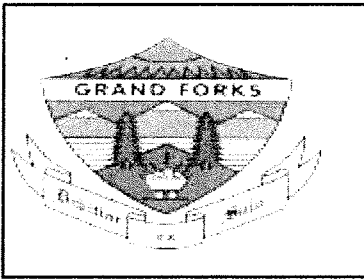


February 2006



City of Grand Forks Newsletter

www.city.grandforks.bc.ca

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Your City Council engaged in a two-day Strategic Planning Workshop to set the direction of the City during the term of this Council. The purpose of the workshop was to determine early in the term of Council the collective approaches for pursuance of significant issues facing this Community.

The Strategic Plan is designed to set a framework within which the City intends to pursue major activities and projects. *The Plan does not reflect the decision of Council on any particular issue and goal identified. Accordingly readers are cautioned to not rely on the dates as there is a lot more work to be done before any specific activity/goal can be accomplished.* As these issues are brought forward, Council will deliberate and debate before implementation. The Plan is designed to guide Council in making decisions. Pursuing unimportant or wrong issues can waste a lot of time, resources and energy. This Plan is designed to make this Council proactive rather than reactive.

It should be recognized that the City might not be able to achieve everything that is identified due to lack of funding, time constraints, lack of staff resources and other operating matters that might interfere and delay the result expected as identified in the Plan.

Council and Staff identified the following Primary Focus Areas and set these preliminary goals. The date listed beside each goal is very preliminary and subject to change without notice. The Plan once adopted becomes a guiding document that would be used to measure accomplishments against the general target specified in each specific area.



COMMUNITY AMENITIES

1. Complete Community Hall in time for Grand Opening Ceremony July 1, 2007.

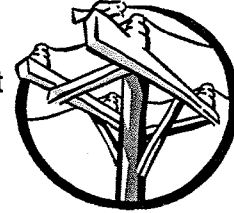
2. Complete Visitor Information

Centre for occupancy by September 15, 2006.

3. Make decision regarding Museum location by May 15, 2006.
4. Complete Museum ready for occupancy by May 31, 2007.
5. Clean up City Park waterfront area by June 15, 2006.
6. Review and revise City Park Plan to set priorities for Park by March 15, 2006.
7. Develop master plan for all City Parks, playing fields, trails, by March 15, 2007.
8. Persuade downtown business community to become involved in working pro-actively with us to make streets and alleys more attractive—1st meeting of comprehensive group by April 15, 2006.

The City would like to reduce the fire hazard at the Sand Creek Property this season. If you are interested in grazing livestock at this site, please contact City Hall at 442-8266. There may be some fence maintenance required at the property site.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- 
1. Develop electrical rate structure to ensure fairness and equity. Comparable with Fortis within 2 years. Start immediately, January 31, 2006.
 2. Water: in order to ensure equity and conservation of a limited resource.
 - Install metering by December 2007.
 - Implement universal metering rates by January 2008.
 3. Reservoir: completed engineering study by end of 2006.
 - Construction to begin in 2007.
 - Upgrade East end reservoir by Spring 2006; secure funding.
 4. Transportation: review with staff installation and upgrade of sidewalks and paving plan by end of March 2006.
 - Review road safety: within City limits - with Highways department.
 - Complete Coal Chute Connector in partnership with Highways by 2009.
 - Review Trail requirements to complete Trans Canada Trail from Coal Chute Connector to Highway 3 by December 2006.
 5. Assess needs of court operations to facilitate relocation.
 - March 2006.
 - Possible relocation of Museum and Visitor Information Centre into Court House.



PARTNERSHIPS

1. Meet with Council and Staff on a quarterly basis commencing January 31, 2006.
2. Meet with Union executive on a quarterly basis commencing February 15, 2006.
3. Council to meet jointly with area directors from C, D, E and City of Greenwood, Village of Midway to discuss Boundary issues on a quarterly basis commencing March 31, 2006.
4. Work with the 2010 Provincial Olympic Committee to bring a Pre Olympic competition to Grand Forks before 2010.
5. Attract funds to build relationship with Russian Olympic team because of our heritage.
6. Advise of availability of Grand Forks airport to bring athletes to West Kootenay areas. Advise

Trail, Red Mountain Olympic organizers within 60 days of airport availability.

1. Initiate contact with USCC within 30 days to assist with accommodating Russian athletes and to plan and advise of Council's intent.
2. Have Mayor and City Manager meet with key Ministers in Victoria to discuss Grand Forks issues annually during Legislative Session.
3. Meet M.P. on semi-annual basis commencing after Federal election to discuss and provide input on Federal issues.
4. Council to appoint Councillor as liaison to Chamber within 30 days who will attend Chamber meetings and keep Council and Chamber informed. Meet quarterly with Chamber Board and Council commencing February 15, 2006.
5. Council to appoint Councillor as liaison to Art Gallery within 30 days who will attend Art Gallery meetings and keep Council and Art Gallery informed. Meet quarterly with Art Gallery Board and Council commencing February 28, 2006.
6. Council to appoint Councillor as liaison to Museum within 30 days who will attend Museum meetings and keep Council and Museum informed. Meet quarterly with Museum Board and Council commencing March 1, 2006.
7. Communicate with Citizens by newsletter on a monthly basis.
8. Create link on City website inviting comments commencing December 10, 2005.
9. Ensure email address on all outgoing correspondence.
10. Conduct annual survey to prioritize services and issues in next 120 days.
11. Conduct community meetings away from Council Chambers twice per year commencing May 2006 and November 2006.
12. Train employees on handling customer complaints commencing February 2006.
13. Install video camera and sound system in Council Chambers before January 31, 2006.
14. Make public washrooms available when Visitor Information Centre has been relocated.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

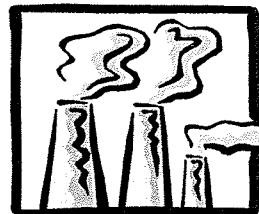
1. Commit funding in 2006-2010 Financial Plan—Business Licence Revenue to develop an Economic Development Strategy.
2. Identify Economic Development Partners prior to February 15, 2006. i.e. Existing Business Community: Chamber, Community Futures Development Corporation, Boundary Economic Development Committee, Tourism Commission.
3. Meet with partners by March 5, 2006 to develop terms of reference and select facilitator or Economic Development Strategy.
4. Develop Draft Strategy by June 16, 2006 through outside facilitation.
5. Receive consultant's/facilitator's report by October 15, 2006 for final recommendations.
6. Approve Final Report by November 30, 2006 (Council).
7. Initiate economic development strategy recommendations starting in January 2007.



QUALITY OF LIFE

ENVIRONMENT GOALS:

1. Initiate an Air Quality Management Plan that includes council, staff, industry, public groups and other levels of government by January 31, 2006.
2. Host a public forum with possible separate meeting with industry on receipt of data.
3. Revisit past reports concerning aquifers by March 31, 2006.
4. Participate in the annual River's Day cleanup in June 2006.
5. Investigate the Kettle River set back and public access by January 31, 2006
6. Investigating slag rolling into Granby River and potential damage by February 28, 2006.



PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY:

1. Write a letter to CPR concerning the Black Train Bridge and trails by January 31, 2006.
2. Instruct staff to develop a scheduled bus route/bus by January 31, 2006.

ARTS & CULTURE:

1. Establish a committee to facilitate the development of Arts and Culture by May 31, 2006.

COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY ADOPTED OR CHANGED THE FOLLOWING POLICIES WHICH ARE NOW IN EFFECT:

- Administrative Fairness
- Advertising & Promotions
- Council Agendas—Deadline for Closing
- Council Agendas—Closed Sessions
- Anonymous Complaints & Letters
- Correspondence—Incoming Mail
- Council Meetings—Delegation/Petition Protocol
- Council Interference
- Communications—Information to Media
- Distribution of Reports & Documents
- Plaques on City Property
- Proclamations
- Sidewalk Patios on City Property
- Travel Expenses
- Unbudgeted Items
- Vending/Commercial use of Public Property
- Half Masting of Canadian Flag
- Freeman of the City Award
- Workshop & Conference Attendance
- Certificates of Merit
- Ethical standards & Conduct
- Remuneration, Allowance, Benefits
- Remuneration Review
- Noise Control Bylaw Guidelines
- Unsightly Premises Guidelines
- Grants in Aid
- Grand Forks Senior Secondary Scholarships
- Permissive Tax Exemptions
- Tax Exemptions Churches & Hospitals



For information on any of these policies, please contact City Hall.

RECENT COUNCIL MEETING DECISIONS

January 9th, 2006

- **Application for Rancho Mirage Strata Conversion**
Resolved that the application be received and the City's Approving Officer be authorized to sign the Certificate of Approval (Form T).
- **Application for Boundary Hospital Development Variance Permit**
Approved by Council.
- **Bylaw 1794- Changes to Council Procedures and Structure of Meetings**

Adopted by Council.

January 23rd, 2006

- **Proposal call for Campground Operating Services for 2006-2008**
Council authorized the City Manager to commence a request for proposals for a campground operating service contract for 2006-2008.
- **Proposal call for Visitors Information Centre for 2007-2008**
Council authorized the City Manager to commence request for proposals for the operation of the Visitors Information Centre for 2007-2008.

- **Air Quality Management**

Staff was directed to invite stakeholders to a meeting toward the establishment of an Air Quality Committee, establish a budget of \$5,000 for the committee and request that Regional District contribute \$5,000 also.

- **Bylaw 1795 - Water Rates Amendment**

Adopted by Council - no change to yearly water rates.

- **Bylaw 1796 - Sewer Rates Amendment**

Adopted by Council - No changes to yearly sewer rates.

- **Bylaw 1798—Garbage Rates Amendment**

Adopted by council - Weekly residential garbage pickup rates to be \$1.82.

February 6th, 2006

- **Grand Forks Airport**

Resolved that staff be directed to bring forward a report on the possible fees and charges to be implemented at the Grand Forks Airport.

- **Bylaw 1797 - Electrical Utility Rates**

Council gave first three readings to Bylaw 1797.

Final adoption will take place at the February 20th meeting of Council.

- **Bylaw 1799—2006-2010 Financial Plan**

Council gave first three readings to Bylaw 1799. Final adoption will take place at the February 20th meeting of Council.

RECENT & UPCOMING MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

- Communities in Bloom
- Community Centre Focus Group—ongoing to end of February
- Air Quality Management
- Meetings with Industry Representatives
- Council training sessions on legal issues and Community Charter issues
- The City will be hosting the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government on April 27-29. Approximately 200 delegates are expected to attend.

ELECTRICAL UTILITY UPDATE

Council has given first three readings to Bylaw 1797. This Bylaw will change electrical rates for residential & commercial users.

Commercial rates will move immediately to be equal to or slightly less than the Fortis rate (based on Fortis application for a 5.9% rate increase). A basic monthly charge of \$10.00 will be implemented starting January 1, 2006.

Residential rates will rise over 2 years so that by the end of 2008 the City's residential rate will be no less than 98% of the Fortis rate at the time or 2% less than the average in the Fortis interior customer service area. A basic charge of \$5.00 will be implemented starting January 1, 2006.



Once a month yard and garden waste will be collected for the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November.

There will be no annual spring cleanup. This program is only available to City residents receiving curbside garbage collection.

North Side of Highway 3 between Riverside Drive and North Fork Road (Current Wednesday garbage pick up)

March 20, April 17, May 15, June 12, July 10, Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 13

Ruckle Addition and Valley Heights (Current Tuesday garbage pick up)

March 21, April 18, May 16, June 13, July 11, Aug 22, Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 14

South Side of Highway 3 between Riverside Drive and Spraggett Road (Current Thursday pick-up)

March 24, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 14, August 25, Sept 22, Oct 20, Nov 17.

How Much and Type of Container

Three cans or bags or bundles. Can be any combination as long as it is a volume equal to three cans per month.

Cans to be set out without the lid. If plastic bags are used, they must be clear and you must be able to see what is inside the bag. Waste will be picked up if it is in a regular garbage can (no lid), in a clear plastic bag, (or in the case of tree prunings) bundled.

What You Can Put Out

Grass, Leaves, and similar garden materials.

Tree prunings must be three inches in diameter or less and three feet long or less tied in bundles not exceeding the equivalent of a garbage can.

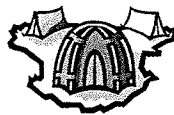
Acceptable Yard and Garden Waste

Grass, lawn and hedge clippings, grass sod, flowers, weeds, leaves, vegetables, stalks, shrubs and tree branches less than three inches in diameter.



If you have questions please contact Alpine Disposal at 442-3320

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS



Request for Proposals 2006-2008 City Campground Services

The City of Grand Forks is interested in receiving proposals for the operation of City Park campground for the City. The contract will begin in May and end in October each year.

Documents outlining the specific services required, as well as a form of contract that is being proposed, are available at City Hall or on the City's website at www.city.grandforks.bc.ca/city/bulletin. Tours of the municipal campground facility can be arranged for those parties interested in submitting a proposal.

Proposals clearly marked "City Park Campground Services Contract" will be received by the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer up to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 31st, 2006 at Grand Forks City Hall 7217 - 4th St. Box 220 Grand Forks, B.C. V0H 1H0

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

Inquiries should be directed to Dan Zabinsky, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer at 442-8266.

Notice given this 26th day of January, 2006.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

The City has recently been alerted to illegal dumping activities within City Limits. The City will be working with the Regional District to prosecute the offenders based on eye witnesses and evidence left at the site.

BE AWARE — There are people watching everywhere.

IF THE CITY FINDS ANY ILLEGAL DUMPING WE WILL PROSECUTE ALL OFFENDERS

HOUSE NUMBERS



Now that Spring is arriving, please ensure that your house number is visible from the street so that emergency vehicles can locate a proper address when they are called.

6160