

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: June 10, 2024	
To: Council	From: Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer
Re: Administrative Updates	

ACTING CAO/CORPORATE OFFICER UPDATE:

New CAO Appointment

- Staff have welcomed our (as of today!) newly appointed CAO, Daniel Drexler, and are looking forward to help orientate him on all things 'District of Barriere' over the coming weeks. More so, we are looking forward to all the knowledge and experience that Mr. Drexler has brought to Barriere that our team will certainly benefit from. The public will be formally introduced to our new CAO through a press release shortly.

Development Projects

- Meeting with TRUE Engineering staff to discuss potential, future change and improvement recommendations to the District's Development Approvals Process. The District has submitted an application for funding in the amount of approximately \$140,000.00 to facilitate this project with a Provincial decision expected later this month.

Other

- As previously reported, the District's application under the *2023 CRI FireSmart Community Funding Program* has been approved in the amount of \$138,295.42. A number of meetings has been held with Fire Department personnel and representatives from the Province and work can now begin, starting with the hiring of the FireSmart Coordinator. Staff will advise Council on the successful candidate at a future Council Meeting.

- With the funding from the Interior Savings Community Grant, furnishing the BBC Boardroom is underway and includes a boardroom table, boardroom chairs, audiovisual equipment, laptops and other furnishings.

- Lease documents for the BBC tenants have been finalized with a term start date for June 1st, 2024. Keys and security codes have been assigned for tenants and staff. Post construction interior cleaning of the building is complete.



- UBCM Ministry and Staff Meetings are now available to be booked with a deadline of June 21st. This year's UBCM Convention is once again taking place in Vancouver and the District has 3 rooms reserved for September 15-24th, 2024.
- The 2025 SILGA Convention will take place in Merritt from April 29 – May 2, 2025. Accommodation has been secured for up to seven attendees.

- The interview process for the replacement of outgoing Deputy Fire Chief, Derek Ive (as of June 27th) is complete. Chief Wohlgemuth will be making her recommendation to Council for this appointment at the June 24, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.
- Continuing to engage in conversations with the TNRD regarding the multi-municipality Housing Needs Report update collaboration.
- Preparation for the Annual Report is underway.
- Staff are preparing to present Council with an updated MOU draft with Simpcw First Nation at the Council meeting in June in anticipation of scheduling a summer signing of the document.
- The first reminder of the Property Tax deadline of July 2, 2024 @ 4:30pm has been sent out via E-News, posted online, posters have been printed and the reminder will be added to the downtown message board shortly.
- BC Assessment has notified the District that organizations/businesses that occupy municipally owned properties are subject to property taxation in 2025. This means that the tenants of the BBC and Barriere Search & Rescue are taxable unless they are eligible for a Permissive Tax Exemption. The Barriere & Area Chamber of Commerce and Barriere Search & Rescue are both eligible and staff are expecting the submission of their applications this summer. In order to receive a tax exemption, their applications must be approved by Council in the form of an amended Permissive Tax Bylaw by October 31, 2024.
- This year's seasonal summer position has been posted. Duties include general park maintenance, movie night coordination, water patrol and other general parks/rec duties during the summer months.

PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER:

Parks

- Minor irrigation repairs completed in Fadear Park and Main 2.
- 28 trees were planted at Community and Fadear parks. Funded by BC Hydro re-greening grant.
- Slowpitch tournament was held over the weekend with 9 teams participating
- Bill Kershaw was inquiring about purchasing an old inoperable ride-on mower stored at KP park that DOB owns.

Roads

- All road lining (long lines & hand work) has been completed by our contractor.
- Drywell and culvert maintenance completed utilizing a hydro-vac.
- Grad parade to be held Saturday June 15. Staff to help with traffic control.

Utilities

- Continuing to work with our consultant on our WWTP design. Staff will be reviewing draft design drawings.
- Leonie Lake dam field inspection was completed. The lake is full but the water level is now starting to recede.
- Staff will be installing a new water service this upcoming week.

BBC

- Tenants are now occupying the building
- Our contractor is working on exterior window trim
- Some landscaping still needs to be completed at the back of the building
- Front area beautification has been coordinated with the Chamber of Commerce.

RECREATION COORDINATOR:

- Canada Day planning has commenced for Monday, July 1st with the opening ceremony for 2pm sharp. As normal, dignitaries have been invited to say a few words and Council presence is requested, if available. Glenn Andrews is organizing a string orchestra to play O'Canada and this year a BBQ will take place as well as the normal cupcakes and lawn games.
- Next week, the BBC Grand Opening takes place on Friday at 3pm and the Welcome Summer Block Party in Fadear Park is on Saturday at 3pm as well.
- The next Recreation Committee meeting is on Wednesday, June 12th at 9:30am.

*submitted for information

Prepared by: Tasha Buchanan, Acting CAO