

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY AUGUST 20TH, 2012

PRESENT: MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR
 COUNCILLOR BOB KENDEL
 COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG (Joined the meeting at 7:20 PM)
 COUNCILLOR PATRICK O'DOHERTY
 COUNCILLOR GARY SMITH
 COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WIRISCHAGIN
 COUNCILLOR CHER WYERS

 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER L. Burch
 CORPORATE OFFICER D. Heinrich

 GALLERY

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Mayor began the meeting by welcoming Freeman of the City to the Gallery – Jock & Betty MacKay

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION: SMITH / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 20TH, 2012, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

- a) Delegation, Kathy Novokshonoff, representative for the Grand Forks Dog Park Association

Kathy Novokshonoff, representative for the Grand Forks Dog Park Association made a presentation to the Committee on behalf of the Grand Forks Dog Park Association, providing proposals for improving the Dog Park.

MOTION: SMITH / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION MADE BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GRAND FORKS DOG PARK ASSOCIATION REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE DOG PARK AND REFER THEIR REQUESTS TO STAFF TO BRING BACK FOR A REPORT TO COUNCIL.

CARRIED.

Councillor Krog joined the meeting at 7:20 PM

b) Delegation, Marshall Lake Stewardship Group

Mr. John Greaves, a representative from the Marshall Lake Stewardship Group made a presentation to the Committee with regard to the condition of the dam at Marshall Lake, and requested that Council send a letter of support to the Honourable Steve Thomson, regarding the continued maintenance of the Providence Lake Dam in order to preserve Marshall Lake as it now exists.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARSHALL LAKE STEWARDSHIP GROUP, AND FURTHER RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT, IN PRINCIPLE, TO THE HONOURABLE STEVE THOMSON, MINISTER OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS ASKING THAT HIS MINISTRY CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE PROVIDENCE LAKE DAM IN ORDER TO PROTECT MARSHALL LAKE AS IT NOW EXISTS.

CARRIED.

Councillor Smith voted against the motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a) Verbal Report from Mayor Taylor – Re: Stop the Violence Campaign

At the May 28th, 2012, Primary Committee Meeting, the "Stop the Violence" was introduced to Council as an information item with a recommendation to receive for discussion. Due to the absence of all members of Council, it was received, but not discussed. All attachments which were presented to Council at said meeting are attached for reference in addition to the resolution adopted by Council.

Councillor Wirischagin expressed a "point of order" and commented that this issue was addressed at the May 28th Primary Committee Meeting. He was advised that because there was no action taken by Council at that time, (the information was only received), that the topic could be brought back.

MOTION: KROG / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT THE PRIMARY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE FOR DISCUSSION, THE MAYOR'S VERBAL PRESENTATION WITH REGARD TO THE "STOP THE VIOLENCE" CAMPAIGN AIMED AT DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING CANNABIS-RELATED POLICIES THAT IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH WHILE REDUCING SOCIAL HARMS, INCLUDING CRIME AND GANG ACTIVITY AND FURTHER DETERMINES NOT TO SUPPORT THE "STOP THE VIOLENCE" CAMPAIGN.

CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

None

OPERATIONAL DISCUSSION FROM STAFF:

None

PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION:

None

LATE ITEMS:

None

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

None

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, and the normal rules apply.

LES JOHNSON – He spoke with regard to the marijuana issue and commented that because the use of marijuana is currently a criminal offence, it fuels the crime and violence rate.

NIGEL JAMES – He spoke with regard to members of Council, who, he felt, don't offer opinions and advised that he would be grateful if all members of Council would give their opinion.

SANDRA MARK – She advised that she is new to area and is a social worker who has worked with street kids and folks in various cities, and advised that many of those individuals have drug and alcohol related problems. She further advised that she felt there was a need to deal with these problems as health issues and not through the criminal system.

JOCK MACKAY – He advised that Marshall Lake should be designated a heritage site and further commented that it needs to be protected from mining.

MONA MATTEI – She advised that she is disappointed in Council's decision in social and health issues (regarding the "Stop the Violence" campaign). She advised that it's important that members of Council give their opinions.

FRANK MORLAND - He advised that he is a new resident of Grand Forks and commented that drugs need to be diverted from the criminal system, and further commented that jails are a "criminal creating university".

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT THIS PRIMARY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:04 P.M.

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR


CORPORATE OFFICER – DIANE HEINRICH