

Councillor Report to March 12, 2018

Councillor Chris Hammett

- **Gilpin Grasslands committee meeting**

- *Attended with Councillors Thompson and Ross*
- *Reviewed our briefing notes that were presented to Ministry staff during our meeting at UBCM and suggested that we need to discuss this with MP Richard Cannings during our lunch meeting on March 12*
- *Barry has spoken to an environmentalist in our region who would like to attend our next meeting*
- *We would like to get together with other municipalities at the AKBLG to see if other jurisdictions are experiencing similar problems and look at possible solutions*

- **Vancouver Foundation meeting**, hosted by the Phoenix Foundation

- *Attended a presentation by the Vancouver Foundation and learned about their new mandate. All new grants applications must be socially innovative and address change to systemic problems. An interesting group conversation took place on how local groups could collaborate together.*
- *Agreed to participate in a 2 part group discussion for the Phoenix Foundation on March 15 & 29.*

- **Downtown Business Association**

- Heritage Sign project***

- *This project has been so successful that participation has exceeded the initial estimates for both the Heritage sign and the horizontal store signs. An additional grant has been applied for to subsidize the balance of the signs and complete phase 2 of the project – the Heritage Walking Tour brochures.*

- FrightFest 2018***

- *Plans are underway for this year's FrightFest that will be launched with a Pumpkin Growing Contest. Seeds will be provided by the DBA.*

- Family Day***

- *The DBA met with Community Futures in January to confirm their participation in Family Day, which is a city event that was contracted to CF this year.*
 - *The DBA had a table with hand-outs giving people a heads up about the Pumpkin Growing Contest and provided cookies, while the Wooden Spoon offered cupcakes and hot chocolate. Buy-Low Foods signed up kids for an in-store kids club and several other businesses had events outside their premises.*
 - *There were in excess of 400 people that attended the events downtown, which for the long term, is great exposure for our local downtown businesses.*
 - *The board of the DBA will meet with the Mayor and council on Tuesday, March 6 for a roundtable discussion surrounding issues concerning the downtown core. I will have to report on the results of this meeting since the councillors reports were due prior.*

- General Meeting***

- *There will be a DBA general meeting, open to all members, city staff and council on April 10 – location and time to be determined.*

- **Grand Forks International Baseball tournament**

- Grant application***

- *I have applied for a grant for this year's GFI to assist with making JD Park more accessible for wheelchairs, strollers, walkers etc., as well as just making it easier for walking from the front gates to the first base dugout; also for safety netting along the 3rd base line, and paid security for 5 nights out of the 6.*
 - *The GFI will be applying to the city for permission to use their CRA#.*

- Tournament changes for 2018***

- *Changes this year include changing the tournament from 6 days to 7, 25 games to 27, and 12 teams to 10, with more play time for each. We feel that by shorting the days, we will experience less volunteer burn-out. 8am games will be reduced, and the last game of the day will start at 7pm rather than 8pm, thus allowing for earlier closing times.*
 - *There will be a NEW Home Run Derby in place of a game immediately following the Opening Ceremonies on the Wednesday night.*
 - *This yea, Weekend passes, Family passes, and Tournament passes will be available at new lower rates, along with early bird Reserved Seating passes that include a value added GFI Stadium seat cushion.*

- Volunteers***

- *We will have a table at the Volunteer Fair that will be held later this month, hoping to secure past volunteers and recruit new ones. Volunteer sign up forms are currently available at the Source, the Gazette, Thistle Pot Gifts, and Community Futures.*

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- **co-oporatives first**

- *Attended a presentation by co-operatives first, facilitated by Community Engagement Coordinator – Kyle White, based out of Saskatoon*
 - *Co-operatives first offers a free service to assist businesses and community groups form co-ops, “from power production to seniors housing and daycares to grocery stores, the co-operative model performs well where other business models and government don’t. It’s a different – and sometimes better way to do business”.*
 - *We discussed existing co-ops within our community and looked at other potential co-op opportunities for Grand Forks, including housing.*
 - *I have a power-point presentation and web links to share with anyone interested.*