

## Neighbourhood Association Forum – December 8, 2021

### Summary Notes

**Key Speaker:** Community Social Development

### Community Social Development

- The [Grande Prairie & Area Community Compass](#) is a project created in partnership between the City of Grande Prairie, the County of Grande Prairie, and the Community Foundations of Northwestern Alberta.
- The Community Compass provides coordinated access to social supports by tying together independent social services and programs to streamline access to community support for residents.
- The Community Compass includes three Navigator Levels:
  - Level 1 allows anyone to have access to online resources so that information can be used to self-direct or provided to friends and family. Level 1 includes service providers and all members of the public.
  - Level 2 includes community organizations who are already knowledgeable in resources and services, and who are in a position where individuals may come to them for help.
  - Level 3 is designed for community experts including housing and homelessness organizations. Level 3 users are primarily responsible for providing direct access to programs for those needing complex care.
- Digital access is available through the [HelpSeeker](#) app and website.
- HelpSeeker is a free network offering access to over 695 services, programs, and resources across the Grande Prairie area. Helpseeker provides resources in many areas including:
  - Housing and Homelessness
  - Food Services
  - Domestic Violence
  - Mental Health and Addictions
  - Training and Education
  - Community and belonging
- HelpSeeker can be used all across Canada to find resources in all regions of the country.
- Community Social Development is looking into the possibility of having the Community Compass available on library computers to make the program more accessible.



## **Enforcement Services**

- Over the last few weeks, Enforcement Services has been working with the Mobile Outreach Program to help vulnerable persons access warm shelter as the weather becomes colder.
- Officers have been posted in school zones to help keep them safe and to prevent people from parking on crosswalks and in no-parking zones.
- Due to icy road conditions, Enforcement Services has been helping the RCMP with multiple motor vehicle collisions in the area.

## **Energy and Environment**

- The Drop and Swap scheduled for October 20-22 was canceled due to COVID numbers.
- The following events are planned for the spring:
  - April 22: Earth Day Family Event will be held at the Teresa Sargent Hall in Montrose Cultural Centre. During this event, vendors will be there discussing environmental initiatives and how to reduce public impact on the environment. There will also be local owners of electric vehicles discussing the owning electric vehicles.
  - April 28-29: GP Grows is back. Free seed kits will be handed out that allow participants to go home and grow their own food. Information will also be provided on what maintenance can be done by Neighbourhood Associations to community orchards.
  - May 1-7: The City Scrub will be taking place. All cleaning supplies will be provided.
    - If you are interested in hosting your own cleaning event at any time, send an email to [environment@cityofgp.com](mailto:environment@cityofgp.com). Tools and supplies will be provided for your cleaning event.
- The Property Assessment Program is expected to roll out in September.
  - This program allows participants to finance energy improvements to your home through property taxes following a full assessment.

## **Sports Development, Wellness and Culture**

- The Activity and Reception Centre in the Smith neighbourhood is expected to be completed later this month.
- The Strategic Plan for recreation and culture has been passed on to a consultant. The first meeting with the consultant will take place this week.
  - The City will be reaching out to the community to provide feedback on recreation and culture programs in the area.

## Parks

- Winter Programs:
  - Maintenance of outdoor rinks is a priority so that rinks can be in top condition for Christmas break. The condition of rinks is weather dependent.
  - There has been continuous snow removal and upkeep of trails, as well as sanitization and upkeep of garbage receptacles.
  - Tree pruning program
    - The use of mapping app has allowed for Parks to keep an up-to-date tree inventory throughout the city.
  - Playground inspections will continue to take place throughout the winter.
  - The final day to apply for the neighbourhood rink program is December 15.
- Parks Q&A
  - **Is the tree inventory full stocked?** We are able to maintain a net zero loss within the current budget, if not even a net growth. All removed trees are replaced, and trees have been added to different locations.
  - **How do we keep new trees healthy?** Trees are kept healthy using internal resources such as the fall planting program, spring programs that include contracted services, and a consistent watering program. All locations, conditions, and tree requirements are researched prior to planting.
  - **When do trees that have been taken down in front yards get replaced?** Replacement trees may take up to 2 years, however the average waiting time is within 1 year.
  - **Are there any plans to put trees in the center medians on the roads?** Center medians do not typically provide ideal conditions for tree planting, and therefore there are no plans to plant trees there. Parks will look into options for planting more trees along the boulevards where appropriate.
  - **Are we able to cut down trees that release large amounts of allergens, such as poplars?** While the goal is to retain as many trees as possible, types that produce large amounts of allergens, such as northwest poplars, are typically avoided when planting new trees and alternatives are planted (ex. large shade trees).