

February 24, 2014

Shortage of space challenges Legacy Landmarks program – donor feedback requested

People with current contracts for a bench or picnic table in memory of a loved one will soon receive a letter asking for their feedback on a proposal to offer new legacy landmarks for a limited-time lease, with an option to renew.

A shortage of space for new legacy landmarks in Campbell River has inspired the proposal that was drafted based on recommendations by Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission. The City is sending a letter to current legacy landmark program donors inviting them to provide comments / preferences on options in the draft proposal.

The final draft will incorporate public feedback and be submitted to Council for consideration.

“This unique program provides the opportunity for people to donate a bench or picnic table in memory of a loved one or in recognition of a special event, and members of the Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission realize that the memorial items have deep meaning to the people who donated them,” says Councillor Ron Kerr, Chair of the Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission. *“Commission members have taken a comprehensive look at the program, understand the current situation, researched how other communities run similar programs and looked at past attempts to come up with a solution for the shortage of space and the need to replace memorial items over time.”*

Since Campbell River introduced the Legacy Landmarks Program in 2001, 178 benches and picnic tables have been installed in City parks and along City trails.

Given the program’s popularity, Campbell River is short on space to place new benches and tables, and there is a long list of people hoping to donate a Legacy Landmark item. Additionally, items need to be replaced on average every 25 years, and there is currently no agreement in place that outlines what to do when an item needs to be replaced.

The Commission's recommendation suggests that individuals, groups or organizations may submit an application to lease a memorial park bench or table for 15 years, with the City maintaining the landmark during that time. At the end of the 15-year term, the applicant has the option of renewing the lease for an additional 10 years. At the end of the lease period, the proposal suggests the bench/table space will be made available to a new applicant.

Any donors who have not received a letter from the City outlining the draft program revisions and feedback form by March 7, 2014 should contact the Parks Department at: 250-286-7275.

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