

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ENDERBY

Minutes of a **Special Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting** of Council held on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall

Present: Mayor Greg McCune
Councillor Tundra Baird
Councillor Brad Case
Councillor Roxanne Davyduke
Councillor Raquel Knust
Councillor Brian Schreiner

Chief Administrative Officer – Tate Bengtson
Recording Secretary – Bettyann Kennedy
The Press and Public (10)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Schreiner, seconded by Councillor Baird that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

RIVER STEWARDSHIP DISCUSSIONS

Mayor McCune welcomed the public and explained that today's discussions will address the positives and the negatives of increased visitors to the Shuswap River and hopefully result in some workable solutions to problems such as parking and garbage.

Cheryl Hay of the Chamber of Commerce/Recreation Services reported her observations.

- There has been an increase of visitors each year, but not necessarily an increase of knowledge or awareness about the River.
- The River Ambassadors interacted with 4400 floaters.
- The tourists are ignorant of the float times and where the safe exits are, despite signs.
- An earlier start with the Ambassador program would enable them to get into the schools to educate kids, and keeping them longer would enable them to take part in the clean up in September.

Mayor McCune suggested that the local businesses have an opportunity to take advantage of the increase of visitors. Traffic is a major problem with people using 2 vehicles – one at the start and one at the destination. With the increase of visitors, the timing is right for a shuttle service similar to what Tube Taxi once provided.

Tate Bengtson, Chief Administrative Officer reported that the new hand launch at Belvidere Park is now completed and will hopefully solve the problem of people using alternate paths that have a negative environmental impact.

Mayor McCune suggested that providing an air station at Belvidere Park could be a nice amenity.

Councillor Baird presented the “Kids Don’t Float” lifejacket program that is in use in various locations around the Shuswap. It is inexpensive to start up and there is grant funding available. She suggested having a site at Belvidere Park and at Tuey Park. Other groups have not had an issue with theft – in fact they tend to receive donations of life jackets to use.

Neil Brookes has observed between 800 – 1,000 floaters on hot sunny days. Things like flip flops, sunglasses and phones are never intentionally trashed but tend to end up in the river as an unfortunate consequence of its use. Abandoned tubes are also a concern. There has been an increase in kayaks and canoes on the river, many of which are collecting garbage along the shoreline. Education in the schools is essential, as his observation has been that the garbage issue is from locals as much as from tourists.

Patrick Woodford reported that his neighbour installed garbage and recycle cans on his dock that were well used by people on the river. He is willing to place receptacles on his dock and dispose of the trash if the City would supply the cans.

Mayor McCune suggested that a place could be designated for the disposal of damaged tubes or to leave a good tube for someone else to use.

Kaylee Wells of Recreation Services suggested that garbage collection could be incorporated into the hand launch maintenance.

Peter Vander Sar shared an idea that is in use on the Swan River in Montana. A mesh bag is provided to people to keep their valuables and trash contained. It has been working well. *Neil Brookes* expressed his concern that these bags may actually create more trash and could also pose a safety risk if the string was to get snagged on river debris.

Josh Lockwood, Conservation Officer presented his observations:

- Education is very important, but with no enforcement of the laws, it is difficult to have an impact.
- If installing additional garbage cans, ensure that they are bear resistant.
- The parking areas contain much more garbage than the river.
- His group also watch for impaired drivers and reminded tubers that life jackets are required by law.
- It is difficult for officers to get a boat up the river in August as the water level is so low.
- He is willing to present a “cold water video” at the beginning of the season (June) to warn of the dangers of swimming/floating when the water is cold.
- Local behaviour is very effective at educating visitors. By locals observing the rules, the culture will change for the better.
- A shuttle service would definitely be used if made available. It would be a good means of controlling the garbage in and out.
- Additional signage would also be effective. The signs could incorporate lots of information in addition to river safety, such as fire bans, etc. Kaylee Wells noted that the kiosk area at Belvidere Park is available to post this information.

Neil Brookes also noted that the use of sunscreen by so many people also has an impact on the health of the river.

Mayor McCune recapped the ideas that were presented:

- More garbage containers needed – larger, bear proof, and more collections.
- River Ambassadors – RBC grant opportunity available (“Blue Water”); training for life saving; get them out on the water more.
- Parking – possibly creating angle parking on the rail right-of-way near Belvidere Park.
- Find an entrepreneur to start up a shuttle service. A passenger van with a net covered trailer would get the job done.
- Get businesses on board to prepare for a busy season. Kaylee Wells reported that grants are available to train employees to assist tourists.
- Social media to be used more to get messages out.
- New hand launch area at Belvidere Park will help environmentally sensitive areas that are being compromised by current make-shift paths.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Davyduke, seconded by Councillor Knust that the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting adjourn at 3:55 p.m.

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER