

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 22nd, 2013

PRESENT: MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR BOB KENDEL
COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG
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
MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT & S. Bird
ENGINEERING

GALLERY

CALL TO ORDER:

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Amendments to the Agenda:

The Mayor advised that two items will be added to the agenda as a late item:

12 (a) Wildlife Aware Program – Staff Memorandum

As per COTW's resolution at the July 22nd meeting to refer the Wildlife Aware issue to the July 22nd Regular Council meeting.

12 (b) Public Presentation by Chris Moslin of the Grand Forks Trail Society to the Committee of the Whole during Question Period from the public. In Mr. Moslin's presentation, he mentioned that if the City could provide the crush/gravel base that it may be cheaper for the City. Council referred the issue to the evening meeting in order to direct Staff to research the cost and resources of the City providing the gravel base to the City's portion of the trail.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE AGENDA OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 22nd, 2013, BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

MOTION: SMITH / KROG

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 24th, 2013, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 8TH, 2013, BE ADOPTED AS CIRCULATED.

CARRIED.

DELEGATION:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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

Councillor Smith:

Councillor Smith reported on the following items:

- He reported on his attendance at a Cadet Review Banquet on June 11th and advised that the organization put on a great ceremony.
- Last week, he reported on his attendance to a meeting of the Downtown Merchants Association and spoke about the future development of the Business Improvement Association. He further advised that the group plans to work with the City on the steps regarding the ongoing revitalization project
- On August 9th, he reported on his attendance to "Wild West Day" on Friday and that Market Ave was closed to include outdoor vendors and to offer additional activities.
- Councillor Smith advised that the event, Park in the Park will be on Sunday, August 18th in City Park.
- He advised that the Airport Appreciation Fly is on August 25th, as well as the Grand Forks Fall Fair event that weekend. He advised that there will be a Shuttle service available that will go from airport, fall fair and downtown

Councillor Krog:

Councillor Krog reported on the following items:

- He reported on his attendance at the Open House at the Fire Department and advised that the open house was laid out well
- He provided an update on the upcoming 'Fall Fair 2012' on August 25th, and advised that they will have a gentleman providing a demo on making rope. Further, he advised that there will be a large silent auction at the fair this year in addition to having a car show and sharing aboriginal culture with songs, drums, etc. He advised that the Miniature Chuck wagons will be competing again as in the past two years as well as a huge roster for musical entertainment.

Councillor Kendel:

Councillor Kendel reported on the following items:

- He reported on his attendance at a June 11 monthly meeting of the Boundary Museum Society.
- On June 17th, he reported on his attendance at a Gilpin Grasslands Meeting
- On June 18th, he reported on his attendance at a Boundary Regional Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting and advised that the organization has endorsed the new ambassador program
- On June 19th, he reported on his participation in Council's Strategic Plan Review at the Boundary Museum site
- On June 20th, he reported on a partnership with Joint Venture Grand Forks and the Boundary Museum where the groups have provided the new welcome centre venue at the historic Flour Mill site on Mill Road
- On July 1st, he reported on his participation at the Canada Day activities along with rest of Council and that he and Councillor Smith cut several pieces of cake at the event

- He advised that he and Councillor Smith were going to do a joint report on their attendance at the Economic Development Conference in June in Vancouver. Please see their joint report- as attached to the minutes.

Councillor Wyers:

Councillor Wyers reported on the following items:

- She reported on her attendance at the Open House regarding the upgrades for Habitat For Humanity, Boundary Emergency Transition Housing Society and Whispers of Hope on June 27th at the 7212 Riverside Drive location.

- She reported on her attendance at the Canada Day Parade and Festivities in the park and advised that she assisted with the Citizens on Patrol float where they received first prize
- She advised that she has been volunteering at the Heritage Flour Milling Site and that the wheat has arrived; further she commented that the group should begin milling by the end of July.
- She advised that the next Environment Meeting will be on August 15th and that the meeting will be at the Regional District Board office.
- She advised that the COPA Fly-in Show and Shine event will be on the August long weekend at the airport

Councillor O'Doherty:

Councillor O'Doherty reported on the following items:

- He reported on his attendance at the Canada Day festivities and stated it was a nice parade
- He reported on his attendance at the Fire Hall Open House and advised that it was a great turn out
- He reported on his attendance to two nights of entertainment to Music in the Park which is on Wednesday evenings
- He thanked the Public Works Crews on doing great job in the downtown core and at the beach on Riverside Drive

Councillor Wirischagin:

Councillor Wirischagin advised that he had no report this evening.

Mayor Taylor:

The Mayor reported on the following items:

- He congratulated the organization for a great BMX event on the weekend

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT ALL REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, GIVEN VERBALLY AT THIS MEETING, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED.

REPORT FROM THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY (VERBAL)

- The Mayor advised that the Regional District is planning to re-establish the Animal Control service

MOTION: SMITH / KENDEL

RESOLVE THAT THE GRAND FORKS CITY COUNCIL WOULD ENCOURAGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A REVISED ANIMAL CONTROL BYLAW BEFORE SIGNING AN ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE CONTRACT.

CARRIED.

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MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY, GIVEN VERBALLY AT THIS MEETING, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAFF FOR DECISIONS:

- a) Chief Administrative Officer – Brand Management Plan

Council's consideration to adopt the Brand Management Plan as presented.

MOTION: SMITH / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE STAFF REPORT REGARDING THE PROPOSED GRAND FORKS MARKETING OVERVIEW BRAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AS REFERRED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AT THE JULY 22ND, 2013, COTW MEETING, AND DETERMINES TO ADOPT THE BRAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED.

CARRIED.

Councillor Wirischagin voted against the motion

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MOTION: SMITH / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL PROCEED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF VIDEOS INTENDING TO PROMOTE THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS AS SUGGESTED IN THE ADOPTED BRAND MANAGEMENT PLAN UTILIZING THE \$10,000 AS BUDGETED FOR, AS PREVIOUSLY DIRECTED BY COUNCIL.

CARRIED.

Councillor Wirischagin voted against the motion

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b) Development & Engineering – Request for Amendment to the City of Grand Forks Zoning Bylaw No. 1606, 1999

Staff introduction to the proposed amendment to the Grand Forks Zoning Bylaw

MOTION: SMITH / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE STAFF REPORT REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE GRAND FORKS ZONING BYLAW AND FURTHER DIRECTS STAFF TO PREPARE A ZONING AMENDMENT BYLAW FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.

CARRIED.

c) Development & Engineering – Application for Site Exemption

The City is in receipt of an application from Neil Gillespie for a site specific exemption for property located at 910 – 63rd Avenue to reduce the 100 foot setback from the Kettle River to 60 feet to construct a 720 square foot garage.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE STAFF REPORT AND APPROVES THE SITE SPECIFIC EXEMPTION APPLICATION TO REDUCE THE 100 FOOT SETBACK FROM THE KETTLE RIVER TO 60 FEET TO CONSTRUCT A 720 SQUARE FOOT GARAGE BEHIND THE EXISTING PRINCIPAL BUILDING AS SUBMITTED BY THE PROPERTY OWNER, NEIL GILLESPIE, FOR PROPERTY LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOT A, DL 382, SDYD, PLAN KAP45954 LOCATED AT 910-63RD AVENUE, SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH CITY BYLAWS AND IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLANS PRESENTED WITH THE APPLICATION.

CARRIED.

d) Development & Engineering – Bellamy Development Variance Permit

The City is in receipt of a Development Variance Permit application requesting to construct an 800 sq.ft. garage and storage building in front of the principal building, as submitted by David & Hyacinth Bellamy, property owner, located at 6369 – 12th Street.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE STAFF REPORT AND APPROVES THE DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT AN 800 SQUARE FOOT GARAGE/STORAGE BUILDING IN FRONT OF THE PRINCIPLE BUILDING AS SUBMITTED BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS, DAVID & HYACINTH BELLAMY, LOCATED AT 6369 – 12TH STREET LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS N ½ OF LOT 2, BLOCK A, DL 382, SDYD, PLAN 123, SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH CITY BYLAWS AND IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE PLANS PRESENTED.

CARRIED.

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A member of the public spoke up with regard to the Development Variance Permit and advised that he had issues with the proposed structure, and that he felt it would obstruct his view. After discussion, Council opted to rescind the motion to approve the Development Variance until they received further information from Staff on the permit.

MOTION: SMITH / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT THE MOTION WITH REGARD TO THE DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT AN 800 SQUARE FOOT GARAGE/STORAGE BUILDING IN FRONT OF THE PRINCIPLE BUILDING AS SUBMITTED BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS, DAVID & HYACINTH BELLAMY, LOCATED AT 6369 – 12TH STREET LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS N ½ OF LOT 2, BLOCK A, DL 382, SDYD, PLAN 123, BE RESCINDED TO ALLOW STAFF TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE PERMIT REQUEST AND THAT THE MATTER BE TABLED TO THE AUGUST 19TH REGULAR MEETING FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION.

CARRIED.

REQUESTS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

MOTION: SMITH / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT INFORMATION ITEMS NUMBERED 10(a) TO 10(k) BE RECEIVED AND ACTED UPON AS RECOMMENDED AND/OR AS AMENDED. CARRIED.

a) Thank-you card from GFSS- 2013 Graduation - For City support for 2013 Scholarships -**Recommend to receive for information.**

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b) Thank-you card from Boundary Museum Society- For City funding for 2013. **Recommend to receive for information.**

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c) Correspondence from Oscar Hirsig - Requesting a Two Lane Lawn Bowling Green in City Park. **The matter has been referred to Staff to provide a report to Council with further information.**

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- d) Correspondence from the Grand Forks & District Recreation Commission of Regional District of Kootenay Boundary - Requesting a meeting with Council to discuss and develop a community wide shared use agreement for the use of facilities and services. **Recommend that Council will determine a date for a meeting determining to discuss a community wide shared use agreement with the Grand Forks & District Recreation Commission of the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, School District No. 51 and other interested parties.**
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- e) Correspondence from the City of Winnipeg Squadron-Canadian Forces Decoration - Advising that Chief Warrant Officer, Terence Leo Doody, is retiring in our area and is requesting a welcoming letter from the Mayor. **Recommend Council authorizes the Mayor to send a letter of welcome to Chief Warrant Officer, Terence Leo Doody, to the area and further acknowledging CWO Doody's outstanding career.**

MOTION: WYERS / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR TO SEND A LETTER OF WELCOME TO CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER, TERENCE LEO DOODY, TO THE AREA AND FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING CWO DOODY'S OUTSTANDING CAREER.

CARRIED.

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Councillor Krog and Councillor Wyers spoke of the memorial they attended earlier today for Don Gordon, late husband of former Councillor Ann Gordon, and of his life achievements as an aviator.

MOTION: KROG / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WRITE A LETTER OF RECOGNITION OF DON GORDON'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS AS AN AVIATOR AND LONG TIME RESIDENT FOR THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS, AND THAT STAFF WILL REVIEW THE LETTER'S CONTENT WITH COUNCILLORS WYERS AND KROG PRIOR TO SUBMITTING TO THE LATE DON GORDON'S WIFE, ANN GORDON.

CARRIED.

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- f) Correspondence from the BC Dogwood Klub - Advising of the great services of the visitor's centres in Grand Forks & Christina Lake and voicing their disappointment at some of the business establishment responses to their donation requests. **Recommend to receive for information.**
- g) Advertising funding request from the Border Bruins - Requesting \$500.00 for support for their on-ice advertisement logo as the City has supported in the past. **Recommend to receive for discussion.**

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL DETERMINES TO SUPPORT THE GRAND FORKS BORDER BRUINS BY PURCHASING A \$500 ON-ICE ADVERTISEMENT LOGO WITH THE CITY LOGO AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST.

CARRIED.

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- h) Advertising funding request from the Grand Forks & District Fall Fair - Requesting \$500.00 for the City to sponsor a Miniature Chuck wagon at the fall fair as the City has done in the past. **Recommend to receive for discussion.**

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL DETERMINES TO SUPPORT THE GRAND FORKS & DISTRICT FALL FAIR BY SPONSORING A MINIATURE CHUCK WAGON AT THIS YEAR'S FALL FAIR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500 AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST.

CARRIED.

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- i) Rotary Club Press Release - The Rotary Club and the Kettle River Community Garden will be hosting a free public workshop at the Community Garden the evening of July23. **Recommend to receive for information.**
 - j) Meeting request information to meet with Premier Clark & Cabinet Ministers – Council has opted to choose four meetings with Cabinet Ministers at the UBCM on the following topics: 1. Infrastructure; 2. Deer Issue; 3. Highway 3 Corridor; and 4. Columbia Basin Trust. **Recommend to receive for information-the meeting request process is underway.**
 - k) From the City of Trail- Regarding Power Prices in the Fortis BC Service Area. **Recommend to receive for information.**

BYLAWS:

- a) Chief Financial Officer – Bylaw 1971, Amendment of the City of Grand Forks Bylaw No. 1955 to establish and impose a flat tax on Northwest 79th Avenue Road and Electrical Local Area Service

MOTION: SMITH / O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1971, CITED AS THE "City of Grand Forks Northwest 79th Avenue Local Area Service Parcel Tax Amendment Bylaw 1971, 2013", BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

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- b) Corporate Officer – Repealing Bylaws No. 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985 & 1986 intending to repeal redundant bylaws

MOTION: SMITH / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1979, a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 1004, "The City of Grand Forks Traffic Regulations Bylaw, No.1004, 1977", and all amendments thereto", BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

MOTION: KENDEL / KROG

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1980, a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 1378, "The City of Grand Forks Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw No. 1378, 1993", and all amendments thereto, BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

MOTION: WYERS / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1981, a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 1355, "The City of Grand Forks Park Access Bylaw No. 1355, 1992", and all amendments thereto, BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1982, a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 1680, "The City of Grand Forks Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 1680, 2001", and all amendments thereto, BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1983, a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 1681, "The City of Grand Forks Noise Control Bylaw No. 1681, 2001", and all amendments thereto, BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

MOTION: WYERS / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1985, a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 999, "The City of Grand Forks Minimum Maintenance Standards Bylaw No. 1999, 1976"., BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1986, a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 1320, "The City of Grand Forks Fire and Life Safety Bylaw" and all amendments thereto, BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

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- c) Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services - Bylaw No. 1956 – New Traffic Regulations Bylaw

On June 24th, Council gave three readings to the Traffic Regulations Bylaw No. 1956.

MOTION: KROG / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1956, "Traffic Regulations Bylaw No. 1956, 2013", BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

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- d) Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services - Bylaw No. 1957 – New Municipal Ticketing Information Bylaw

On June 24th, Council gave three readings to the Municipal Ticketing Information Bylaw No. 1957

MOTION: SMITH / WRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1957, "City of Grand Forks Municipal Ticketing Information Bylaw", BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

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- e) Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services - Bylaw No. 1959 – New Park Access Bylaw

On June 24th, Council gave three readings to the Park Access Bylaw No. 1959.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1959, "City of Grand Forks Park Access Bylaw No. 1959, 2013", BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

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- f) Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services - Bylaw No. 1962 – New Unsightly Premises Bylaw

On July 8th, Council gave three readings to the Unsightly Premises Bylaw No. 1962

MOTION: KENDEL / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1962, "City of Grand Forks Unsightly Premises Bylaw 1962, 2013", BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

- g) Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services - Bylaw No. 1963 – New Noise Control Bylaw

On June 24th, Council gave three readings to the Noise Control Bylaw No. 1963.

Councillor Wirischagin spoke with regard to his concerns for the change in times during the weekend and advised that some “do it” yourselfers expressed concerns to him as the change in time may hinder their household construction projects, as they can only do their work on the weekends. Councillor Wirischagin was advised that there is a clause in the bylaw that allows for written exemptions provided by the Bylaw Enforcement Services for special cases.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / KENDEL

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1963, “City of Grand Forks Noise Control Bylaw 1963, 2013”, BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

Councillor Wirischagin & Councillor Krog voted against the motion

- h) Manager of Building Inspection & Bylaw Services - Bylaw No. 1965 – New Fire & Life Safety Bylaw

On June 24th, Council gave three readings to the Fire & Life Safety Bylaw No. 1965

MOTION: WIRISCHAGIN / SMITH

RESOLVED THAT BYLAW NO. 1965, “City of Grand Forks Fire & Life Safety Bylaw 1965, 2013”, BE GIVEN FINAL READING.

CARRIED.

LATE ITEMS:

12(a) Wildlife Aware Program – Staff Memorandum

As per COTW's resolution at the July 22nd meeting to refer the Wildlife Aware issue to the July 22nd Regular Council meeting.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / WIRISCHAGIN

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL DETERMINES TO PROVIDE \$15,000 IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE WILD LIFE AWARENESS EDUCATION PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN THE PROVINCIAL GUIDELINES.

CARRIED.

Councillors Wyers, Krog and Kendel voted against the motion.

12(b) Public Presentation by Chris Moslin of the Grand Forks Trail Society to the Committee of the Whole during Question Period from the public. In Mr. Moslin's

presentation, he mentioned that if the City could provide the crush/gravel base that it may be cheaper for the City. Council referred the issue to the evening meeting in order to direct Staff to research the cost and resources of the City providing the gravel base to the City's portion of the trail.

MOTION: SMITH / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL DIRECTS STAFF TO RESEARCH THE POSSIBILITY OF UTILIZING AND SUPPLYING ITS OWN CRUSH-GRAVEL BASE TO THE CITY PORTION OF THE GRAND FORKS TRAILS PROJECT AND TO BRING BACK A REPORT TO COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO THE COST SAVINGS.

CARRIED.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

ROY RONAGHAN – Questioned why the speed limit in the Traffic Bylaw is 50 kmph and was advised that 50 kmph is the standard for municipal streets. The Mayor advised that he and the CAO will speak with the RCMP with regard to policing certain problem areas in the City. He spoke with regard to his visit to Chemainus and that their history is depicted with murals throughout the town.

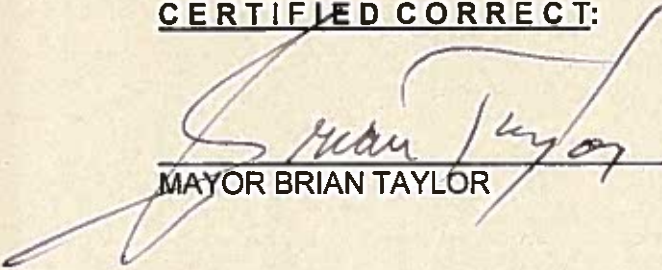
NIGEL JAMES – He advised of his delightment with regard to the City's beautification enhancements. He further spoke with regard to the Deer Committee and the article in the National Post newspaper. Mr. James further spoke with regard to the City offering welcoming messages to groups who utilize the City for their events such as the recent BMX event.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: SMITH

RESOLVED THAT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL BE ADJOURNED AT 8:56 P.M. CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR


CORPORATE OFFICER- DIANE HEINRICH

2013 EDABC Conference Report for council

Let us begin by saying that the EDABC conference was by far one of the most educational events we have ever attended.

Day 1 began with a new membership “meet and greet” where we met the president Dale Wheaton and the Chair Geoff Millar along with all of the new members of the association. We began an impromptu critique of our city brand, logo, and tagline with members of EDABC which continued throughout the conference and everyone thought all aspects of the brand were great, including members of other marketing companies. Our efforts are very positively received and speak well about the direction our City is going.

The ability to be in the same place with many provincial government representatives of various ministries as well as EDOs from all over the province was a definite advantage to gaining valuable knowledge in the ongoing Economic Development initiatives facing all communities.

Day 2 The key note speaker of the day was by the new Minister of Tourism, Minister Bond, who spoke about the provinces commitment to economic development and 800 million dollars in funding. The BC Jobs Plan and the Business Attraction Toolkit were two recent initiatives for communities to use in furthering economic initiatives.

A panel of presenters spoke about important BC economic sectors such as Destination BC, which is a 4 million dollar campaign. Part of the plan is to produce videos to promote BC to the Asian market. Another panelist spoke of the importance of water. 70 percent of all fresh water is used for land based agriculture and efforts are being made to reduce water usage while maintaining production levels. The final panelist spoke of a priority of the government to find ways to increase the number of women involved in science and technology as the numbers have been steadily decreasing.

Where is BC going from here, some interesting facts are,

- China’s growth is cooling to an annual rate of 7 percent

- GDP growth in Canada is 1.9
- BC's expected to be 2 percent
- In BC, unemployment is higher than expected and new jobs are leveling off
- The USA housing market is on the rise and Canada's is expected to follow and this should be good news for BC's economy.

Advantage BC informs companies about tax incentives for business in BC. We have a very competitive tax system in spite of going back to the two tax system.

Ignite BC is a government sponsored film tourism initiative. Presenters spoke about how and where to access information on selling to the provincial and federal governments. They also spoke about agricultural initiatives as well as where we can promote ourselves to the CME the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters association.

One of the most interesting programs we discovered is the Provincial Nominee Program. This a program where communities can apply to make a presentation to a group of prequalified foreign investors who have personally paid to attend to hear the pitches. These people are all here looking for opportunities to purchase existing businesses. 94 percent of the nominees stay in the province, there is up to 120 entrepreneurs per month and 50 percent have a million or more dollars to invest. 80 percent are Chinese and most of the rest are from Europe, Korea and India.

We had a rare opportunity to meet provincial business development manager from all of these countries and tell them about our great city and area. This information will be available in most embassies in EUROPE and is being promoted throughout many parts of the world. The opportunity should we chose to accept it is there for Grand Forks and the area to make plans and apply to be a part of this exciting opportunity. Venture Kamloops has found that promotional video was a key factor in making these presentations.

Day 3 The keynote address was by Dave Rendall called the FREAK FACTOR. This was interesting in that it showed how important it is to be different, freaky, quirky, etc. The things people are looking for when considering making a move are not going to somewhere that is the same as where they are; they want something new, exciting and unique. It is very important to embrace being different. Celebrate it and promote it. Normal is blasé.

Presenter spoke about foreign direct investment, the provincial government is working to have all information an individual may want all in a user friendly format to provide a one stop shop for investment in BC. The new website will integrate all information from all existing website and make it accessible in one location. It will be an integrated map of everything in BC.

We participated in a "Make a Pitch" exercise sponsored by Talisman Energy where Councillor Smith's team won the event and will be receiving a \$500 prize per person to sponsor a community initiative of their choice.

Another session was on 10 trends that are changing the future.

Day 4

Keynote speaker was Clemens Reitch on The Small Business Script for the twenty first Century. His message was simple in that businesses need to create an experience and focus on retaining customers. The message that the world today is fundamentally different than 20 or 30 years ago and therefore business need to adapt and operate in new and creative ways.

We would like to thank council for giving us the opportunity to go to this conference and we believe that in the future the knowledge gained here, and the many valuable contacts we made and friendships started will certainly benefit our community.