

Discover Grand Forks - January 14

On January 14, I attended a meeting of the Discover Grand Forks Committee as the Council representative. Corporate Officer Drexler also attended. This committee has been charged with the implementation of the Roger Brooks plan and the municipality is committed to enacting as much of this plan as possible. Cindy Alblas from Boundary Country Tourism presented a proposal for the committee to send a delegate to the Tourism Trade Show in Vancouver at the end of February. The cost would be \$2000. There is money assigned to this committee with about \$30000 available so it was decided to send a representative along with as many promotional materials that could be found on short notice.

The Trails subcommittee also made an extensive report with recommendations following Brooks plan to make Grand Forks 'Bike Town BC'. Upgraded trails maps will be produced once quotes are gathered. These maps will be displayed eventually on kiosks, in print materials and digitally. The Trails Subcommittee requested that the city assist in the clear marking of the 'Great Trail' through Grand Forks. Signs will be provided by the Trails Society while the city will identify approved sign locations for volunteers to post. There was also discussion about the possible locations of a 'Pump Track' - basically a BMX track for younger children. The Trails subcommittee will also suggest locations for additional bike racks in the downtown area. The subcommittee will also monitor and report on the Trails Master Plan initiated by the Regional District.

There was also discussion about the installation of a Portland Loo which would follow the Brooks recommendation to provide a public bathroom downtown. Although expensive this essential infrastructure would provide an all-weather bathroom for citizens and visitors in our downtown core.

The next meeting for this group is scheduled for February 14.

Grand Forks Social Service Advisory Group - January 15

Of course, the big news of the week was the commencement of an Extreme Cold Weather Shelter at 7500 Donaldson. This had been the focus of the Advisory Group for months, but it was the prospect of extreme cold that prompted Boundary Family Support Services to undertake the task of managing this facility with BC Housing funding and community oversight. The meeting on the 15th provided Darren Pratt and BFSS the opportunity to describe how their management would create the 'Good Neighbor Agreement' that the community needs to make the shelter program a success. After the discussion the group passed a motion endorsing the BFSS shelter operation and requesting that Council suspend enforcement of its bylaws until April 1.

The next critical task for this hard-working group is to make the plans necessary to conduct a 'Point-in-Time' count later this spring. Representatives from the different agencies around the table will provide the different skill sets necessary to enumerate the homeless population in the Grand Forks community. I will report more details about this count in the weeks ahead. It is hoped that the count will bring a better community understanding of the extent and nature of this cultural phenomena that is occurring our town.

AKBLG Resolution - Jan 20

Together with the Mayor and our Corporate Assistant, Kevin McKinnon, I discussed the background, the need and the decision pathways that could take our Council's concern about the lack of an Emergency Weather Response Plan (EWRP) from a motion at the AKBLG this spring to the UBCM in the fall. This proposed motion will be presented at tonight's meeting in time for resolution deadline at the end of this month.

CAO Interviews - Jan 23, 24

Under the guidance of our Interim CAO, Ron Mattiussi, Council shortlisted 4 candidates for the CAO position. Council is indebted to Ron as his depth of experience has led the hiring process here as it did just recently in Summerland. The CAO is the only employee of the city that Council gets to pick. A great deal of thought has gone into the screening and interview questions. These candidates are all well qualified and experienced leaders in municipal government. The choice will be difficult as the successful applicant will have to lead our town as it rebuilds and rebrands itself. Sometime in the near future Council will announce the successful applicant.