

**The Grand Forks Social Services Advisory Group**

On August 13th, the Grand Forks Social Services Advisory Group met with the Mayor and Councilor Korolek present. The meeting focused on Council's decision to enforce its bylaws on June 24th. The majority of the table including health care providers and the RCMP believed that forcing the 'Warming Center' away from the Donaldson Drive location was a mistake. The meeting was also in unanimous agreement that a year-round shelter is necessary. At the end of the meeting a resolution was passed calling upon Council to rescind that decision so that the Donaldson building can be used for a temporary winter shelter this year. We have received the letter from the Chair of the meeting, Everett Baker. Unfortunately, this reconsideration would not be advisable as it contravenes Council's own Procedures Bylaw which restricts reconsideration to a 6 months period. Moreover, it is highly unlikely that the necessary unanimous motion to reconsider at this meeting would pass. Furthermore, the city is being sued by the building's owner and future negotiations are impossible until that is resolved. It is hard to imagine a worse mess. Another temporary solution for an extreme weather shelter is being sought and it is hoped that it could be rotated through churches and halls.

Nonetheless, it behooves Council to lead this issue by defining these services and zoning their use. Council has instructed staff to ready definitions and recommendations on zoning for later this month. I truly hope the Advisory Committee will assist us with that as well.

**"Moved that Council receives the Advisory Committee's recommendation for a year-round shelter and requests the Advisory Committee's input on appropriate zoning for this facility."**

**Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund**

On August 20th Council had a special in-camera meeting to discuss the DMAF project and its impact on the community. The minutes for this meeting are going to be released and will illustrate the difficult decisions Council faces with this successful grant application. Then on August 26th Council reviewed the flood plain mapping developed by Urban Systems in a workshop with staff. Five different scenario's were presented that illustrated what would happen if the river once again reached 2018 flood levels with the proposed dikes in place.

**"Moved that the flood plain mapping workshop of August 26th be presented to the community at a public meeting."**

**Discover Grand Forks**

On August 19<sup>th</sup> I attended the second meeting of the Discover Grand Forks Association which is working on implementing the recommendations of Roger Brooks. The trails subcommittee will be applying for a Credit Union grant to improve trails signage in and outside of Grand Forks. This subcommittee is also looking forward to participating in the Regional District's Trails Master Plan discussions. They are hopeful that a trails coordinator will eventually be hired for this area by the Regional District. After the subcommittee meeting, the entire association met to discuss how the new way faring signage will sync with the logo's and colors recommended by this group. The beautification process of the new Market District was highlighted and everyone who lives in Grand Forks needs to go hang out downtown - it is indeed beautiful and there is so much more to come.

**And a big thank-you to Purplestain and Scottycat for creating the Discover Boundary Country geocache tour. This well planned and beautifully crafted tour takes geocachers to 25 of the Boundary's most scenic and historic sites.**