

Councilor's Report

May 29, 2017

Julia Butler

(Questions in this report that require an answer are highlighted in blue.)

Mr. Mayor, Council, Staff and Members of the Public,

The recent developments at the Chamber of Commerce have led me to ask myself many questions. This led me to attend the AGM and speak with the director and members of the board. I was disappointed I hadn't done so sooner. I wondered why we hadn't been kept up to date all along with progress and problems of the organization. As I wasn't the liaison for this group, I just assumed it was under control and quarterly reports to council seemed to confirm this. Somewhere there must be a breakdown of communication in our system and I would like to suggest what that breakdown is and how to fix it.

Yes the Chamber has had some issues following their bylaws, which has already been brought to light recently but I think if council had been following our own Policy 307, "Committee Protocol", a lot of the problems at the Chamber could have been nipped in the bud. Procedure 5 of this policy states: "Minutes of all board, commission or ad hoc committee meetings shall be forwarded through the clerk to Council to be considered at the next council meeting." As the rep to the Rec Commission I try to always forward the agenda and minutes to the rest of council and CAO. I have asked the rest of council to do likewise with the tables they sit at but have never seen minutes from the Chamber, Phoenix Foundation, Deer Committee (when it was active) or others. We may only have the time to briefly scan these items on an email or agenda but the information is easily available on our "First Class" system, should we choose to delve deeper. The Mayor has stated numerous times that he doesn't want council reps on different boards because it could turn into a game of "telephone" with accurate information not being conveyed. Supplying official minutes from the different groups, would solve this problem and keep council better informed, than no reps at all. We know that meetings of the Chamber are not in camera because Councillor Hammett has discussed them numerous times in her reports last year when she was the Council rep.

Procedure 7 states: "Council members should not be expected to make motions at advisory board, commission or ad hoc Committee meetings where the majority of such bodies are public members. Council members should, however, always be free to vote and voice their opinion on such issues." I like this procedure as it prevents council from dominating public groups while still being able to have input. A member of the public at our last regular meeting shared his experience of being on the library board and how the council rep, at that time, was there mainly to view the meeting and report back to council. This theme is also carried through into Procedure 9 which states: "No member of council shall give specific direction to any staff member at any committee/board/commission meeting. The responsibility for giving specific direction to staff shall reside with the full Council at a duly assembled meeting unless otherwise delegated to the senior staff member(s)." This should be well understood by council as the

same rules apply at city hall. Council members are not to throw their weight around at committees of council or other board tables in the community.

If Policy 307 were more explicit in stating that these same rules apply to other committees/boards/commissions, in the community, to which councilors are appointed, then it would be more effective in reaching its purpose: "Creation of agencies, boards, commissions and committees is to provide input and consultations on issues of direct relevance to the good governance of the Community." Council liaisons appointed to the many different boards for oversight, bringing back the official minutes for discussion would improve communication and help avoid future problems.

In conclusion, I would like to ask our CAO for clarification on bylaw enforcement procedures. When people in the community bring complaints or questions to me about bylaw infractions, I need to be able to give them knowledgeable answers on if, and how, their issues will be dealt with. [Can you please provide to council the policies and procedures used by this department? Also, as we are now enforcing the parking bylaw can this please be put on the website for the publics' information? I'm also wondering if it is premature to enforce this bylaw before the "2 hour limit" signs are put up in the downtown core? Without these signs being posted or the bylaw readily available, is it fair to begin enforcement?](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Butler