

Councillor's Report

February 26, 2018

Julia Butler

I'd like to congratulate the whole community on another fabulous Family Day weekend here in Grand Forks. Not only was it great to have so many volunteers and free activities planned all around town but the participation level from citizens, was really excellent. I wasn't able to get around to the events downtown, as I volunteered for the gymnastics association booth, helping to spread the word of the new club and generate a list of interested families and volunteers. The board is tasked with many hurdles before opening the new facility, from equipment to venue selection, grant writing, programming – the list is extensive. But just as extensive, is the list of people willing to offer their expertise, to create a program that Grand Forks has been needing for a long time! Check out the new Facebook page, Flippin' Fun Gymnastics.

The Rec Commission meeting for February was cancelled last week due to lack of quorum. We did, however, approve an endorsement for the Learning Garden's grant application to the Phoenix Foundation, via emails.

On Thursday, February 15th, I attended the COP (Citizens on Patrol) meeting at Community Futures. After listening to the requirements and duties to become a member, I decided to sign up, get my criminal record check and take some shifts. It's a great way to get involved in crime prevention and help inform the RCMP of suspicious activities around town. The group meets once a month and is always looking for new volunteers.

From May 31st to June 1st I will be attending the Building Intersections 2018 Rural Health Services Research Conference in Nelson, BC. This conference will explore issues of health, wellness, and equity in rural settings, supporting capacity building on innovative methodologies for applied research. Presentations will explore strategies for genuine engagement and create dialogue about the implications of research findings for both rural communities and service organizations. The goal is to spark partnerships for transformative research and knowledge translation. Presentations will explore issues of access such as transportation, primary care, ethics, collective definitions, roles, and resources for enabling vibrant rural communities. Priority will be given to key health equity issues, including mental health and Indigenous health. The 150 participants will include indigenous community leaders and Elders, rural community representatives and advocates, health systems decision makers and administrators, health professionals, nurses, and physicians, students from across multiple disciplines, representatives from across policy sectors, local governments and researchers. I am looking to represent our community voice at the conference and would encourage anyone wishing to have input, to contact me with their submissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Butler