

February 11th, 2019 Councillor Moslin's Report

There are two critical issues facing our city right now: flood mitigation and housing. I would like to report on each today and propose a motion that I would like Council to consider forwarding to the AKBLG.

City staff with the Boundary Flood Recovery Team continue to work on preparations for freshet 2019. David Reid, the city's manager of operations, is hoping to start the construction of the rip rap armoring of the river bank in South Ruckle by the 19th of this month. The rock has been ordered. The land survey is completed. Preliminary designs have been shared. Section 11 permits are in hand. David is still trying to get right of way agreements in order with the land owners involved. But at this point it looks really positive that construction can start on this essential piece of city infrastructure.

And Paul Edmond continues to work with RDKB and city staff to develop an emergency response plan that will take advantage of local volunteers and their know how. If you are in a flood impacted neighborhood you can expect to hear much more about how you can help prepare for spring freshet by the end of March.

The second issue facing our community and region is the lack of housing. BC Housing has initiated two projects that will add to our city's housing spectrum and go a long way to addressing that need. Although both projects have been cleared by the city's planning department, the public still has concerns about their impact. Unfortunately, BC Housing continues to insist that they know best and they are in the best position to decide the location and timing of these investments. This 'professional reliance' excludes the input from local government and the community that could make these projects fit our community rather than forcing our community to fit the projects. Therefore, I presented a motion for Council's consideration at this morning's COTW meeting. If approved this motion will carry on for further debate at the meeting of the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments in late April in Castlegar. If approved there, it will be carried forward to this fall's session of the Union of BC Municipalities.

Proposed Motion for AKBLG

Whereas the City of Grand Forks has been devastated by a recent flood and is challenged to protect and to rebuild its downtown core as a vibrant commercial area;

Whereas BC Housing failed to consult Council about the location or size of the facility before land was purchased and a design chosen and the project put to tender;

Be it resolved that BC Housing seek local government's approval before supportive housing initiatives are tendered for construction.