

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Councillor Christine Thompson
DATE: January 29, 2018
SUBJECT: Report to Council

As the City's liaison to the Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce, I attended their monthly Board Meeting on January 18, 2018, where I received a very warm welcome. The Board was advised that Juice FM has appointed a new member representative – Alex Richardson. While Mr. Richardson is from Comox, he has family here in our City and as I understand it, will be attending as many meetings as possible. The Board discussed their 2018 annual budget requirements, and while a grant of \$15,000 has been requested from the City, they will have to endeavour to raise additional funds to achieve some of their objectives in 2018. Several options were considered and will be announced by them at the appropriate time. Also discussed was the issue that former Councils and the Chamber had discussed regarding their fee for service being based on a percentage of business licence fees collected. (Perhaps this is something that Council and the Chamber can consider over the coming year.) The BCRCC will be having a general meeting of all members on January 29th at their newest member's place of business, the Thyme and Plate. At that meeting, a resolution to change bylaw clause 4.38 dealing with quorum for Board Meetings from two-thirds (2/3) of voting Members of the Board to a minimum of three (3) voting members of the Board. This is consistent with what other Chambers have in their bylaws. The reasoning behind this resolution is that it can be very difficult for Board Members travelling from one community to the next being hampered from arriving either by accidents (as happened twice in 2017) or winter road conditions that can make it dangerous to travel. While there was a quorum at this meeting, one Board Member could only participate by phone and that was while he was working. Lastly, the Board determined that their 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27th, time and location to be announced.

The Phoenix Foundation held its monthly Board Meeting on Friday, January 19th, having postponed it from Wednesday due to the power outage. It was with regret that the Board accepted the resignation of Director Ellen Strelaef as she will be moving out of our area. Not unlike the Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce, this Board also has issues with achieving quorum for some meetings. Currently there are nine directors on the Board. Bylaw clause 5(j) requires that there must be two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors in attendance at a meeting to form quorum. There have been times when the required five (5) directors could not be achieved thereby causing a meeting to be cancelled. Therefore, the Board will be considering a resolution to reduce this requirement to the following: More than half the number of Directors currently serving is required for quorum.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor Christine Thompson