

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2007

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
DEPUTY CLERK/TREASURER D. Zabinsky

GALLERY

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

➤ None

MOTION: SHKRABUIK / GORDON

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2007, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

a) **Senes Consulting Ltd. – Presentation of the Emissions Inventory, as requested by the Boundary Air Quality Committee**

Bryan McEwan of Senes Consulting Ltd., began his presentation by reviewing the emissions inventory in the Grand Forks Airshed which includes common air contaminants, greenhouse gases and secondary particulate matter. He stated that the Emissions Inventory is an accounting of significant emission sources within the Airshed and is a first step towards understanding air quality. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes for reference.

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PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING

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MOTION: O'DOHERTY / ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY BRYAN MCEWAN OF SENES CONSULTING LTD. ON THE EMISSIONS INVENTORY FOR THE GRAND FORKS AIRSHED, REQUESTED BY THE BOUNDARY AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE, BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.

b) Urban Systems Ltd. – Presentation of the Components and Process for the development of the Integrated Sustainability Plan for the City of Grand Forks

Dan Huang, on behalf of Urban Systems Ltd., began his presentation by introducing himself stating that the Integrated Sustainability Plan project is an undertaking by Urban Systems Ltd. and the Pomegranate society, for the City of Grand Forks. By way of a power point presentation, Mr. Huang outlined the project overview. He advised that key components of the plan include public engagement and implementation and monitoring and evaluation. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes for reference.

MOTION: ROBERT / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY DAN HUANG, ON BEHALF OF URBAN SYSTEMS LTD., ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT OVERVIEW OF THE INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR GRAND FORKS, BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.

Mayor advised that questions from the public would now be entertained on the previous two presentations.

Art Stavenjord:

On a question from Mr. Stavenjord, Councillor Moslin advised that all 84 pages of the Emissions Inventory will be on the Boundary Air Quality Committee Website in December once the report has been finalized.

Roy Ronaghan

Mr. Ronaghan inquired as to the defined boundaries of the Grand Forks Airshed. Mr. McEwan described the defined area as the Grand Forks bowl. He further added that the Inventory looked at the emissions in the defined area and did not account for any emissions drift. Mr. McEwan advised that the latest data used for the report was from NPRI 2006. He stated that the next step is dispersion modeling, which is a future technical study, combining meteorological data and emission inventory data to determine where the contaminants are going. He stated that this project should be complete within two months. And finally he advised that pursuant to the Dispersion Modeling, the Grand Forks Air Quality Committee will begin the Airshed Management Plan to be presented by October 2008.

Jason Harshenin

Stated that he has been advised by the Ministry of Environment of their recommendation that the

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Boundary Air Quality Committee become a more technical committee, and inquired what Council's view was on this matter. Councillor Moslin suggested that this committee is intended to become a smaller committee, reducing in size from the current 30+ member committee.

Julia Butler:

Inquired as to who does the tests on industry stacks. Mr. McEwan advised that MOE requires industry to do period tests if they are seen to exceed a certain criteria. He advised that the three industries in Grand Forks do regular annual emissions testing. He stated that the industries themselves are responsible to get testing done, by environmental consultants. Mr. McEwan advised that the Ministry of Environment is like the watchdog, they receive the results of the tests conducted on industrial stacks. Discussion ensued as to the prescribed burning. Ms. Butler advised that in 2006 there was no prescribed burn conducted by the Ministry of Forests, however there was some agricultural burning.

Jim Holtz:

Inquired as to the feasibility of the new Integrated Community Sustainability Plan going to referendum, prior to adoption. The mayor advised that there is a prescribed public process for the adoption of the plan. The City Manager stated that this is not a referendum type document, as it is a policy document, and is not conducive to a referendum.

Mona Mattaei

Inquired if the December 7th & 8th dates for the first workshop were firm, suggesting that December is traditionally a poor time to hold public meetings and that the attendance may not be good as people are focused on Christmas. Mr. Huang of Urban Systems Ltd. stated that the dates are set, and due to the tight time frame it is not advisable to change the workshop dates as this will delay the process.

c) Mayor Krog and Members of Council – Presentation of the 2008 – 2012 Financial Plan

Mr. Dan Zabinsky, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer made a presentation on the 2008 – 2012 Financial Plan, on behalf of the Members of Council. By way of a power point presentation, he outlined the Plan components of consisting of a service plan, capital projects, revenue collection and fees and charges implications. He stated that looking at the cash position of the city, 2008 will be okay, but by 2012i if the status quo is maintained things look more critical. He emphasized that this is a financial plan and all projects identified in the plan will only be undertaken if the funding is available to do them. He stated that this funding may come from grants, reserve funds, debt or any combination.

Questions from Councillors:

Councillor Shkrabuik commented on the proposal to rehabilitate the Grand Forks Aquatic Centre, stating that this undertaking should include the use of appropriate materials to do the job right.

Chris Thompson:

Inquired as to the planned use for the remainder of City facilities suggesting that Council needs to re-evaluate the use of all city facilities. Mayor advised that Council is looking at the use of all city facilities and will taking these comments into consideration.

Mona Mattei

Ms. Mattei made comment on a recent initiative of Council to transfer the recreation facilities to the Regional District and inquired if this action will hold the regional district responsible for the pool referendum. The Mayor advised that although the facilities have not been physically transferred as of this date, the intention was to move the facilities to the operator of the Pool Services which is the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. On a further question from Ms. Mattei, the Mayor advised that the proposed Community Centre is on hold inasmuch as there has been no announcement from the provincial government as to the City's application for grant money.

Ray Hansen:

Mr. Hansen inquired as to the confidence that an expenditure of over a \$ 1million dollars will fix the pool as the pool has been upgraded in the past and is only 20 years old. The Mayor outlined that there are options. Councillor Shkrabuik stated that the Grand Forks Aquatic Centre is one of the few pools that is of wood construction, and that the proposed upgrade is looking to correct this deficiency.

Roy Ronaghan

Mr. Ronaghan brought forward the matter of the proposed Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, stating that it is comprehensive but there is no mention of the cost. Councillor Robert advised that the City has obtained a \$93,000 grant from the Province which will totally fund the development of the plan. Mr. Ronaghan inquired as to the tender for the planned Visitor Information Centre. The CFO advised that the City has requested plans from a contractor, however the City has not received them to date. He went on to add that once the detailed plans are finalized by the City, the Contractor will tender the contracts required to build the facility.

Art Stavenjord:

Mr. Stavenjord inquired as to the plans to repair the pool, stating that the City is using the same architect which developed the plans for the last upgrade. He advised Council of his reservations as to these plans.

Chris Thompson:

Inquired if the newly purchased building, half of which is intended to be used as the new circuit court facility, will be used for city purposes or for other purposes. Mayor Krog stated that he is not in a position to make any announcements at this time. The CFO stated that the new court facility is on time and on budget.

Mona Mattei:

Ms Mattei inquired that if there is no uplift in taxation, will all the projects previously presented be completed or not. Mayor Krog advised that most of these projects are grant related and if the grants don't come through, then the projects have to be re-evaluated, delayed or not done at all. Councillor Robert advised of Council's action at UBCM requesting that the province needs to respond to grant applications within 90 days to assist municipalities in planning and budgeting.

Marion Robbins:

Advised that although she supports the pool upgrade, suggested that the community centre be taken off the project list, and that Council not borrow any further money. Mayor Krog responded that all citizens pay taxes to every level of government, suggesting that Arts and Culture revenue sources can be established that are not reliant on industry.

Jason Harshenin:

Advised that the Community is in fear of an uplift in taxes.

Gary Thriennen:

On a question as to why the Visitors' Information Centre has not gone to tender, the CFO stated that Council has requested Grand Forks Construction draw the detailed plans and act as Project Manager for the project, as the company has an in house professional engineer which qualifies it to serve as Project Manager. He went on to add that it is the only local business able to meet the requirement and is seen as more likely to access bids from local sub trades. He further suggested that the Project Manager will tender the individual contracts such as electrical, mechanical, etc.

Bill Campbell:

Brought forward the matter of the Lift Station tenders and inquired if the lift station could be built on a piece meal basis with local contractors. He also inquired as to building the VIC in this fashion. He was advised that Council is considering this option.

Chris Thompson:

Addressed the issue of the Aquatic Centre, stating that when the pool was originally built it was recommended that the pool be built of waffle crete, rather than stick built, however the Council of the day wanted to utilize donated lumber. She stated she would support the upgrade to the pool to be constructed properly using materials appropriate for pools.

MOTION: SHKRABUIK / GORDON

RESOLVED THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ON THE PROPOSED 2008 – 20112 FINANCIAL PLAN BE RECEIVED. CARRIED.

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.
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Marion Robbins:

Suggested that we wait till after the 2010 Olympics to do most or all of the construction projects.

Doug Zorn:

Stated he is one of the persons wanting to establish an abattoir within the Grand Forks area. He further stated that he is looking at ways to sustain this type of facility in the long term. He advised that this type of facility is needed due to the new meat regulations implemented in September which as resulted in local farmers decreasing production.

Julia Butler:

Suggested that the abattoir be turned down due to the smell. Suggested that the facility be located outside of the Grand Forks Airshed. In response Mr. Zorn pointed out that unlike the facility in Brooks Alberta, the Grand Forks facility is not intended to allow for a lot of accumulation of animals, however the business plan with address this.

Grazyna Manturzuk of Communities in Bloom:

Inquired as to what would happen to the trees cut down in the Cemetery. Councillor Moslin stated that the City will earn money on the wood and that some of the wood will go to a furniture manufacturer south of the border and that some will be shipped to a pulp mill. He advised that Council has requested that logging stop until a mitigation plan has been reviewed by Council.

Jason Harshenin:

Inquired as to why the people in the area of the cemetery did not receive more notice that one day.

Jean Johnson:

Inquired as to the \$500,000 budget for the renovation of the Museum/Art Gallery is grant dependent. The CFO stated that the \$500,000 is not grant dependent and is in the budget. He stated that grants are also being applied for any renovations over and above the \$500,000.

Gene Koch:

Appreciated Council's resolution adopted earlier this evening intended to stop further cutting of trees. He advised that he has been looking to have Vienna Woods area dedicated as a park area. He suggested that notice be published way in advance of any further tree removal.

Gloria Koch:

Suggested that surrounding residents should have been contacted prior to any tree removal. Mayor Krog accepted this criticism stating that Council is responsible.

Marion Robbins:

Stated that she lives near the Cemetery and was not advised of tree removal. She indicated her doubts that the trees were infected.

Roy Ronaghan:

Inquired as to who is advising the Council on the replanting of trees. The Mayor advised that the City has a Horticulturist on Staff.

Art Stavenjord:

Advised that the Grand Forks Gyro Club was instrumental in developing Gyro Park and that the club constructed the Gyro Health Centre. He stated that in the late 40's or early 50's the gyro club gave the gyro park lands to the City on the condition that it would remain a park. He stated that he was pleased that even the Visitors' Information Centre is going to be removed from this space and it will be a larger green space. Mayor Krog read from Boundary Historical 1959 report, stating that the construction of the existing museum was a Centennial project for 1958.

Alvin Heinrich:

Stated that he is a resident of Vienna Woods, and inquired as to the cutting of trees in the area. Mayor Krog responded stating that the trees have been assessed by a qualified safety auditor.

Brian Fletcher:

Inquired as to the Community Centre plan, and the plan to integrate the Community Centre with the pool and the arena, and in view of the upgrade required to the Aquatic Centre, inquired if the plan for the Community Centre will be revisited. Councillor Shkrabuik stated that the Aquatic Centre is constantly being reviewed. Mayor Krog advised that the Community Centre proposal will be reviewed. Councillor Robert advised that the Sustainability plan may be a good way to provide input.

Chris Thompson:

Reiterated her opinion that the Visitors' Information Centre should be housed in an existing city facility.

Jeff Holitzki:

Inquired if the Official Community Plan is still alive in view of Council's undertaking to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. Mayor Krog advised that the OCP is still a living document.

Jason Harshenin:

Inquired if Council agreed to the logging in Vienna Woods, and if the trees were imposing a danger to the public at this time. Mayor Krog advised that it was his understanding that the trees needed to be removed as they were a liability to the City. The City Manager advised of the events leading up to the trees being cut, stating that people were not provided advance notice.

Ray Hansen:

Stated that the pine beetle in Kamloops is a different species from the pine beetle here in Grand Forks, and suggested that Council needs to get expert advice on this issue as we may not have to be quite as concerned. He stated his appreciation on how the community looked this year and asked that this information be passed onto City Staff.

Mona Mattei:

Inquired as to the status of the Museum and the incorporation of the new Society. The Mayor advised that the museum is closed for the season to facilitate the move to the Courthouse building. Councillor Robert outlined the make-up of the new Society.

Alice Glanville:

Mayor responded to a question from Ms. Glanville advising that the new direction from Council came as a result of the Boundary Museum advising that they were not prepared to leave before October 2008.

Roy Ronaghan:

Inquired if there are there other municipally run museum models. Councillor Moslin responded that Delta and Penticton have such a model.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

None

REQUESTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

LATE ITEMS:

None

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

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: GORDON

RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 10:40 P.M.

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



MAYOR NEIL KROG



CITY CLERK - LYNNE BURCH