community Centre. He suggested that the size of the community centre should accommodate a minimum of 500 people. He further stated that looking after the downtown core should be the responsibility of private sector, the merchants themselves.

Stated that the Downtown has vacant storefronts, and is underutilized. He suggested that the Community Centre will draw people downtown, and further suggested that a community centre of 500 people does not require 500 parking spaces.

Stated that she is the current President of Communities in Bloom. She advised that the group is committed to revitalizing downtown, with a proposal to focus attention on the downtown core. She requested that Council consider Communities in Bloom volunteers and their efforts in making the decision on locating the community centre.

Loretta Robinson

Inquired if Council had any questions on the Chamber of Commerce proposal for the City to commit funding for the production of the regional guide. Some discussion ensued on the number of guides remaining. It was stated that 3000 guides are remaining. On a inquiry from Council, she advised that some of the information in the guides is time sensitive requiring the guides to be reprinted every year. Some discussion ensued as to ways to make the guides last more than one year.

Al Corson

Brought forward the matter of training of ambulance service at the Airport. He inquired if there is further training of night flights at the Grand Forks at this time. Councillor Gordon advised that the air ambulance contractor was waiting for Transport Canada approval as well as availability of a particular aircraft.

MOTION: ROBERT / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT ALL PRESENTATIONS MADE THIS EVENING, BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.

OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS BY STAFF:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- a) **City Manager Report – Consideration of Policy and Guidelines for Financial Support**

MOTION: HINTER / GORDON

RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED MARCH 8, 2006, ON THE MATTER OF GRANTS AND FINANCIAL

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PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING

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SUPPORT, BE RECEIVED. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES FOR GRANTS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VARIOUS

ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT SERVICES BENEFITING THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY,
BE REFERRED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND INPUT.

CARRIED.

b) Deputy Clerk / Treasurer Report – Options for Community Clean Up

MOTION: GORDON / ROBERT

**RESOLVED THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT THE DEPUTY CLERK /
TREASURER'S REPORT, CONTAINING SPRING CLEAN UP OPTIONS, BE RECEIVED. BE
IT FURTHER RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT THE CURRENT SYSTEM BE LEFT IN
PLACE WITH AN ENHANCED EDUCATION PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED.**

CARRIED.

REQUESTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

LATE ITEMS:

None

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

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: SHKRABUIK / ROBERT

**RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:35
P.M.**

CARRIED.

Primary Committee Meeting of Council
March 20, 2006

MAYOR NEIL KROG

CITY CLERK – LYNNE BURCH