

July 31, 2013

City awaits notification re: SPCA plans to locate at Maritime Heritage Centre

The City of Campbell River is issuing a clarification to advise the public that it has not received formal notification of plans to locate an SPCA adoption centre at the Maritime Heritage Centre.

"While the SPCA's July 30 news release makes it sound like their intention to move into the Maritime Heritage Centre is a sure thing, we wish to clarify that we have not been consulted on this proposal," says Dave Morris, the City's general manager of facilities and supply management. "Without formal details from either the Maritime Heritage Society or the SPCA, we are only in a position to confirm that the existing zoning and facility use agreement for this property do not permit the use proposed in the SPCA news release."

Morris says the City's agreement with the Maritime Heritage Society currently stipulates that the City-owned facility is to be used only as a central focus for maritime activities in Campbell River and serve as a public meeting space.

"On July 25, the City sent a letter to the Maritime Heritage Society because our Land Use department had an inquiry from Maritime Heritage Society staff about locating an animal adoption centre in the building and using the park next to the building as a dog exercise area. The letter pointed out that the proposal contravenes the intent of the Maritime Heritage Society's license of occupation agreement, and it outlined that the property zoning does not permit animal-related uses," Morris says.

"The City of Campbell River continues to support the return of an SPCA facility in our community," Morris adds. "In letters and phone conversations, staff have made it clear that we are eager to work with the SPCA to find a suitable location for animal welfare operations."

Morris also clarified that, at this time, there has been no request from either the Maritime Heritage Society or the SPCA for the proposal to be discussed at Council's August 13 meeting.

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