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*Please note summaries of Council meeting highlights are not a substitute for the City's comprehensive Council meeting minutes, found on the City website at: [www.campbellriver.ca](http://www.campbellriver.ca). Council meeting agendas, minutes and webcasts are available from the link on the homepage.*

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## **Update on sexual wellness in Campbell River youth**

Representatives of the Sexual Wellness and Education Society of Campbell River presented an update on the sexual health of Campbell River youth, emphasizing that families struggling financially see more at-risk behavior in youth. The society wishes to increase their administrative resources and operating hours in a more central location or on a bus route.

The society was created in 2008 and subsequently, in 2010, opened a youth clinic that operates at Robron Centre and provides free and confidential drop-in opportunities to receive education, support, referrals, subsidized contraception and to speak with healthcare professionals. Use of the youth clinic has grown from 88 clients in 2010 to 530 in 2014.

## **SPCA hopes to build new facility in Campbell River within two years**

Craig Daniell, chief executive officer of the BCSPCA and Stephanie Artwright, Campbell River branch manager, presented the Society's facility development plan.

The SPCA currently operates 41 facilities across BC, and has a plan to replace 11 facilities throughout the province over 10 years, at a total cost of \$53 million. The organization is committed to raising half of the funding, with the Province providing \$5 million.

The goal is to have a 3,600 square foot, full-service community animal centre in Campbell River to provide additional preventive services, and programs to prevent animal cruelty to complement the local centre's busy adoption program. Funding of \$1.2 million is in place, with the estimated construction cost of \$1.6 million (not including land costs). Approximately \$600,000 from SPCA funds is designated for the Campbell River centre, \$300,000 provincial government funding can be applied, with the provincial arm of the BC SPCA contributing another \$300,000.

The SPCA anticipates fundraising an additional \$200,000; with local businesses possibly providing in-kind donations. The organization requested the City's support and offered a variety of options, including: donation of land, shared ownership of the facility, or the retrofit of an existing building at a reduced cost. The SPCA would also appreciate City support to ensure correct zoning and a suitable location for new facility.

## **2016 Community Partnership Grant-in-Aid Applications**

Council approved the award of 19 grants-in-aid valued at \$579,614 to local non-profit groups for the 2016 fiscal year. The grants were recommended by Council's Community Partnership Committee (CPC), which spent two full days in meetings reviewing applications before making recommendations based on the requests that best met Council's policy. The \$579,614 approved represents a 1.8 per cent increase over grants awarded in 2015.

The award amount demonstrates Campbell River's commitment to arts and culture in the community, and Council is grateful for the CPC's outstanding service to the community.

## **Plan for wood carvings**

Council adopted a policy for disposal or retention of wood carvings on City-owned property.

In the past, carvings from the Transformations on the Shore that were not purchased were showcased on City-owned property and remained the property of the Campbell River Shoreline Arts Society. Over time, the carvings require repair or replacement, and City staff have prepared an internal policy that outlines the responsibilities of the Society and the City and the processes for disposing or retaining the carvings.

### **Changes to water and sewer user fees and charges**

Council approved a bylaw amendment that will permit the City to enter into agreements with individual property owners to allow for user fees that differ from the rates noted in the bylaw. The bylaw currently allows agreements to alter user fees for customers outside of the City boundaries; this amendment provides that same opportunity to customers within City boundaries. This bylaw amendment does not commit Council to enter into any future agreements. Those decisions will remain within Council's discretion and will be discussed on a case by case basis.

Capital Power has requested a servicing agreement that will set terms and conditions for a reduced user fee rate due to the specific circumstances of their servicing. The details of the proposed rates for Capital Power and the rationale for the rate reduction will be provided in a future report to Council. The City has provided water and sewer services to Capital Power since the fall of 2013.

### **Another milestone reached for mountain bike skills park at Willow Point Park**

Beth Petcher and Greg Johnson, members of the Campbell River Bike Park Society, presented the results of the community consultation regarding the society's proposal to establish a mountain bike skills park at Willow Point Park.

The society provided 142 property owners located within 100 metres of the property with background information on the mountain bike skills park proposal, and invited them to attend the September open house at the Sportsplex. They advertised the open house in the Campbell River Mirror, through radio promotions, in local bike shops and on Facebook sites.

Twenty-two residents attended the open house in September, with significant support for the facility.

The first priority for the mountain bike skills park would include the beginner and intermediate runs with development of the pump track as funding allows. More advanced tracks and amenities would follow.

Council directed staff to review and assess the proposed development of a mountain bike skills park at Willow Point Park and provided there were no concerns identified during the referral process, prepare an agreement between the City and the Campbell River Bike Park Society to permit use of the property.

The society would be responsible for construction, operation and maintenance of facility.

### **Council chambers could see upgrades**

Council referred the issue of Council chamber upgrades to 2016 budget discussion. A proposed makeover would incorporate wood, modernize and upgrade technology features such as microphones and presentation equipment and make Council Chambers more accessible for wheelchairs and people with mobility challenges through the use of universal design.

### **Upgrades to Lift Station #11**

Upgrades to lift station no.11, located at 1490 Hwy 19A, that will improve the sewage distribution and treatment systems will be provided by Ridgeline Mechanical Limited, which offered the lowest price, compliant bid of \$300,167. This project has been approved by Council and is included in the 2015 Sewer

Capital Plan and is fully funded from sewer reserves. The City anticipates this project to be completed within the next 30 weeks.

### **RCMP third quarter report**

RCMP Inspector Jeff Preston provided an update on the 7.9 per cent increase in calls for service over the last year. He indicated that most of Vancouver Island detachments are seeing a similar rise in service calls. In Campbell River, offences such as theft from vehicles and shoplifting complaints from large stores account for many of the increased calls.

The crime severity index has risen by 19 per cent, due in part to the number of assaults and homicides. Public disturbance complaints (drunk or disorderly) have also increased, and are approaching levels that the community hasn't seen since 2009.

Of the 52 regular RCMP members who serve Campbell River, 43 are funded by City, nine by the Province. Inspector Preston reminded the public to call 911 for life-threatening situations. For non-life-threatening incidents, call the RCMP's non-emergency number (250-286-6221).

### **Council focuses on downtown public disorder**

Council endorsed a proposal to maintain a clean, safe, vibrant and healthy downtown and combat public disturbances by having City staff complete a comprehensive review and analysis of current city social planning initiatives. Staff will report back to Council with options for next steps for the City to develop a coordinated approach to address social planning issues. The report is expected to be before Council in the first part of 2016 and outline immediate, short and long-term action plans to ensure that Council's strategic priority of downtown revitalization and having a vibrant, safe and welcoming downtown area is achieved.

### **City writes off bad debts**

Council authorized the write-off of three general accounts receivable totalling \$6,554 and directed staff to make the necessary application to the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development for Ministerial approval to write off two tax accounts totalling \$7,869. Under provincial legislation the City cannot write off taxes receivable without the authority of the Minister. Bad debts are an inevitable result of granting credit to customers. The City takes all necessary steps to collect receivables, however after a period of time, some are deemed to be uncollectible. Such accounts are written off in order to allow the City to truly know the amount of the receivables it can reasonably expect to collect.

### **City to apply for funding to support downtown municipal broadband network**

The City of Campbell River will apply to the Island Coastal Economic Trust for a \$50,000 economic grant to complete infrastructure upgrades to support implementation of a municipal broadband network in the downtown core. Once the upgrade is complete, organizations near the network could apply to access more affordable enterprise level Internet service through the network.

Affordable access to enterprise level Internet is a priority prerequisite for businesses considering investment in municipalities outside large urban centres. Non-profits, governments, schools and businesses working in research, digital technology and creative industries typically require high speed and high volumes of Internet access.

A number of Canadian communities outside large urban centres offer a municipal broadband network. Models similar to what is proposed for Campbell River have been successfully implemented in British Columbia in Coquitlam, Kelowna, Kamloops, Grand Forks, Kootenay Regional District and recently initiated in New Westminster.

Municipal-owned networks enable participation in international and regional commerce and communication, provide hosting opportunities for services such as data centres, and allow companies to recruit new employees who can telecommute without physically relocating. A key advantage to municipal-owned broadband networks is the significant cost reduction associated with Internet access due to the substantial decrease in initial construction costs.

The estimated cost to complete the existing enterprise level Internet network downtown is \$100,000.

### **Downtown workshop details opportunities**

Council received a report detailing the exercises and ideas generated during Council's downtown workshop, held on Oct. 13. This workshop, facilitated by staff from the Community Planning & Development Services department, confirmed which issues and potential actions for downtown revitalization are a priority for Council. This summary will be complemented by further input from the downtown business community and the public, and will be used by staff to generate a range of potential projects and options for Council to consider working on throughout 2016.

### **Business owners encourage local art**

Council received a petition from five downtown business owners asking for a place to view local art. The petition will be referred to the Public Art Sub-Committee and the Community Service, Recreation & Culture Commission.

### **Task forces to be established**

Council approved the formation of two task forces that would be responsible to provide recommendations to Council on:

1. ways to support the Vancouver Island forest industry and the creation of a community forest; and,
2. the completion of a plan for the 3.5-acre waterfront site that ensures public interests and amenities for the site are respected and complement the downtown and waterfront revitalization strategic plans and the Campbell River Indian Band's vision for its neighbouring six-acre site.

The task forces would be given a specific mandate and a specific amount of time to develop then present their recommendations to City Council.

### **Canada Post**

City will send a letter to Canada Post with copies to federal minister responsible and MP Rachel Blaney insisting on immediate cessation of installation of future community mailboxes until a comprehensive review is conducted.