

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 22nd, 2013

PRESENT:

MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG
COUNCILLOR BOB KENDEL
COUNCILLOR PATRICK O'DOHERTY
COUNCILLOR GARY SMITH
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WIRISCHAGIN
COUNCILLOR CHER WYERS

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	D. ALLIN
CORPORATE OFFICER	D. HEINRICH
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	R. SHEPHERD
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER	S. WINTON
MANAGER OF OPERATIONS	H. WRIGHT
MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING SERVICES	S. BIRD
MANAGER OF BUILDING INSPECTION & BYLAW SERVICES	W. KOPAN

GALLERY

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY JULY 22ND, 2013, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS:

a) **Barry Armbrust, Director of BC Good Sam RV Club**

Mr. Armbrust made a presentation to Council asking for the City's support of the Good Sam's Club request to host the Good Sam's "Samboree" in June, 2014.

Mr. Armbrust spoke with regard to:

- Holding the 2014 Samboree in Grand Forks.
- The Good Sam's have specific criteria that potential host communities must meet and the City of Grand Forks meets the requirements for hosting the Samboree.
- The Good Sam's would like to utilize the Curling rink and Dick Bartlett Park.
- They are requesting in kind support for the Samboree from the City.
- Non members are invited to participate in the Samboree.
- The Good Sam's expect approximately 120 RV units to participate.
- The Good Sam's track the spending of the group throughout the weekend to accurately measure the amount of revenue left in the communities they visit. The average amount spent in a community by the Good Sam's over a weekend is \$4,000.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION FROM BARRY ARMBRUST, DIRECTOR OF THE BC GOOD SAM RV CLUB AND DETERMINES TO GRANT PERMISSION TO THE GOOD SAM'S CLUB TO HOST THE SAMBOREE EVENT IN GRAND FORKS IN JUNE, 2014.

CARRIED.

b) Stephanie Johnson, Local Government Consultant for Urban Systems Limited

Ms. Johnson made a presentation to Council with regard to the development of a Revitalization Tax Exemption approach for Grand Forks

Ms Johnson advised that:

- Revitalization Tax Exemptions are a tool that Councils may use to encourage various types of revitalizations and to achieve a range of environmental, economic or social objectives that are consistent with their corporate priorities.
- As per the Community Charter this bylaw provides Municipalities with the authority to exempt property from municipal property value taxes only under an established revitalization program.
- The City is not intending to see a loss of revenue, but rather provision of incentives to attract new business and make it more attractive to existing business.
- An exemption certificate can only be administered in October, and is not retroactive.
- The City is still bound by being non specific in the businesses that it supports.
- Next steps in the process are:
 - Identify revitalization areas for Grand Forks
 - Identify the proposed qualifications for tax exemptions in each suggested revitalization area
 - Identify the amount of tax exemptions to be provided
 - Identify the time frame for exemptions to apply
 - Determine the role of the economic development advisory committee

- Develop a communications strategy that includes community engagement
- Prepare the necessary bylaws for council and community consideration.

MOTION: SMITH

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION MADE BY STEPHANIE JOHNSON, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTANT FOR URBAN SYSTEMS LIMITED AND TO FURTHER DIRECT STAFF TO UTILIZE THE INFORMATION AS PRESENTED BY URBAN SYSTEMS TO PREPARE A REVITALIZATION AREA TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM AND SUBSEQUENT BYLAW AS SUPPORTED BY URBAN SYSTEMS, FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION.

CARRIED.

PRESENTATIONS BY STAFF:

NONE

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

a) Wildlife Aware Program - Staff Memorandum (Old Business)

Staff Memorandum regarding the Wildlife Aware Program which was tabled by Council on June 24th, to be presented at the July 22nd COTW Meeting.

Council advised:

- The report is a good guideline and the program supports the mandate of the Deer Committee
- The program is not deer specific and includes other wild life
- The City will have to fund the program and at this time there are no subsidies available
- This is a Provincial issue
- This could be taken to the larger region and the costs shared
- Education is only one component of managing the deer issue; the report from staff will identify a multi pronged plan

Mayor Taylor advised that although this is a regional issue the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary has not been supportive in the past. He further advised he would urge that this be brought back to the regional table for discussion.

Councillor Smith spoke with regard to this issue being brought to UBCM for discussion with the Province, and advised that while waiting for the province to take a stand the City is still at risk with wild life conflicts. He further advises that this is a direction from the community and requested this go the July 22nd Regular meeting for approval.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE STAFF MEMORANDUM WITH REGARD TO THE WILDLIFE AWARE PROGRAM FOR INFORMATION AND FURTHER DISCUSSION AND DETERMINES TO REFER THE ISSUE TO THE JULY 22ND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

CARRIED.

b) Further Discussion to Grant in Aid Funding (Old Business)

At the June 10th, 2013 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Council received the Staff Memorandum with regard to Options to Grant In Aid Funding and requested that further discussion on the issue be referred to the July 22nd COTW Meeting.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that at a Regional District Board meeting Area Directors were interested in having a discussion regarding how Grant In Aid is used and that a second letter requesting RDKB directors feedback on the issue be submitted.

Council spoke with regard to the Grant in Aid report:

- The Community Spirit Fund was felt to be a strong alternative to Grant In Aid Funding.
- The Community Spirit Fund could provide the opportunity for community groups and organizations to participate in a larger event – leaving no one group responsible.
- The Community Spirit Fund would enable the City to continue to support events through in kind contributions.
- The City could play host to one or more major events, which would provide the opportunity for other groups to participate. The City could sponsor a couple of identified events.
- Public consultation around current events would include discussion around blending or incorporating existing events to create a larger event that all could participate in.
- Developing a standing policy to assist groups in accessing funding through letters of support and identifying grant opportunities would be a way to ensure groups are looking at other funders and not just the City.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that staff will draft a policy that incorporates recommendations from the provided report while considering thoughts from Council.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS COUNCIL RECEIVE THE REPORT REGARDING OPTIONS FOR GRANT IN AID FUNDING AND THAT STAFF DEVELOP A DRAFT "OPTIONS TO GRANT IN AID" POLICY.

CARRIED.

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 10:11 A.M.
The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 10:26 A.M.

c) Chief Administrative Officer – Monthly Highlight Reports from Department Managers

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an overview of Staff Activities for the month.

Councillor Wirischagin requested that Council send a letter to City Works thanking them for the great work beautifying the City.

MOTION: SMITH

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS AS PRESENTED.

CARRIED.

d) Chief Financial Officer Memorandum – New Contaminated Sites Legislation

The Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) requires that the City record the cost of remediation of all contaminated sites for which they are responsible as a liability on the financial statements; this is for City owned land.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE STAFF REPORT REGARDING THE NEW CONTAMINATION SITES LEGISLATION FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.

CARRIED.

e) Chief Administrative Officer – Brand Management Plan

At the April 2nd 2013 Meeting, Council directed Staff to research the cost for a brand management plan consultant and bring back a report to Council.

Councillor Smith advised that the Boundary Brand Marketing Strategy has been adapted by staff to fulfill the requirements and needs for a City brand management plan. He further advised that the \$5,000 that was previously approved by Council for the development of a plan was not spent. Councillor Wirischagin advised that the plan is not specific enough and is very generic.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the plan is meant to be a guideline for the City and the Economic Development Advisory Committee as well as other groups to utilize and further that the generalness of it will allow it to evolve overtime.

Councillor Wirischagin advised that he would like to see the plan be more specific as the budget for 2013 has already been spent.

Councillor Smith advised that the plan provides guidelines for which all future work needs to fall within. He further advised that the \$10,000 for the video is in addition to the Economic Development Advisory Committee's annual Budget.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that staff will provide a report to Council providing a specific action/work plan and further that the annual budget briefing will incorporate this plan with identified specifics that Council will be advised of; some of which have been identified and completed already.

Les Johnson: He requested an explanation of what the brand was meant to accomplish and further advised that he has concerns with the scope of the plan.

MOTION: SMITH

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE STAFF REPORT REGARDING THE PROPOSED GRAND FORKS MARKETING OVERVIEW BRAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND REFERS THE ISSUE TO THE JULY 22ND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING THE PLAN.

CARRIED.

PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION:

- a) **Chief Financial Officer – Climate Action Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw No. 1989**

To introduce a new Bylaw No. 1989

MOTION: WYERS

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE REPORT TO INTRODUCE THE CLIMATE ACTION RESERVE FUND BYLAW NO. 1989, 2013 WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE FIRST THREE READINGS AT THE AUGUST 19TH REGULAR MEETING.

CARRIED.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

NONE

LATE ITEMS:

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

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.

Chris Moslin: He spoke on behalf of the Grand Forks Trails Society with regard to the \$50,000 the city allocated to the new nursery trestle trail and provided an update to Council on the status of the new trail.

He asked Council to consider whether:

- The City can supply the gravel and crush
- The City could provide more money
- The MFLNRO match additional funding
- The RDKB play a role in Phase 1
- Can the City apply for a CIPP grant in 2014

Other funding could potentially be accessed through BC Healthy Communities and Aging Communities grants.

The Mayor advised that this information will be brought forward for council consideration.

MOTION: SMITH

**RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE REPORT PRESENTED BY CHRIS MOSLIN OF THE GRAND FORKS TRAILS SOCIETY AND REFERS THE ISSUE TO THE JULY 22ND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FOR STAFF DIRECTION TO RESEARCH THE COST OF THE CITY SUPPLYING THE GRAVEL-CRUSH BASE TO THE CITY'S PORTION OF THE TRAIL.
CARRIED.**

Dennis Robinson - He thanked staff for the upgrades around town and advised that he is a resident of the Condominium's across from City Park and is speaking on behalf of the residence. He spoke with regard to the lift station in City Park and who would like to see some attention given to creating gardens by the lift stations to improve the look of the area.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that there has been some discussion regarding this issue already and that the request will be considered for the 2014

budget process. He further advised Mr. Robinson to send a formal letter with this request to Mayor and Councillor

Mr. Moslin – He extended an invitation to the August 11th music event in City Park. It is a fund raiser for Habitat for Humanity.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THIS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 11:43PM.

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR


DEPUTY CORPORATE SECRETARY –
SARAH WINTON