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Public hearing re: secondary suite on Strathcona Way

At a public hearing regarding an application to permit a secondary suite within a single-family dwelling currently under construction at 217 Strathcona Way, one person spoke in favour, and Council received a 38-signature petition in opposition and eight letters of non-support. The subject property is located within a newer, predominantly single-family neighbourhood with similar sized lots. Allowing a secondary suite in this location would not involve any significant external physical change, and parking would be accommodated on site. The rezoning application received first and second reading at the May 7 Council meeting. The City's Sustainable Official Community Plan encourages low-impact infill, better use of existing services and minimal change to neighbourhood and offering affordable housing alternatives.

City communications advisor honoured with professional service award

Mayor Andy Adams congratulated Julie Douglas on receiving a professional award for volunteer service for her leadership in organizing the day-long provincial communications forum held in conjunction with the Local Government Management Association annual conference. Douglas has coordinated topics and speakers for six forums since 2012.

Exchange students thank Campbell River

Campbell River Twinning Society's Ishikari exchange students Kyoka Imaeda and Ruka Hoshino (currently on exchange from Ishikari) and Holten Ewing and Luke Kingston (who will spend the next school year in Japan) thanked Mayor and Council for their support of the sister city program.

Vital Signs update

Jim Harris and Claire Moglove, directors of the Campbell River Community Foundation, updated Council on the use of the Vital Signs report, timing for the next report and a funding request. The report is produced every two years, and is used by non-profit organizations, educational and health institutions and businesses to monitor changes in community statistics. Highlights of the previous report include superior access to family doctors and exceptional volunteerism rates in Campbell River. To inform the next report (coming in October 2018) researchers conducted a survey and held 12 focus groups. The City will provide \$10,000 to help fund the cost of producing the \$25,000 report

Downtown Business Improvement Association praises City's Safer Downtown initiative

Lisa Whitmore, co-chair of the Downtown Business Improvement Association (BIA) outlined concerns about inappropriate downtown behaviour and thanked the City for the swift response in developing and implementing the Safer Downtown initiative, which she called forward-thinking and proactive. Whitmore emphasized that residents believe they have been heard and said the initiative is a positive example to create a safe and supportive downtown environment. She said the Downtown BIA is committed to teaming up with social service agencies to maintain an unwavering stance on safe and inclusive downtown core.

Campbell River Community Action Team applying for \$100,000 to address overdose crisis

The City of Campbell River and surrounding area has been identified as one of 18 communities that have been hardest hit by the overdose crisis in B.C., one of five on Vancouver Island. The Province is providing a Community Crisis Innovation Fund, with a grant of up to \$100,000 for each of these communities to establish a Community Action Team to help address the overdose crisis and focus support on community health in the region.

Tara Fitzgerald, director of special projects for mental health and substance use with Island Health and Sarah Sullivan, manager of the Courtenay and Campbell River AIDS Vancouver Island offices, provided Council with a presentation regarding the Community Action Team and the Community Crisis Innovation Fund. The efforts of the Communication Action team align with both the City's Safer Downtown initiative, which aims to enhance livability for all community members, and with Council's strategic initiative to support the most vulnerable.

The City and Strathcona Regional District support the CAT team's application, to be submitted June 1, as it is an important regional issue that involves many other local players.

Regulating food trucks and mobile vendors within City parks

Council has directed staff to develop appropriate criteria to regulate food trucks and mobile vendors in parks. Staff will consult with local restaurants and other businesses, review potential parking and traffic concerns and establish policies and procedures, including a fee in addition to a business license for regulating food trucks and mobile vendors within City parks.

The goal is to enable the City to more closely monitor and control the number, location and type of food trucks and mobile food vendors in parks around the City while providing an alternative form of business incubator and business start-up option in Campbell River.

Proposed pilot project could bring food trucks to downtown Campbell River this summer

Council directed staff to consult with downtown businesses before proceeding with a Downtown Food Truck Pilot Program in summer 2018.

If implemented, the program would build on feedback received during the *Refresh Downtown* community engagement sessions as it aligns with revitalization objectives.

The goal of the pilot program would be to test potential permit requirements in the downtown area prior to bringing forward bylaw amendments to create a mobile food vendor permit.

Results of the pilot program along with additional public feedback following the pilot project would form the basis of future bylaw amendments.

Council has directed that, prior to proceeding with pilot program, a minimum of three weeks consultation will take place with representatives of the business community. Staff will provide a report to Council for discussion at the June 25 meeting.

Food trucks and mobile vendors participating in the pilot project would be required to pay a fee and adhere to locations and times approved for this temporary trial period.

BC Transit maintenance and operations yard approved on Evergreen Road

Council approved a major development permit application for a new maintenance and operations yard on Evergreen Road. A new 1,605-square metre building will be constructed, and a natural greenspace buffer will remain in place along the portion of Elk River Road South that borders this property. The proposal also includes the construction of a wash bay and fuel bay and parking for 40 busses. Evergreen road, fronting the property, will be improved to an urban road standard, including a sidewalk. The City will hold funds as security valued at 125 per cent (\$102,802.50) of the estimated cost to complete general landscaping work on the site.

Council approves Big Rock boat ramp reconstruction contract

Council awarded a contract to rebuild the Big Rock Boat Ramp to Upland Contracting Ltd. valued at \$1,371,929.63. Work includes breakwaters, concrete ramp, riprap embankments, storm sewer and installation of floating docks. The work is conditional upon receipt of authorization from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

The \$2,176,000 Big Rock boat ramp reconstruction is fully funded from the City's Community Works Fund reserve (Federal Gas Tax) rather than through local property taxation.

Mayor Andy Adams extended thanks to local First Nations for their support of the project, which is required for DFO approval.

2018 community beautification grants program in the works

Council approved in principal the proposed 2018 beautification partnering agreements with the Campbellton Neighbourhood Association, Pier Street Association, Downtown Heart of the City Business Improvement Association and Willow Point Business Improvement Area Society. The City will advertise the proposed partnering agreements as prescribed by the Community Charter, and Council will give final consideration to these agreements, which would provide funding to these associations for improvements to public spaces in these commercial areas by adding features such as lighting, banners and flowers.

City considering proposal for drag race track near airport

The Vancouver Island Motorsports Association (VIMSA) has proposed a motorsports facility on City-owned lands adjacent to the Campbell River Airport (YBL). This proposal is in the early stages of development, and the VIMSA has developed a business case and conducted preliminary studies related to environmental impact and noise, all of which indicate opportunities to pursue. The next steps will be to obtain approval from Nav Canada, to further study environmental as well as traffic impacts. Council would then consider an amendment to both the Sustainable Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaws to permit this use at this location. Public hearings would form the basis of the City's community engagement. VIMSA will undertake additional community outreach efforts.

City seeking options on regulations to reinforce requirement for steep slope work permits

Council has directed staff to provide draft language to amend the Environmental Protection Bylaw to regulate work on steep slopes, with or without development permits. Tree cutting occurring on the bank along the Island Highway south of Hidden Harbour has triggered concerns related to tree and vegetation trimming and removal that could result in the bank sloughing. Council is also considering additional regulatory support for the administration of the Hazardous Conditions (steep slope) Development Permit guidelines when a development permit is not applied for or when development permit conditions are not followed.

A number of recent incidents where people have fallen or pruned mature trees or removed vegetation that disturbs and exposes soil near steep slopes has Council asking for a draft report outlining options for regulations, including fines, to ensure work on steep slopes prevents hazardous conditions for properties below the ridge, particularly along the south Island Highway. Council has also asked staff to research tree bylaws in other communities, to assist in considering regulations to protect mature trees.

The City's hazardous conditions development permit guidelines apply to areas within 20m from the top and from the toe of a steep slope. Applicants are required to submit a geotechnical report by a qualified professional that addresses all issues related to site drainage, soil slippage (surface and deep seated), seismic constraints, site clearing and vegetation retention.

Economic development quarterly update

The quarterly report highlighted some of the department's activities for 2018, including economic development's continued focus on business retention and expansion opportunities. Two workshops held in April focused on attracting and retaining talent and dealing with negative feedback. In June, David Van Seters of Wayblaze, will be in Campbell River to present two workshops – an afternoon session on crowdfunding for business/entrepreneurs, and an evening event on crowdfunding for community projects. In September, Shannon Ward of OnTrack Media, will offer two workshops – an evening discussing sales fundamentals for non-sales people and an afternoon dedicated to creating a practical sales plan. (Participants will leave with a plan).

The City's entry into Infrastructure Canada's Smart Cities Challenge was also a major focus of first quarter activities as Campbell River positions itself as a smart city. In March 2018, the City received international recognition with a Smart 50 Award from Smart Cities Connect, a significant opportunity to showcase CRadvantage, the City's municipal broadband network. In addition to the smart cities award, Small Business BC recognized Campbell River with the 2018 Open for Business Award.

The update report provided Council with copies of the economic development newsletter, *In the Spotlight*. The newsletters showcase businesses in Campbell River, with each issue focused on a theme. The newsletter, along with other resource materials are found on the City's website and social media platforms.

Economic development office to continue work of Forestry Task Force

With the Future of Forestry Task Force wrapping up its two-year term, the City's economic development office will continue efforts to promote Campbell River's forestry sector.

The economic development will work to:

- update the forest sector profile
- connect with companies that have expressed interest in forestry related opportunities
- investigate other initiatives to promote the forest sector.

Council also directed that funds remaining from the original \$25,000 Forestry Task Force budget be carried into 2019 Financial Planning to be considered for use by the Economic Development department to continue the promotion of Campbell River's forestry sector.

2018 first quarter financial results on track

The City's first quarter financial report (Jan. 1 to March 31) indicates that overall financial results are within expectation for this time of year, given the seasonal nature of many of the City's programs and services.

As of March 31, 2018 overall operating revenue is at 6.5 per cent of budget, and operating expenses are at 15.5 per cent of budget. Of the 39 operating projects approved by Council for the year, 24 are in progress and four have been completed.

The City's annual capital plan, which renews and enhances infrastructure, is also showing expected financial results. Total capital spending in the first quarter was \$1.2 million on an annual budget of \$29 million. Because many of the City's capital projects do not get underway until the summer construction months, first quarter capital spending is historically low. Of the 110 capital projects approved by Council for 2018, 82 are in progress and 10 have been completed.

City supporting funding for elders conference and 2018 Aboriginal Day celebration

Council approved \$500 in response to Laichwiltach Family Life Society's request for funding for 2018 Aboriginal Day celebration. Council will also provide \$250 to support travel costs for the Rekindling Spirit of Elders group request for funding to travel to the Elders Conference in Duncan this year.

City looking into options for feral cat intake location

In response to a request from Campbell River Partners for Animal Welfare (CRPAWS) for a space where lost/abandoned, stray or feral cats could be housed prior to being placed in a shelter, staff will report back regarding any potential impact on use of city facilities or property. The City's animal control and pound services are available for dogs only.

Council approves one-time grant-in-aid for CR Art Gallery

Council approved a one-time grant for the CR Arts Gallery as recommended by the Community Partnership Committee. The Campbell River Art Gallery requested additional 2018 funding of



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\$1,500 for professional development for the new curator that will support local arts and culture, which benefits the entire community.

Special Olympics B.C. 50th anniversary

Council invites to present at upcoming Council meeting on history and achievements in recognition of 35th anniversary of Campbell River chapter, and staff work with them to aid in plans for celebration.

June 2 is Access Awareness Day

Mayor Andy Adams will proclaim June 2 Access Awareness Day, and the proclamation as well as accessibility information will be posted on the City's website.