



TOWN OF HINTON
Community Engagement & Accountability
Committee Room
November 13, 2014

PRESENT: Garth Griffiths, Fiona Murray-Galbraith, Kathy Rees, Joann Race, Albert Ostashek, George Higgerty, Gerry Brandt, Councillor Matthew Young, Councillor Jack Williams

ABSENT: Shirley Caputo, Scott Sunderwald, Ron McKay

SECRETARY: Rhonda West

ALSO PRESENT: Christopher Read – Recreation and Culture Manager

ORDER

Chairman Garth Griffiths called the Regular Meeting of the Community Engagement & Accountability Committee ("CEAC") to order. The time was 11:24 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MURRAY-GALBRAITH - That the Agenda for the November 13, 2014 Meeting of CEAC be adopted with the following additions:

Action Item #6 – Down Payment Assistance Program

Action Item #7 – 2015 Town of Hinton Operating Budget

CARRIED

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

Chairman Garth Griffiths introduced Joann Race as the new Council appointed member to CEAC and congratulated Fiona Murray-Galbraith and Kathy Rees on their re-appointment to CEAC.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Young took over the Chair and called out for nominations for Chairman of the committee.

Fiona Murray-Galbraith nominated Garth Griffiths for Chairman. Garth Griffiths accepted the nomination. Councillor Young called out two more times for nominations. None were received. Garth Griffiths is elected Chairman of the committee by acclamation.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Young called out for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the committee.

Kathy Rees nominated Scott Sunderwald for Vice-Chairman. Garth Griffiths noted that Scott advised him that he would accept the nomination. Councillor Young called out two more times


Initial

for nominations. None were received. Scott Sunderwald is elected Vice-Chairman of the committee by acclamation.

DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mike Schwartz, Town Manager for the Town of Hinton presented to CEAC on:

- Professional background
- Formal accountability framework within administration to focus on results and accountability
- Focusing on what is essential as a service
- Moving community forward, being proactive
- Challenges as a Town Manager
- More connected and engaged with the community and promote quality of life
- Quality of customer experience

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Fiona noted that in the Education, Wellness & Social Supports update regarding the community cancer clinic that the funding envelope has been put to 2016-2017 (not 2015-2016 as indicated in the minutes).

MURRAY-GALBRAITH – That the CEAC Minutes of October 8, 2014 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

1. Listening Group Reports, Confirmation and Appointment to Vacancies

There was consensus that Joann Race be appointed to the Natural & Built Environments listening group.

Recreation & Culture (Scott & _____)

New committees: Matthew spoke about Council's idea of bringing back a rec centre operations advisory and an arts and culture working group;

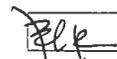
Education, Wellness & Social Supports (Fiona & Kathy)

CEAC Ad: The CEAC ad in the newspaper provided great information but the contact information lacked CEAC members' contact information; members noted that it is important to assume that not everyone is online and information should provide options for contacting CEAC members;

Meetings with MLA and Town Manager: Mayor and Fiona will start meeting every second month to talk about issues to relay onto MLA Robin Campbell; Mike and Fiona to schedule regular meetings;

Fundraisers: Lights in December will be happening; it is a fundraiser for palliative care; Turkey Drive begins Monday with funds going to palliative care, kinsmen club and food bank;

Hospital: It is a full house for seniors at the hospital and often have to turn people to Jasper; A meeting has been held with MLA Robin Campbell regarding renovating hospital (\$10 million) and have asked him to look into that; Re-assured by MLA Robin Campbell that dialysis bus will be coming to Hinton; 2 orthopaedic surgeons coming now and potential for a general surgeon coming to Hinton; may be able to do more orthopaedic surgeries in Hinton;


Initial

Bridges: MLA Robin Campbell has given BRIDGES the opportunity to invite the Minister of Health for a dinner fundraiser; may incorporate pre-dinner drinks with the Minister before the dinner;

Good Sam: has a new Manager who has a health background;

Seniors Housing: Hope to break ground for expansion at Evergreen's Lodge in the spring of 2015;

Governance & Partnerships (Garth & Scott)

Town operations: There are optics in the community that the Town has too many employees and a lot of tax dollars spent on too many employees (can efficiencies be made?); Matthew spoke about draft 2015 operating budget and will provide members with a draft and invited feedback from CEAC members; Mike advised that an operational review by an independent party will be conducted in 2015;

Local Economy (Gerry & Albert)

Work Experience Program: A meeting took place with work experience teachers in town and Nathalie from the Chamber to get more information on the program as had heard the program was broken; students consider it easy free credits but teachers don't. There will be a follow-up conversation with them, and a possible presentation to CEAC and Chamber of Commerce. Schools receive funding based on the number of credits so there is a concern that school administrators are finding creative ways to hand out credits.

Qualico: Receiving feedback about concern over Qualico – what is happening with the land and/or golf course and future expansion and ability to retain membership and grow? Clarification that it is the builder Foxbridge that has pulled out (not Qualico) and Town's relationship with Qualico is very good;

Mountain Bike Association: The leadership void in the Mountain Bike group is a concern;

Participatory budget Pros: Heard people enjoyed the process and it was in keeping with what council had indicated they were going to do;

Participatory budget Cons: Feedback is that people expressed a concern that playground was greedy asking for whole \$100,000 and saw a lot of young families leaving voting and a concern of stacked voting; confusion over what the funding was to be used for; for items that have a group behind them (ie. Residents care, playground) that is the kind of proposal that should go to Quality of Life; Idea is good but not sure about fundamentals; perception was that it was Quality of Life Part 2; concern about giving money to private individuals and groups that will become town property (due diligence aspect); the idea was good but the outcome was different; the draft budget should be a pre-cursor to the participatory budget as people need to understand where the money goes;

Foreign worker program: It is now going to cost up to \$4,000 to have a foreign worker come and up to 2 years for a process timeline;

Snow Removal Bylaw: Have been approached regarding the new snow removal bylaw and people piling snow on public lands – how is bylaw handling it? Bylaw's approach is educating first and enforcing afterward; Mike urges people to complain or call the Town for information;

STARS: A presentation was made to council asking for donation; industrial users have been really positive and very encouraging for town to follow through with request; consultants have identified 4 areas that would work for the hospital regarding a landing pad for STARS; definitely a want out there from industry group;

Chamber of Commerce: Chamber of commerce sent a letter to council regarding meeting time schedule; Pass along thanks to administration and council for asking for participation from chamber;


Initial

Innovista: Phase II of Innovista is sold and Phase III wrapping up next month; Large RV store opening up with campground; UFA is putting in a gas station and convenience store;

Natural & Built Environments (Joann & George)

Highway Corridor Study: Council has received a copy; Matthew will be reporting back to CEAC in January or February, 2015 about how the study was implemented into the Land Use Bylaw review;

Empty Buildings: Concern that businesses are moving to outer perimeters of Town so need to look at empty buildings that remain along the corridor; Matthew spoke about an option of split tax rates (higher tax rate for abandoned commercial buildings) to try to motivate private owners to do something with their building;

High praise for the mountain bike park; no interest to re-start community in bloom program;

Beaver Boardwalk: Interest in sponsorship for beaver boardwalk; Mike to clarify what people are interested in doing (sponsorship, maintenance);

Interpretive Park: Not hearing good things about it; Town had to take over maintenance after community group that started it folded; Town maintains it as best they can;

Remembrance Day: Suggestion to put Canadian flags along the corridor; would have to be built into the Town budget;

Yellowhead County: County is growing with most growth in the east; Jack noted that he, personally, does not support the Tour of Alberta initiative;

Action: CEAC members to provide feedback on draft 2015 Town operating budget handout from Councillor Young.

2. Response Letter from Chamber of Commerce on 2013-2015 Priority Strategies

There was consensus to accept this item as information.

3. CEAC Progress Survey

Action: CEAC members to send the progress survey to their network of friends and associates. Deadline is December 1st.

Action: Rhonda will send members an electronic copy of the survey.

4. Review and Update Delegation Invitation List

The group reviewed the current delegation list. Fiona is not able to present at the January 15th meeting.

Action: Invite Laura Howarth to present to the group with respect to the Performing Arts Centre at the January 15th meeting. Add Highway Corridor Study for the February 12, 2015 meeting with Rob and Matthew to present.

5. Breakfast Meeting with Hinton Town Council

There was consensus to schedule a breakfast meeting with Hinton Town Council in November or December, 2014.


Initial

INFORMATION ITEMS

COMMUNITY PULSE

Kathy Rees expressed her great disappointment regarding the Remembrance Day ceremonies that the legion member had to call twice for an RCMP member to lay a wreath on behalf of the Queen. There were four members in uniform and none were prepared to lay the wreath. Some RCMP members advised that they had not been directed to do it.

Hinton Policing Committee will be getting a form of the results of the interviews conducted by a K Division RCMP Inspector recently. Fiona noted that the lack of security at the hospital is an issue and thank you to local RCMP for their assistance.

NEXT MEETING

The next meetings of CEAC are scheduled for December 11, 2014 and January 15, 2015 and February 12, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

OSTASHEK - That the Regular Meeting of CEAC adjourn.

CARRIED

The time was 1:23 p.m.



Chairman



Recreation and Culture Manager


Initial

