

TOWN OF CRESTON
REGULAR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2016

Minutes of a Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council held on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the Round House, Lower Kootenay Band, Creston, BC.

PRESENT: Mayor Ron Toyota
Councillors Boehmer, Comer, Elford, Snopek, Unruh

ABSENT: Councillor Wilson

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Jason Louie, Lower Kootenay Band
Councillor Sandra Luke, Lower Kootenay Band
Heather Suttie, Director of Operations, Lower Kootenay Band
Curtis Wullum, Director of Development Services, Lower Kootenay Band
Angie Louie, Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child & Family Services Wellness Educator
Jaylin Louie, Lower Kootenay Band
Lou Varela, Town Manager
Helene Miles, Community, Policy and Research Coordinator
Bev Caldwell, Executive Assistant
Hugh Grant, Communications Team, Creston Official Community Plan
Laura Hannant, Communications Team, Creston Official Community Plan
Marsha Neufeld, Communications Team, Creston Official Community Plan
Doreen Cardwell, Communications Team, Creston Official Community Plan
Al Gribbon, Prince Charles Secondary School

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Toyota called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA Moved by Councillor Snopek, seconded by Councillor Comer
THAT the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 14, 2016, be adopted. CARRIED

COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM On behalf of the Town of Creston, Mayor Toyota welcomed all of the participants of this Community-to-Community (C2C) Forum, and Chief Jason Louie welcomed all attendees to the Lower Kootenay Band Round House.

Chief Louie stated that the First Nations ribbon shirt and medallion that was being worn by Town of Creston Councillor Kevin Boehmer, originally belonged to Chief Louie, which he had presented to Councillor Boehmer as a gift.

Chief Louie provided some history and the purpose of the Round House and the importance that the structure has for the local First Nations Band. The Roundhouse assists in the recognition of the First Nations Ktunaxa culture and language, which is in jeopardy of being lost. There are currently 240 people on the Band's membership list, and prior to the construction of the Roundhouse, only five spoke the language and less had knowledge of the Band's traditions, songs, etc. Residential schools are also part of the history. The trauma inflicted by residential schools had significant and far reaching impact on First Nations Bands and communities. This has slowly started to change through healing processes and initiatives, creating positive futures for individuals, families and their communities.

Funding to construct the Roundhouse was an issue. A formal presentation was made to various corporations, one to two years went by with no feedback. In the spring of 2014 the Band started to receive positive support from some corporations, \$250,000 from one and then another commitment for \$250,000, followed by other smaller contributions. July 2014 saw the start of construction, opening in November 2015.

Chief Louie stated that guests in the Roundhouse are invited to talk about important issues. No shoes are permitted in the Roundhouse, only slippers, moccasins or sock feet. The reason for this is that there is a lot of turmoil, ugliness, dirt outside and they do not want to bring that turmoil into the building, leave it at the door – only bring peace in. The East door is used to welcome spirits, the only people who come through that door are those that are sick and in need of help. The West door is for people who are in good health to enter. The kitchen door is reserved for people who work in the kitchen. Protocol is that seating is on the floor.

Chief Louie sang a song of Prayer prior to dinner being served.

Mayor Toyota described the purpose of this C2C Forum, which is to continue the relationship building between the two local governments and the residents of the Lower Kootenay Band and the Town of Creston. Mayor Toyota outlined the history of C2C Forums with the Town and the Lower Kootenay Band Councils, which have been key to the positive relationship that has been formed between the two Councils and the communities at large.

Chief Louie acknowledged the support of Councillor Sandra Luke, who is a valuable member of the Lower Kootenay Band Team. Chief Louie stated that the Lower Kootenay Band wants to continue to build on the relationship with the Town and mentioned some of the relationship building events that have taken place where the two local governments have participated, i.e. Food Bank Challenge, PTSD Awareness Walk, Canoe Trek (Bonners Ferry to Rykerts), Canoe Trek (Kootenay Lake), Family Day celebrations, Joint Inauguration, dinner meetings, etc.

Mayor Toyota expressed his Council's interest in reaffirming the Memorandum of Understanding and Friendship that was signed between the Councils in 2009, with the new members of Council. This will be brought forward at a later date.

Chief Louie took the opportunity to share with the attendees, a few words from their native language: anwunikit (later), sooksay (good/it's good), and ki'su'k kyukyit (good day/afternoon).

► TOWN OF CRESTON OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN At this time Mayor Toyota turned the meeting over to Ms. Laura Hannant, Team leader for the Communications Team for the Town of Creston's Official Community Plan.

Ms. Hannant reported that the current Town of Creston Official Community Plan was adopted in 2001 and is now under review. The first piece of the engagement process is to receive input from the Lower Kootenay Band as to traditional land use and quality of life (what do we want it to feel and look like).

Ms. Hannant asked the attendees to take part in a brainstorming session on the following:

1. Choose words that would describe what an Official Community Plan should represent for visitors. Words proposed were: affordable, lively, beautiful, natural, welcoming, inclusive, prosperous, generous, beautiful, peaceful.
2. Choose words that would describe what an Official Community Plan should represent for residents. Words proposed were: supportive, peaceful, sexy, lively, vibrant, beautiful.
3. Amenities to promote in the area: orchards, wineries, lake, recreation centre, mountain view points
4. Ktunaxa Nation history goes back 10,000 years, the Lower Kootenay Band would like to see their flag flown in the Town of Creston, at Town Hall and the Creston Valley Chamber of Commerce; and preserve the Ktunaxa language and culture through street signage in both languages, to show inclusiveness.

Attendees were each given a wooden block and asked to mark the block, signifying what they want the Official Community Plan to represent, with the blocks later being assembled in a mural.

In conclusion to the meeting, attendees viewed the displays which included the conceptual design for a proposed Market Park for the Town of Creston, photographs of past C2C events, the Memorandum of Understanding and Friendship, and other items representing the positive relationship building that has occurred between the Lower Kootenay Band and the Town of Creston.

ADJOURN

The Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting held March 14, 2016, adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

AS TO THE MINUTES OF THIS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING:

Mayor Ron Toyota

Bev Caldwell, Executive Assistant