

# Council Meeting Highlights October 24, 2016

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Public Hearing to transfer portion of 35 Rockland to neighbouring 1345 Galerno property Council held a public hearing on a proposal to rezone a portion of land to be subdivided from 35 Rockland Rd. and consolidated with 1345 Galerno Rd. The City and the applicant have entered into a purchase and sale agreement with the condition that this land be rezoned from public area to residential and that a covenant be placed on this land that prohibits future development or construction to protect trees surrounding an area where there was previously an eagle tree.

# Public hearing for rezoning of Quinsam Coal property

Council held a public hearing for the Quinsam Coal Mine to designate and zone the subject lands as business and industrial service area and industrial to make them consistent with the adjacent Quinsam Coal properties. The subject lands are former areas of Strathcona Regional District and were brought into the City of Campbell River's boundaries in December 2015. To align with the City of Campbell River's Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw, these lands need to be designated and zoned appropriately.

## Sybil Andrews Cottage request for automatic watering system

Friends of Sybil Andrews Cottage requested that the City install an automatic watering system at the property as the society is having difficulty maintaining the landscaping through hand watering. Council referred the funding request to 2017 budget planning and requested a staff report on costs.

The heritage and tourist site is headquarters to the Campbell River Arts Council and the former home of internationally-acclaimed artist Sybil Andrews, who moved to Campbell River in 1947, where she lived until her death in December of 1992. Council also asked the society to investigate cost-sharing options with the Willow Point Business Improvement Association and other organizations that have contributed to Sybil Andrews Cottage restoration.

#### **CR Seniors Centre Society grant request for staff position**

The society provided an update on program success at the CR Seniors Centre and requested that Council provide one-time funding for a staff person in the centre's kitchen for one year. Meal revenues pay for programs at the centre, which serve 80 to 100 people per day. Funding the position for one year would allow the society to apply for operating grants. Council referred the request for an operational grant of \$45,000 to provide for a staff position for the CR Seniors Centre Society to 2017 financial planning with a request for a staff report.

## **Council adopts Permissive Tax Exemption**

Council adopted the bylaw, which grants \$790,310 in tax exemptions to 82 organizations that provide community benefits in three categories of either health, housing and community services, culture and recreation or property used for city purposes. Of that funding, \$426,780 is contributed by the City, and the remainder provided by the other taxing authorities such as the school district, hospital district and regional district.

Council discussed the need to review the terms and conditions of permissive tax exemptions, in particular for organizations benefiting from no taxation on bare land holdings.



#### Third reading for 241 Jacqueline Rd.

The proposal would amend the residential estate zoning to add secondary residence as a permitted use. Rezoning the property would permit a secondary residence for people who would support the hobby farm operation on the property.

The proposal is generally consistent with the OCP and zoning bylaw and includes a restrictive covenant to ensure the property remains as a large parcel able to accommodate small scale farming operations. The proposed bylaw was given first and second reading on Sept. 22, 2016.

## Zoning Bylaw revision adopted to update re: marijuana operations

Council gave third reading and adopted a text amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to update the definition of marijuana operation and permit the use in certain zones. On May 16, 2016 the City adopted a zoning bylaw amendment that formally recognized this land use in the zoning bylaw in response to marijuana retail outlets that had illegally established in Campbell River. The use was not added as a permitted use to any of the zones within the zoning bylaw to allow time to review federal legislation and recommend how medical marijuana facilities could potentially be permitted. The proposed amendment recommends a further change to the definition of marijuana operation to directly connect the use with Health Canada licensing, which establishes a series of regulations around security, quality control, and many other elements a facility must abide by as conditions of their licence. The amendment also proposes to allow marijuana operations in certain industrial and agricultural zones (I2, A1 and A2). Due to Health Canada licensing requirements, the use is substantially the same as other light industrial uses permitted in these zones. Consistent with federal law, retail sales of either medical or recreational marijuana would remain prohibited in Campbell River. The proposed bylaw was given first and second reading on Sept. 22, 2016 and the public hearing is was held on Oct. 11.

#### Council to launch tourism advisory committee

The City will advertise for members to serve on the new tourism advisory committee that will provide policy advice and recommendations to Council to advance the City's tourism vision, and deliver measureable returns in destination marketing, visitor services and destination development.

#### OCP review first and second reading

Council has provided first and second readings and directed staff to set a public hearing for the OCP review project. The OCP review project began in February 2016. Over the past seven months, five public engagement sessions were held to collect feedback and direction for community stakeholders. The goal of the project is to complete minor amendments to the Sustainable Official Community Plan; to align the Sustainable Official Community Plan (SOCP) and Zoning Bylaw; and to revise some policies to clarify the interpretation of the SOCP. The public hearing will be held Nov. 7, 2016.

Council limits 1003 Island Highway – Dockside Fish and Chips – to 30-square-foot sign Council did not approve an application for 1003 Island Highway that would have allowed three fascia signs to be located on the western façade of the Dockside Fish and Chips building. Council approved a development variance permit to allow one fascia sign no greater than 2.79 square metres (30 square feet) to be located on the western façade of the Dockside Fish and Chips building. Council directed staff to enforce the removal of non-compliant signs at the Dockside Fish and Chips business.



## RCMP 2016 Report.

RCMP officer in charge Jeff Preston provided Council with his report regarding 2015, outlining Campbell River's crime severity rating as compared with the province's other communities with a population of more than 10,000. Inspector Preston advised that Campbell River's decrease in crime severity index is unmatched by any community of similar size – a direct result of decrease in violent crimes, both numbers and severity. He added that while, overall, violent crime has dropped since 2010, Campbell River RCMP have received an increase in calls for service largely related to mental health services. Files of interest include charges and jail sentences for child pornography, home invasion and drug related incidents.

#### 2016 citizen satisfaction survey results

Results of this September's random, statistically-valid survey indicate that satisfaction levels are higher in 2016 than they were in both 2013 and 2006.

- Satisfaction with City services and programs was at 96%, up 11% over 2013 and up from 64% in 2006.
- 86% agreed that in general, the City of Campbell River is doing a good job (up from 53% in 2013).
- Rating value of services for tax dollars, 73% of respondents said they received good value – up from 61% in 2013.

Customer service ratings were also excellent – another significant area of improvement. The survey was designed to compare directly with results of 2013 survey, with the same questions (plus some additional questions) and same four-point satisfaction scale.

The survey was conducted this September so that results would be available to assist Council with decisions during upcoming City budget planning.

Four hundred residents were interviewed by telephone. Survey questions were also posted online, and 182 electronic surveys were completed.

Monitoring and measuring stakeholder satisfaction is a key part of successful service-delivery because a truly random survey offers a reliable method for gauging support and concerns related to City services and helps confirm community priorities.

#### Council to send letter re: UBCM resolution on protection of old growth forests

Council's letter expresses their concern that insufficient time was allowed before UBCM was instructed to write a letter to the Province to express the province's local government's collective concerns regarding protection of Vancouver Island's remaining old-growth forest on provincial Crown Land. Council reiterates that BC is known worldwide for having some of the most stringent forest management practices that aim to ensure coastal forests are harvested sustainably, and urges UBCM to leave this topic for discussion in the AVICC forum.

## Public walkway maintenance to be part of upcoming budget discussions

In response to correspondence received from neighbourhood residents regarding the Timberline-Holm public walkway, and a request for a City budget increase for related regular maintenance, Council will discuss funding options for maintenance of this public walkway during upcoming budget discussions.

## Increase to be considered for Spirit Square budget

Council will consider increasing the Spirit Square contracted services budget by \$12,000 during the 2017 financial plan deliberations, in anticipation that 2017 will be an extremely busy year for special events in Campbell River. Council praised the programming and events management of Spirit Square.



# Council adopts Campbell River Children's Charter

Council adopted the Campbell River Children's Charter, which outlines Campbell River's community responsibility for our children's needs and rights. The charter incorporates thoughts on children's rights in Campbell River from 315 local children aged 3 to 12 years, shared through words and drawings. Highlights include children's social, basic and safety needs for a healthy life.

## **Campbell River Athletic Association's proposal for Willow Point Park**

Council directed staff to work with the Campbell River Athletic Association in developing a lease agreement for the use of the Fieldhouse at Willow Point Park, and referred the Campbell River Athletic Association's request for the City to fund the redevelopment of Field No.2 at Willow Point Park to the 2017 budget deliberations.

Council to send letter of support for Shoreline Musical Theatre Canada 150 grant application The Shoreline Musical Theatre Society plans to perform The Drowsy Chaperone, written by Canadians Don McKellar and Bob Martin, in November of 2017, showcasing Canada and Canadian talent, in keeping with the requirements of the Heritage Canada 150 grant. They are planning eight performances at the Tidemark Theatre, double their normal four shows and requested a letter of support (an essential portion of the Canada 150 grant application) from the City.

### City launches new At Your Service, Campbell River video

A new video called *At Your Service, Campbell River* features City employees talking about their work and their community.

The new video highlights interviews with employees sharing, in their own words, their commitment to Campbell River. *At Your Service, Campbell River* features newer and long-term employees from across City departments talking about how their work contributes to our community, and the pride they take in their work.

At Your Service, Campbell River was scripted and produced by the City's communications department, with Greencoast Media shooting and editing footage.

View *At Your Service* on the City's YouTube channel or from the link on the Facebook page or website (www.campbellriver.ca).