

**GFSSAG**

This advisory group met on Feb. 12 and was attended by myself and Councillor Thompson, who ably chaired the meeting. There were various updates from different agencies as well as a report by the Point-in-Time subcommittee. The update from the Safe Stay Shelter informed us that there is an average of 5 clients per night. There have been no complaints for far. There was a public meeting for the neighbours of the shelter on Feb 14 at the curling rink that about a dozen people attended. More importantly, it was reported that BFSS will submit an Extreme Weather Response Plan for next year. Finally, we have a local provider for next year who should take this issue out of Council's hands. Thank-you BFSS for a job well done! The GFSSAG meeting was also informed that the GF Seniors Society is no longer in Veronica Lodge as the pipes froze and forced their eviction. Once again, they have been flooded out. This is truly unfortunate and I wonder what, if anything, the city can do. Gary Smith from the Phoenix Foundation also brought the group's attention to the Feb 20 release of the Vital Signs 2020 project which measure the health of our community.

At this time, it appears that the PiT count is going to need administrative support in the form of photocopying for the survey. I would like to formally request that assistance now.

"moved that the City of Grand Forks provide photocopying assistance to the Point-in-Time count."

Fortunately, experienced assistance has been recruited in the form of the provincial outreach person, Heather Elliot. Deb Claus who works for BC Housing and is in charge of other provincial counts has also come online.

Finally, one suggestion that did come from the meeting is that the group should eventually compile a social services 'Wish List' to put to the community, NPO's, as well as local and senior governments.

**Discover Grand Forks**

At the Feb 11th meeting it was announced that a new marketing coordinator, Sara Dinsdale, will be starting on March 23. Part of her duties will be to coordinate this committee and guide it towards implementation of the Roger Brooks plan. At this meeting it was proposed that a new outdoor skating rink be built near the old Whisper's site. Two businesses, Dave Dale Insurance and Ultimate Hockey, would sponsor this build. This is very difficult with the planned infrastructure works, but it does show the attraction and potential of this part of town. This is the third proposal for this site I have seen in the past few months. I am hopeful that our flood mitigation works will eventually take into account community aspirations for 'the forks'. Finally, plans for new maps and brochures are moving ahead with a budget allocation being given to their design. The Trails subcommittee is working hard on this proposal and hopes to have it developed enough for Council's consideration for the April 6 COTW presentation by the Discover GF Committee.

**Recreation Commission**

On Feb. 13th I attended a regular meeting of the Recreation Commission which was established by bylaw in 1997 to guide the administration of the arena and aquatic center. There is some concern from this group of citizen volunteers because 5 of its members will no longer be able to serve past this year, having reached the end of their 6-year terms. The other concern of the group is that if the Community Center proposal and referendum is successful the governing bylaw is going to have to be revisited to assist with the governance of the new facility. One really good recommendation that did come from this meeting was brought to the committee by one of its members, Nigel James. Nigel requested and the committee approved that drop-in fees for anyone over 80 visiting the facilities would be waived. It pays to stay fit while getting older!