

SELECT COMMITTEE ON STUDENT NEEDS

Minutes of the City of Prince George Select Committee on Student Needs meeting, held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC, on July 31, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillor Jillian Merrick (Chair); Ms. Trina Johnson; Ms. Arctica Cunningham; Mr. Grant Bachand <5:25 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.>; Ms. Kamal Bindra; and Mr. Daniel O'Reilly.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Rob van Adrichem, Director of External Relations/Staff Liaison <6:05 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.> and Ms. Leslie Jackson, Legislative Assistant.

Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m.

A. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, that the agenda for the July 31, 2017 Select Committee on Student Needs meeting, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

B. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Mr. O'Reilly, seconded by Ms. Bindra, that the minutes of the Select Committee on Student Needs Meetings held on June 19, 2017, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

C. New Business

Councillor Merrick advised the Committee of two new members appointed by Council as a result of the resignations of Mr. Mason Hodgson and Mr. Michael Cruickshank. Ms. Arctica Cunningham and Ms. Lindsay Albers received a majority vote of Council to fill the interim appointments ending December 31, 2017.

C.1 Review of Updated White Paper

Councillor Merrick reviewed the Select Committee on Student Needs White Paper received by Council at the July 25, 2016 regular Council meeting and noted the completed tasks within each of the priorities. The Committee discussed each priority including transportation, housing, recreation and active living, jobs, downtown culture and entertainment, and representation of students.

Mr. Bachand entered the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 5:25 p.m.

Councillor Merrick will draft an update to the White Paper for the Committee's review in preparation to present an update to Council at an upcoming regular Council meeting in the fall.

D. OLD BUSINESS

D.1 Student Housing

The Committee discussed a meeting held between Ms. Melissa Barcellos, Manager of Economic Development, Mr. Rob van Adrichem and Councillor Merrick. Councillor Merrick advised that a brochure will be developed for use by the Economic Development division related to student housing. Economic Development will gather quantitative data related to students, off-campus housing, and wait lists whereas Councillor Merrick and Mr. van Adrichem will gather qualitative data related to the need of downtown student housing.

D.2 Talktober 2017

Mr. van Adrichem entered the 2nd Floor Conference Room at 6:05 p.m.

The Committee discussed the use of other media channels such as Facebook Live Videos by which to facilitate a Talktober 2017 event and reach a broader range of citizens.

Mr. van Adrichem advised the proposed referendum may be a large focus of the community meetings and will further advise on proposed dates for Talktober 2017. The Committee discussed the possibility of hosting an “Ask Me Anything” questions/answer event separate from Talktober 2017 with the student organizations responsible for gathering questions and encouraging student participation and the City providing a channel by which the responses can be delivered.

Active Living Guide Distribution

The Committee discussed distributing the fall publication of the Active Living Guide to students during campus orientation. Councillor Merrick will provide the publications to the student organizations following their printing date towards the end of August 2017.

2017 Referendum

The Committee discussed that subject to Council’s approval at their August 21, 2017 regular Council meeting, a referendum is proposed to be held on October 28, 2017 regarding the replacement of the Four Seasons Leisure Pool and Fire Hall #1.

Discussion commenced regarding the opportunity for organizations to request a presentation from the City regarding the proposed replacements by way of the online web form at the City’s website. The student organizations were also offered opportunity to request a presentation directly through contact with Ms. Jackson, Mr. van Adrichem and/or Councillor Merrick.

Mr. van Adrichem advised he will email the Youtube video links to the information videos produced by the City regarding the proposed projects.

The Committee discussed the rights of students who are not normally residents of the community to vote in the referendum given their mandatory UPASS purchase as part of their semester fees. Ms. Jackson will provide details regarding voter eligibility to Mr. van Adrichem for inclusion on the City’s website.

E. Adjournment

Moved by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, that the July 31, 2017 Select Committee on Student Needs meeting, BE ADJOURNED.

Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Councillor Jillian Merrick, Chair

Leslie Jackson, Legislative Assistant

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