

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY DECEMBER 15, 2008

PRESENT: MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR JOY DAVIES
COUNCILLOR CHRIS MOSLIN
COUNCILLOR GENE ROBERT
COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE THOMPSON
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WIRISCHAGIN
COUNCILLOR CHER WYERS

CITY MANAGER
CITY CLERK

V. Kumar
L. Burch

GALLERY

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

MOTION: MOSLIN / THOMPSON

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS:

a) City Manager's Report – Presentation by the Boundary Spinners and Weavers

Robin Dalziel of the Boundary Spinners and Weavers began his presentation by requesting Council's support in providing a permanent meeting space for the activities of the Spinners and Weavers in the former Art Gallery facility in the basement of the Grand Forks Public Library. Mr. Dalziel provided background to the guild, providing information on the history and the contributions to the community provided by the guild. Mr. Dalziel also provided information on the future planned guild activities, including fund raising for required building upgrades to the former Art Gallery space.

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MOTION: WYERS / ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY ROBIN DALZIEL ON BEHALF OF THE BOUNDARY SPINNERS AND WEAVERS, RELATIVE TO THEIR CONTINUED USE OF THE FORMER ART GALLERY SPACE, BE RECEIVED, AND THAT THE MATTER BE REFERRED TO STAFF FOR A REPORT AND FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CARRIED.

QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Taylor 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 that prior to speaking about their issue that persons in the gallery 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 future regular meeting of Council.

Bob Smith of 7164 11th Street:

Mr. Smith inquired as to Council's decision to close the former vehicle access on the north end of the Library building. Mr. Smith went to question Council's decision to close the "cowpath" road connecting 72nd and 73rd Avenues. In conclusion he inquired the possible use of liquid salt for ice and snow. The Mayor responded stating that the closed vehicle access on the north end of the Library building had to do with pedestrian access and the City's intention to focus on green initiatives. The Mayor further commented that the use of liquid salt was an interesting concept which may be considered.

OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION & PRESENTATIONS BY STAFF:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

a) City Manager's Report – New Procedure Bylaw

MOTION: THOMPSON / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED DECEMBER 10, 2008, REGARDING THE NEW PROCEDURE BYLAW, BE RECEIVED FOR DISCUSSION.

CARRIED.

Committee members discussed changes that they would like to see in the new Procedure Bylaw and focused on the following points:

- Suggested that the Question Period be moved to the end of the meeting, just prior to adjournment.
- Suggested that the draft minutes be posted on line.
- Suggested that the section in the Procedure Bylaw, precluding presentations and delegations during a municipal election campaign period, be amended to allow for advisory committees to continue to make presentations or communications to Council during this time.
- Suggested that prior to the new Procedure Bylaw being adopted, Council may want to amend a specific meeting agenda to move the question period to just prior to adjournment when adopting the agenda for a particular meeting.

SUGGESTED THAT COUNCIL REPORTS BE MOVED TO EARLIER IN THE AGENDA

 MOTION: DAVIES / MOSLIN

RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT CITY STAFF BE INSTRUCTED TO BRING FORWARD AMENDMENTS, AS PER THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PROCEDURE BYLAW 1794, 2006.

CARRIED.

b) City Manager's Report – Care & Custody of Community Artifacts

MOTION: DAVIES / THOMPSON

WHEREAS THERE IS A LEGAL DISPUTE BETWEEN THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS AND THE BOUNDARY MUSEUM SOCIETY REGARDING THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF COMMUNITY ARTIFACTS;

AND WHEREAS THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS IS DESIROUS OF RESOLVING THIS DISPUTE WITHOUT FURTHER LEGAL ACTION AND COSTS HAVING TO BE EXPENDED BY BOTH PARTIES;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT APPROVAL, IN PRINCIPLE, BE GIVEN TO INITIATING A MUTALLY AGREED TO RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

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1. THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF THE COMMUNITY ARTIFACTS IN STORAGE AT 275 MARKET AVENUE BE RETURNED TO THE BOUNDARY MUSEUM SOCIETY,
2. THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS WITHDRAWS ITS APPLICATION FOR A TRADE MARK OF THE TITLE "BOUNDARY MUSEUM".
3. THE GRAND FORKS SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURE BE DISSOLVED.
4. THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE GRAND FORKS ART GALLERY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE HISTORIC COURT HOUSE.
5. THE GRAND FORKS ART GALLERY AMEND THEIR CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS TO INCLUDE A HISTORICAL FUNCTION;
6. THE BOUNDARY MUSEUM SOCIETY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GRAND FORKS ART GALLERY TO WORK COOPERATIVELY TO PREPARE AND DISPLAY HISTORICAL EXHIBITS IN SPACE ALLOCATED FOR SUCH PURPOSE IN THE HISTORICAL COURT HOUSE;
7. THE BOUNDARY MUSEUM SOCIETY TO MAKE ALL ARCHIVAL AND ACCESSIONING RECORDS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC;
8. THE BOUNDARY MUSEUM SOCIETY TO ENSURE THAT UPON DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY, ALL ARTIFACTS, ARCHIVAL AND ACCESSIONING RECORDS REMAIN WITHIN THE COMMUNITY UNDER THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF ANOTHER ACCREDITED ORGANIZATION THAT IS A REGISTERED CHARITY WITH CANADA REVENUE AGENCY.

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED.

Comments Prior to Adoption:

1. Councillor Thompson inquired as to several points in the bylaws of the SPCAC.
2. Councillor Moslin pointed out that point 5 of the resolution on the table instructs the art gallery to amend their constitution and bylaws, which in his opinion, is outside the jurisdiction of Council.
3. Councillor Moslin referred to point 7, suggesting that the inventory and accession records need to be put together.
4. Councillor Robert inquired as to where the artifacts will be stored.
5. Councillor Thompson stated her hope that the Art Gallery and the Boundary Museum could work together for displays in the Historic Courthouse, and that storage and rehabilitation of artifacts could be accommodated at the Fructova School.
6. Councillor Wyers suggested that the Boundary Museum Society will be supported financially by the community, similar to how SPCAC is supported at the present.
7. Councillor Davies stated that the questions posed by Councillor Moslin are questions that need to be posed to the Boundary Museum Society. Suggest that Staff write a letter to the society posing the questions articulated by Council Members this evening.
8. Councillor Robert brought forward a number of issues: data base for the collection, developing marketing strategy, realistic business plans, public service, care of collection, procedure for acquisition and disposition of artifacts, which he advised were all issues addressed by the Boulet Report.

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9. Councillor Thompson suggested that all groups work together and that the resolution of these artifacts will not happen overnight.

MOTION: ROBERT / DAVIES

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, DATED DECEMBER 10, 2008, REGARDING THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF COMMUNITY ARTIFACTS, BE RECEIVED.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT STAFF BE INSTRUCTED TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER THE CITY CAN UNILATERALLY CANCEL AGREEMENTS AND WHETHER THE CITY CAN DISSOLVE A SOCIETY WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE SOCIETY.

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT STAFF INVESTIGATE WHETHER THE EXISTING SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURE CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO ARE LEGALLY BINDING INASMUCH AS THE SOCIETY IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR OWN BYLAWS.

CARRIED.

MOTION: MOSLIN / ROBERT

RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS INVITE, THE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURE, THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND FORKS ART GALLERY, AND THE BOUNDARY MUSEUM SOCIETY TO ENTER INTO A FACILITATED MEETING TO PLAN THE BEST WAY FORWARD FOR THE BOUNDARY MUSEUM COLLECTION, AT THE CITY'S EXPENSE.

CARRIED.

REQUESTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

LATE ITEMS:

None

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

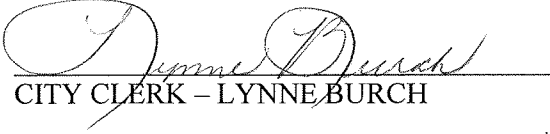
ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: ROBERT / DAVIES

**RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED 8:40 P.M.
CARRIED.**

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR


CITY CLERK - LYNNE BURCH