



TOWN OF HINTON
Community Engagement & Accountability Committee
Council Chambers
November 12, 2013

PRESENT: Garth Griffiths, Scott Sunderwald, Kathy Rees, Fiona Murray-Galbraith, Albert Ostashek, Jennifer Norquay, Doug Heine, George Higgerty, Councillor Dale Currie (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)

ABSENT: Jack Williams, Shirley Caputo, Gerry Brandt, Ron McKay, Councillor Matthew Young

SECRETARY: Wendy Anderson

ALSO PRESENT: Laura Howarth – Director of Community & Protective Services

ORDER

Chairman Garth Griffiths called the Regular Meeting of the Community Engagement & Accountability Committee (“CEAC”) to order. The time was 6:49 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

REES - That the Agenda for the November 12, 2013 Meeting of CEAC be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Jean Anne Fraser, Director of Planning and Technical, provided an update regarding the Highway Corridor. The public was engaged by a survey with 60-70 responses; four meetings were held. Based on survey results the following were deemed important: architectural guidelines, traffic flows & parking, pedestrian access & routes, beautification, information & signage, enforcement & compliance

Architectural Guidelines

- Regulations can only be imposed when redevelopment occurs (Mountain theme)
- Support for mountain theme – some said need more stringent regulations

Traffic Flows & Parking

- Highway 16 is under Alberta Transportation (AT) and not under Town jurisdiction
- Intersections or access must be approved by AT
- Concerns on traffic flows in the areas of Mountain, Brookhart and Carmichael streets
- Large trucks parking on service roads
- East access (Drinnan Way) more discussions with AT and CN
- East access train crossing – discussed with CN but they do not feel it is their problem
- If major changes occur on traffic at the crossing may have to look at other options (over, under or close)


Initial

Pedestrian Access & Routes

- Lack of sidewalks for pedestrians (Gregg Avenue) and lack of links to other corridors
- Trail linkage to Thompson Lake
- Waterline work in 2012 created a new trail
- Lack of sidewalks, a new levy proposed for approval that can be used for enhancements needed (turning lane, sidewalks)
- New trail is being proposed in Eaton Road area (possibly through Community Safety Initiative)

Beautification

- Landscaping needs to be enhanced (both private and public) and maintain
- More public art display (sculptures, flags, banners, etc.) cost was discussed
- Landscaping public and private
- More flower baskets
- If you plant a tree or shrub, ensure that it is hardy
- Creating special gathering places (Happy Creek Day use, Erith Park, Green Square, Natural Resource Park), more events/activities
- Dog walk area for visitors
- Screening of the CN yard (less of priority)
- CN entrance done by CN and Town of Hinton, grant money
- Part of the Business License fee goes to a reserve for Christmas decorations. Ideas can be forwarded to Kimberley Worthington.

Information & Signage

- Landmark sculpture (cougar on a tree limb, kinetic art (windy community))
- Gateway signage (lighting not working that has been rectified) and letters reflecting, never intended to be high maintenance so flowers and trees were not intended to be planted. Any enhancements would require council approval for funding
- Information signage supported

Enforcement & Compliance

- Messaging around enforcement and education (who is responsible)
- Large trucks parking opposing traffic
- Enforcement & Compliance: strong enforcement for bylaw infractions and tighten up bylaw

CEAC members have heard concerns from citizens regarding the east access as well as the heavy truck traffic through town as well as boulevards needing better care. It was noted that the highway corridor is the window dressing of Hinton and it reflects on the whole community.

Jean Anne will inform Council that there are some issues that CEAC may wish to have addressed.

At 8:00 p.m. the Chair called for a short recess and the meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

NORQUAY – That the CEAC Minutes of September 27, 2013 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED


Initial

ACTION ITEMS

Jennifer left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

1. Communications to Community on Action Undertaken to Date on Priority Items

Laura provided a handout with the most current Project Work Plan from April 15, 2013. Members should be listening all of the time for feedback which will be used during the strategic planning session. Discussion occurred on communication options; we want to encourage people to bring their concerns forward so that they can be prioritized and brought to Council. It was suggested that after every meeting a brief be provided to the media.

ACTION: Strategy #9 should be revised as it is not possible to be a medical centre of excellence.

2. Future Delegations to CEAC

The following groups/organizations were suggested to appear as a delegation:

- Hinton & District Chamber of Commerce (Local Economy & Growth)
- Growing Great Kids Coalition (under 5 years)
- Parks & Recreation (parks and boulevards, cemetery) – information item
- Athabasca River Waterfront development
- Seniors Concerns (housing)

It was noted that there is not always a need for a delegation to appear before CEAC; some of the information gathering can be done by members through an outreach approach, i.e. going to meetings, coffee, etc. and reporting back.

3. Town Boards & Committees

Scott indicated that at the public forums the question arose as to whether there are gaps with the boards and committees that were dissolved. Garth suggested that this item be tabled at this time so the group can gather specific details and bring back to CEAC. Council will be gathering feedback from the public with the new portfolio structure.

ACTION: Provide the council portfolio information to CEAC members.

ACTION: Recommend the Town of Hinton affirm that the boards and committee structure is serving the town well and provide CEAC with a response at a future meeting.

Doug left the meeting at 9:00 PM

The approval of Bylaw 1070-2 has been referred to the next meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. 2013 – 2014 CEAC Membership Information
2. CEAC Membership

- Members were reminded to seek new applicants for the committee (one available spot).


Initial

COMMUNITY PULSE

Albert – who would be responsible for doing reports for Council from the Community concerns?
Garth responded that the partners group would do up report. Albert is concerned that CEAC is too overarching and the meetings are infrequent.

Garth – our job is to communicate how people can bring their concerns/ideas to CEAC members through listening teams

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of CEAC will be scheduled for early January, 2014, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MURRAY-GALBRAITH – That the Regular Meeting of CEAC adjourn.

CARRIED

The time was 9:23 p.m.



Chairman



Director of Community &
Protective Services