

**Community Development Committee (CDC)
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2021 @ 5:30 PM
Via WebEx virtual meetings**

In Attendance: Chair Councillor Mike Trinacty
Councillor Rod Reeves
Councillor Ty Walsh
Heather Morse
Carol Hiscock-White
CAO Mike Payne

1. The meeting was called to order by Councillor Trinacty at 5:32 PM.
2. The minutes of the 2020 December 10 meeting were approved as circulated.
3. The Agenda was approved with the addition of **4.e) Diversity and Inclusion**

4. Business Arising

a) Downtown Park Plan Update

Chris Cooke is nearing completion of draft drawings for accessible pathways and sensory gardens at Centennial and Rainforth Parks. An update should be available at the next meeting. Brittany Brydon is actively exploring funding to address flood mitigation issues on the west side of Centennial Park that must be addressed prior to construction of the pathways.

b) Grants Update

Work remains underway at Spicer and Chute Parks. The musical equipment has been ordered for the Rainforth Park playground area.

c) Public Consultation Policy

No update since last meeting.

d) Holiday Events

The Committee provided good feedback on this effort from the community and surrounding area. The business community held some complementary events. There is some interest in an organized business network.

e) Diversity and Inclusion

Councillor Walsh advised that he had attended a recent meeting of the Kings Region Diversity and Inclusion Working Group. Brittany Mastroianni is the employee leading those efforts for

the Municipality of the County of Kings and will share the 2021 calendar of events with Councillor Walsh. He met with Taylor Boylan briefly this morning to brainstorm local initiatives around Black History Month (February). He also advised that the Town of Wolfville and Acadia University are partnering around racism awareness with Glooscap First Nation. Heather Morse advised that she is doing some training through the Community Health Board around reconciliation and the Mi'kmaq. She advised that the AVRCE may be able to assist as well. There was strong consensus for a local, Council supported Diversity and Inclusion committee

5. Sub Committee Updates:

a) Sports Hall of Fame

Councillor Trinacty advised that the Hall of Fame Committee met just before Christmas. Given the ongoing pandemic they decided to postpone their 2021 induction ceremony to Sept 25 in the hopes that they can hold a traditional event.

b) Trails Committee

Councillor Trinacty advised that trail work is underway at Spicer Park. The Trails Committee will meet again on January 19. He advised that the two train rail cars that will be installed on Town property off Mill Street near the Harvest Moon Trail have been delayed. The logistics of moving several rail cars and a locomotive to a number of valley locations are proving to be a little more than anticipated.

c) KMCC Governance Committee

Councillor Trinacty advised that the Committee will next meet on February 22. Hockey and curling bookings have been dramatically impacted by the latest COVID-19 pandemic related protocols.

d) Gala Days/Town Council Working Group

Councillor Trinacty reiterated that the Chair of the Gala Days Committee would like to continue reviewing alternative sites for the event. They remain concerned about the eventual sale of the former Berwick Building Supplies property and the potential redevelopment of Centennial Park. The green space to the north of the KMCC owned by the Berwick and District Community Association does not appear to be a viable option at this time. Tom Easson has a use agreement for an area behind his house that is on the property. He is not in favour of any development; the agreement expires in five years. Eassons management has also declined to allow the former Easson Trucking site as a temporary venue for horse/oxen pulls.

e) Staff Updates

No update since last meeting.

6. New Business

a) Economic Development Discussion

Considerable discussion ensued. Councillor Trinacty confirmed that there remains some interest in developing a local business network. There was a recognition that the business community needs to see value in that effort. Beth Wilson will consult some of the management team at Eden Valley Poultry for ideas in this area. The company has operations in NS, NB and ON. Some retired but experienced business people are willing to lend their support in some way. Given the pandemic it is difficult to bring people together but Councillor Trinacty will reach out to a number of them individually to brainstorm ideas he can bring back to the CDC. There was also recognition of the importance of public assets, infrastructure, parks and playgrounds to attract people to the Town. Business has a role to play in that area by maintaining their properties and grounds. CAO Payne is to review the former Director of Community Development's materials as there is some belief that she did some survey work with the business community. Input from the business community is an important consideration in this work.

b) 2021-2022 Capital Update

CAO Payne advised that they have engaged a local engineering firm to draft initial plans for a new parks maintenance workshop and public washrooms on the grounds of Centennial Park that would complement the look and feel of Carol's Place. Approved plans would be used to identify the specific costs of the project. Efforts will be made to identify potential sources of funding. The whole idea is very preliminary at this point. The only confirmed capital project for Parks and Trails at the moment is a commitment to replace playground equipment at Spicer Park to the tune of \$25,000.00 as part of a successful multiyear grant.

c) Other

There was some discussion about playground equipment, costs and the various options around the valley. Other municipalities have used fund raising as a mean to improve parks and playgrounds. Now that Phase Two of the KMCC has been completed local fundraising efforts could be diverted to these initiatives.

7. Next Meeting:

Thursday February 4 @ 6:30 PM

8. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.