

BFR Transitioning

The BFR Leadership team presented a memo to Council on April 24th describing a process to end the response process and emerge out of the state of Local Emergency. The city is no longer in this 'state' but the RD remains with several houses under Evacuation order. Chair Russell commented that there needs to be clarity about who owns what in 6 months. Director McGregor cautioned that local government must stop trying to do everything for people. The BFR team also briefed the DBA this week about funding alternatives for downtown flood protection. As we transition out of the emergency, new possibilities to reshape our town are going to appear.

Women's Shelter Opening

Also on April 24th I attended the celebratory opening of the Women's Transition House. This state-of-the-art community resource was the result of collaboration between BC Housing, the City of Grand Forks and the Boundary Women's Coalition. To help celebrate this opening, citizens are welcome to make donations of new household, personal and entertainment items that women and families can use while living here.

AKBLG

From Friday, April 26th to Sunday April 28th I attended the AKBLG in Castlegar. This event was successfully hosted by the city of Castlegar at its Community Recreation complex, the Sandman Inn, and the new city hall. All four of Council's motions were endorsed, but it remains to be seen which ones will be forwarded to UBCM as the Association has a practice of forwarding the five most important selected by the delegates online. Over the three days there were a variety of speakers and discussions: from an explanation of the Columbia Basin Trust to an inspiring keynote speaker that cautioned local politicians can lose focus on their mission when they listen to the 'Grumpy Gus'. Congratulations to Chair Russell on assuming the president's role of the AKBLG.

Town Hall Meeting on Social Support Services

I regret that I could not attend this important public meeting but I have watched it on GFTV. I look forward to hearing from other councillors who did attend and whatever initiative the community with Council would like to take on supporting these services.

Communications

There has been lots of recent FaceBook discussion about the lack of a regular update of city activities. Once every two weeks Councillors report back to Council about their activities and observations about the community. These reports are public and handed in 6 days before each regular meeting of Council. They appear in printed form within the regular meeting agenda. If staff or any member of the public wish to use any part of these reports for a local publication, they are more than welcome. We miss the Gazette reporter; however, we do owe Less and Lorraine a huge thank-you for filming and cataloguing and digitally filing entire public meetings.