



Council Committee as a Whole

MINUTES

June 13th, 2019

6:30 pm in the Council Chambers

In attendance: Tim Lewis, Mel Baxter, Margaret Johnston, Chris Hamblin, Trevor Thiessen, Ruth Murray and Mayor Scott Crick

Also in attendance: CAO Brigitte Doerksen, CFO Chris Janke

Not in attendance: None

Discussion: None

Delegations:

6:30- Community Planning- Elise

7:00 – Director of Facilities- Melissa Marion (Wellness Centre Update)

Minutes from last Meeting:

Moved by: Mel Baxter

Seconded by: Chris Hamblin

Be it resolved that the Minutes for the April committee as a Whole meeting be adopted as presented.

Council Round Table (Committee, Board, and Personal Reports):

- **Mayor Scott Crick**

Mayor's Report

For Committee as a Whole – June 13, 2019

Events attended or Mayoral activities (paid):

May 13-19: Clinic Meeting with RHA (2 Hours)

May 13-19: Morris School PAC Meeting (2 Hours)
May 15-19: Meeting with Valley Fiber (1.5 Hours)
May 16&17-19: Municipal Planning Conference, Brandon (14 Hours)
May 26-19: Rural Week Doctor Visit (Recruitment) (2 Hours)
May 27-19: Community Partners Meeting, Hospital (2 Hours)
June 2-19: Meet with citizen to discuss issues (1 Hour)

Events attended or Mayoral activities (unpaid):

May 28-19: Door-to-door boil water notices (1.5 Hours)
June 2-19: Decoration Day Service (1.5 Hours)
June 11-19: In the Mayor's Chair Interview (.5 Hours)
June 11-19: Meet with Councilor M. Baxter (1 Hour)
May-June: Various Correspondence (5 Hours)

Items of Interest to Report on:

1. It was encouraging to receive notice that we can put in for funding the Town portion of the Valley Fiber install.
2. An offer has been prepared for two parcels of industrial land, based on the numbers provided by the owner. This will be sent out shortly.
3. Was glad I attended the Municipal Planning Conference in May. I've often said the best way to determine value is to attend and see if we can justify the cost of attending. Unfortunately, I found this conference to be geared more towards larger communities and city planners, with most of the sessions being facilitated by consultants who wanted to sell their consulting services. I likely will not attend this again.
4. Councillor Lewis and I had dinner with two first year medical students who were stationed in Morris during Rural Week. I was surprised to hear that they thought our clinic was in nicer shape than when they had been at HSC.
5. Delivering notices door-to-door for the boil water advisory was a great chance to talk with people. This likely made me slow in getting this done. That being said, we'll need to continue to work on ways to deliver these communications in a more targeted manner.

Noted and Discussed

- **Deputy Mayor Chris Hamblin**

Counselor Chris Hamblin report to the May 23 council meeting

May 24, 2019 - Met with member of community to discuss Valley Agro's potential expansion and some of his concerns

May 31, 2019 – Meeting with councillor and CAO with the Dog Park committee (Lori Mazinke, Lou Erikson, and Angie Smook).

- We made suggestions for locations
- Offered support through possible garbage pick-up and grass mowing but no cash. S
- Council supportive of the idea.

May 31 – June 1, 2019 - Rumble in the Valley (Volunteer n/c)

June 6, 2019 – VAS Board of Directors meeting

June 10, 2019 – Represented Ruth at the Chamber of Commerce meeting.

- Blue Water – Cheryl will have some summer students contact businesses to see interest
- Rings of Influence – comment on invoices having been sent to the Town and RM for payment of their shares for 2016, 2017 and 2018
- Justin reported on the meeting with MP, Candice Bergen. Will look to do something similar with Blaine Pedersen/Shannon Martin.
- Cargill Curling Training Centre – Chris reported on the upcoming Canadian Deaf Fun spiel June 14 – 16. Approximate \$10,000 impact on the community.
- Town of Morris – Chris (on behalf of Ruth) reported on
 - The interest in a Dog Park
 - The Crosswalk safety issue
 - Valley Fiber and pending community meeting
 - Manitoba Planning Conference
 - Industrial Park space
- Stampede Kickoff – plans coming together
- Youth Employment – Devin Vermette, spoke about the fencing for stampede. May need to purchase more boards.
 - A motion was made to contribute \$200 to help families in need to purchase swim passes.
- Discussion about providing info at Stampede and Howl at the Moon to give patrons of these events some info about the Town and businesses.
- Cheryl requested the next meeting be July 15th. This was accepted by the group.
- June 12 & 13, 2019 – represented the Town of Morris at the Red River Basin Commission Board meeting.
 - Wednesday afternoon was a tour of the Pembina Valley Water Coop water treatment facility and the retention pond, followed by an informal dinner and evening.
 - Board Meeting has held on Thursday. On behalf of Scott (Mayor), I welcomed the board to the Town and talked briefly about our concerns about flooding and dike closure – the economic impact to the town and area.

- This was followed by a report from Brent Van Koughnet on a large initiative being undertaken by various groups but being coordinated by Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers.
- RRBC projects were highlighted, staff policy reviewed, progress on website update was reported.
- I received many thanks for our hosting this meeting as well as agreeing to host the south gala next fall; good comments on the caterer; also thanks for supporting the LiDar project.

Economic Development Committee meeting – May 16, 2019 (while at Municipal Planners Conference in Brandon)

Attendance: Scott, Tim, Chris and Brigitte

- Some discussion on the debt the Town is carrying. We have lots of room within the Municipal rules but are still carrying debt on the arena, and with Pembina Valley Water. The concern expressed is can we handle this plus purchasing more land for industrial park.
- Industrial Park/ Land purchase
 - Partner with RM of Morris or Montcalm – do we have some tax sharing opportunities with the RMs in return for assistance in purchase of land? No decision but could be an opportunity if the time is right
 - Price at \$6000 for 370 acres over 40 years or 25 - about \$135,000/year
 - At \$10,000/acre payments would go to \$175,000/year
 - Would still need to have the development costs added on
 - Felt that the high cost per year would make other opportunities difficult to embrace such as the Manor, Hospital projects and/or Assisted Living.
 - Agreed to Offer on the 2 small parcels at approx... \$600,000 (as per our initial offer but that we would make it an official offer not just an email. The offer would have an expiry – it would not be open ended)
- Update on the Hospital project – the Hospital committee had a good meeting with Central Health. There has been some concern/push to get the donor money spent. Tim will talk to Bruce Gregory and see if there are any timelines around spending this money.
- Doug Edal request
 - Expansion of business but taxes are too high
 - Ed had provided standard town policy over 5 years
 - Other benefits of operating in Morris
 - Wants tax break –Chris to go talk to him.
- RCMP location –Brigitte will prepare a map showing all property owned by the Town of Morris
- Dave Smith request – tax break site doesn't comply with the zoning. The lot is not big enough for storage and is not zoned for this type of business.
 - Dave has asked for tax break
 - He doesn't meet the requirements as he does not have a new business and does not have new employees.
 - Needs to stop his digging as he does not have a building permit and does not meet zoning requirements (Brigitte will follow up on this)

- Assisted Living and Day Care – Chris shared some of what was learned in her Dauphin visit. Of note was that they were having trouble renting out the 2 bedrooms and the studios. Almost all want the one bedroom. It is not a 55 plus as was initially targeted but has turned into a mostly 75 plus and mostly singles. (currently they have 3 couples in the facility)

Noted and discussed

- **Councillor Mel Baxter**

Valley Regional Library Report

June 10th, 2019 - Regular meeting of the Library committee

- Financials were reviewed as well as book and writers club activities.
- A motion to approve purchasing of reusable handle bags emphasizing the library name was approved.
- Payment of rent to the Valley Library Fdn for \$1710.94 was done to accommodate the town taxes on the property.
- An audited draft of the year's accounts was approved.

Morris Area Foundation Report

June 6th, 2019 - AGM of the Morris Area Fdn Inc.

- Held at the Riverview Golf Club with the adoption of the Annual (Activities) and Financial reports.
- Del Stevenson was re-elected as President with the same executive board.
- Presentations were given by the Valley Ag. Society, Morris and District Centennial Museum and Youth in Philanthropy
- June 10th a special general meeting was called to discuss an agreement between the Morris-Emerson Area Health Fdn Inc. and the Morris Area Fdn Inc.
 - The purpose being to accept the funds transfer of remaining assets to the MAF. This was precipitated by the revoking of the charitable status of the Morris-Emerson Fdn.
 - This court ordered process had to be legally done by June-11th. There were only 2 options presented
 - 1) Accept the transfer agreement
 - 2) Transfer the funds to the RHA.
 - After discussion, with legal input from Bruce Gregory and Wpg foundation lawyers, the motion to accept the transfer to MAF was approved. The executive was charged with facilitating the legal documentation and banking procedures. The funds transferred to MAF totaled \$391,704

Noted and Discussed

- **Councillor Margaret Johnston**

Red River Parent Child celebrated 20 years

- **Councillor Tim Lewis**

Committees, Boards, and Activities Attended:

- Transportation and Infrastructure (Chair)

Items of Interest to Report on:

- A meeting was held on June 6 with Brian Wiebe, Mel Baxter and Tim Lewis.
- Spring clean-up went well this year but MWM also offers this service. Brian will check with them on cost. For fall clean-up they would like to divide the town into quadrants and do the clean-up by quadrant. The message would be handed out the previous month during water meter readings. RM of McDonald offers no tipping fees at the dump during the week of town clean-up.
- Possible dog park sites were discussed and potential PW involvement
- Jason Herkert passed all three water courses and they will apply to get his certification.
- Flower planters and hanging baskets will be going out around town shortly.
- Kennedy and other street repair projects came in under budget so we will be able to do more than projects this year.
- In regards to connections to the water and sewer mains from private property, PW is suggesting that we make it a requirement that contractors from an approved list be used.
- The most recent PW employee did not work out and was terminated. A new employee will be starting on June 10 and the green team members will also be starting soon.

Possible Resolutions for Council Consideration:

- PW is wondering if an arrangement could be made with Dough Edell to use about 150' x 30' at the back of Anne Decima's old pasture to be able to spread out the compost from their organic collection site.
- PW would also like to have their own Facebook page which would be for information only and the public would not be able to post comments on it.

TRCF Meeting Minutes:

Date: April 1, 2019

Place: CF Triple R Office
Morris, MB

The Schedule will tentatively be as follows

5:00 pm BIRC
6:00 pm Dinner
6:45 pm Finance
7:00 pm Board Meeting

Please note the times for meetings may change due to length

Please notify the office at least one business day
In advance if you will not be attending.

Please find attached the Agenda for the April 1, 2019 Board meeting, along with the Minutes from the March 4, 2019 Finance, Board & Foundation (if any).

Community Futures Triple R Corporation
220 Main St N, Box 190
Morris, MB R0G 1K0
T 204-746-6180
F 204-746-2035
TF 1-888-303-2232

COMMUNITY FUTURES TRIPLE R
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

CF Triple R Office 220 Main St N
Morris, Manitoba

Board Meeting Agenda

April 1, 2019

5:00 pm BIRC
6:00 pm Dinner
6:45 pm Finance
7:00 pm Board Meeting

1. Call To Order

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Review / Adoption of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from March 4, 2019.

4. Acceptance of absent Board member

5. Finance Committee Meeting Report

6. Motions to be ratified from BIRC Committee recommendations, if any

7. CFM/WED – forwarded to Board.
Questions or comments

8. Reports:
Staff report
Chairperson report
Board Member

9. New / Other Business:

Change in signing authorities

10. Next Meeting: May 6, 2019 @ CF Tripler R Office. Morris, MB

11. Adjourn

COMMUNITY FUTURES TRIPLE R
BUSINESS INVESTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (BIRC)

Dominion City Legion
Dominion City Manitoba
March 4, 2019

In attendance: Ray Maynard, Randy Eros, Ralph Groening, Ken Prociw, Ivan Normandeau, Doug Dobrowolski, Bruno Hebert, Todd Nichols.

Staff: Debbi Fortier, Shelley Johnston, Dave Smith, Shelley Zilkie

Randy calls the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

1) # 82 BIRC agenda

R. Groening / R. Maynard: Motion to approve the March 4, 2019 Business Investment Review Committee (BIRC) agenda as amended. Addition # 8- Loan #18-10, and under other business to include allowance for doubtful. Carried

2) #83 BIRC Minutes

K. Prociw / R. Maynard: Motion to adopt the January 21, 2019 Business Investment Review Committee minutes as presented. Carried

3) Loan 15-05 RM of Rhineland – update

Dave is in the process of collecting our collateral with the assistance of a Bailiff. Client has been in contact with Dave saying that there may be a possible payout. If not legal seizure will commence.

4) Loan 17-06 City of Steinbach – update

Dave discusses his conversation with the client. She is in extreme delinquency with her landlord for past rent to the amount of approx. \$24,000.00. Dave did meet in person with the client and her father to discuss possible options. They would like to make some payments to the landlord to show good faith. It was made clear that we cannot offer any more funding to the loan but Dave did give the options of either suspended payments or interest only payments for a few months. Final suggestion was to go with 3 months of interest only.

84 R. Groening / K. Prociw: Motion to offer client three months of interest only payments.
Carried

5) Loan 18-07 RM of Ritchot – update

This business is no longer in operation. The client is three payments in arrears and the bank account has been frozen. No contact from the client however we do have a guarantee by the client's common law spouse. Dave will attempt to contact the father of the client as he was in previous discussions. If there is no response from anyone, Dave will call the loan and proceed with legal paperwork.

6) Loan 18-08 RM of Macdonald – update

This loan was to be a joint loan with CF Whitehorse Plains. The client is withdrawing his loan application as the price on the building he was trying to purchase keeps changing, cannot come to any resolution with the real estate agent.

7) Loan 18-10 City of Steinbach – update

This loan was to be a secured GIC with the RBC in Steinbach which was to help re-establish the client's wife's credit as she is listed on the loan. Dave discovered some problems in working with RBC as things were not being done. RBC is unable to provide the GIC for the line of credit. Dave proposes that we continue with the loan for \$4800.00 so the client can afford his payroll. The client is currently working on a \$51,000.00 project and expects a quick payout upon his completion of the job. We have good

collateral for the loan amount, and in the future, Dave plans to continue to work with the RBC and the client to make some improvements for the client's business.

#85 R. Maynard / K. Prociw: Motion to accept the loan conditions (from a secured GIC with the RBC) to a \$4800.00, 3 year loan term with sufficient collateral. Carried

8) Discussion on Creditor Life and disability insurance policies and requirements

Dave provides a slide presentation to the committee. Application amounts vs Insurance needs, using our loan portfolio as an example. Dave explained the different types of insurances We have used in the past. Currently we ask that the clients purchase their own insurance. Discussion followed. If he should have any further questions or need clarification he is to bring the item back to BIRC.

#86 R. Maynard / K. Prociw: Motion to have the decision on insurance for loans will be at Dave's discretion on a case by case basis. Carried

9) Other Business – Allowance for Doubtful

Dave presents recoveries vs doubtful.

#87 R. Groening / K. Prociw: Motion to accept the allowance for doubtful for 2018-2019. Carried

10) Adjournment:

#88 R. Eros / R. Maynard: Motion to adjourn the March 4, 2019 Business Investment Review Committee (BIRC) meeting. Carried

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Noted and discussed

• **Councillor Ruth Murray**

- June contacted public works to have planters moved to public works shed.
- Contacted people to see if they were willing to help.
- Put up notices asking for weeders and planters.
- Various volunteers helped plant the town flowers on Friday, June 7, 2019:
- The flowers were done in the Public Works Shop & The Stampede Circle was also planted.
- In the evening I delivered plants to the Kelesnik's and planted the flowers at town office.
- June 9, weeding took place at Jane's perennial garden on the South end of town.
- Fred & Sharon Kelesnik always look after Smith Park, planting, weeding & watering.

- June 10th, 2019 attended the RRBC in Carman
 - Mervin Dueck (on finance) is the rep from the R M of Morris & Harold Janzen is the rep from the RM of Montcalm.
 - Don Wiebe is the chair for the South Chapter & he is from the RM of Rhineland.
 - Gavin Van der Linde was there from Strategic Community Consulting.
- David Hay & Andrea McLean from the Province of Manitoba Sustainable Development gave a presentation on:
 - Conservation Districts
 - Enhanced watershed planning
 - Drainage regulations.
- Ted Priester - Executive Director RRBC spoke of the RRBC work, engagements & partnerships.
 - Tile Drainage in North Dakota. How do you improve H2O quality & also help farmers with their crops.
 - Flood Solutions update re: The Red to the border & how climate change affecting us.
 - Water Quality on Roseau, Warroad, Breckinridge, Moorhead, Thief River & the steps being taken.
 - Highlighted the good things of RRBC. The Pembina Water Board has challenges. With the Red River Valley Water Supply communities need help in planning.
- People are beginning to realize we all have to work together to preserve our good water as well as restoring some of the areas such as Netley Marsh.
- LIDAR will be most helpful in locating areas. The South Chapter did receive funding from FCM in this regard.
- On Sept 16- 18, 2019 a workshop will be held @ The Victoria Inn in Wpg regarding One Board One Governance.
- There will be LIDAR workshops coming up in Sept & Oct.
- The Gala will once again take place in Morris @ The Multiplex on Nov 21, 2019. The Board agreed this was an ideal location.
- The next meeting will take place in Plum Coulee on September 23.

Meeting was adjourned @ 12:30.

- **Councillor Trevor Thiessen**

- Protective Services meeting
 - Fleet net radio situation (as of Dec. 31st 2019 will be obsolete)
 - Minimum 3 – ideally we need 6
 - Demolition of house on Boyne- now at a level of tenant/landlord requirements etc. Tenant wants to go in house to remove personal items.

- Pembina Valley Water Coop meeting
 - Learned lots of new information therefore Trevor requested for Greg to attend a CAAW Meeting (Trevor will send him dates of the next mtgs.)
 - Valley Weed Control Meeting this morning
 - Heavy rescue training at the Multiplex Parking Lot
-

- **Project Board Reports:**

- **Morris Manor Project – Trevor Thiessen**
 - Funding agreement from the Province
 - Monday at lunch will be meeting with Dale Walls (at the Golf Course)
 - Chris and Margaret will also attend
- **Assisted Living Project – Chris Hamblin**
- **Medical Clinic Project – Tim Lewis**

8:30 am Meeting with Southern Health

In attendance: Scott Crick, Tim Lewis, Mel Baxter, Margaret Johnston, Cheryl Harrison Executive Director, Ron Morris Director of Health, Jane Curtis Chief Executive Officer, Matt Donahoe, Reynold Peters Manager of Construction/Energy Savings, and Ken Klassen, VP of Finance and Planning

Also in attendance: CFO Chris Janke

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Discussion of Current Situation from Town of Morris Perspective:

The following points were brought forward by council regarding the current proposed plan:

- We are already at the top end of the estimated cost of the current plan for the doctor's clinic.
- There are unknown costs, including asbestos remediation, moving/housing the doctors and accessibility.
- Worthwhile project but council would like to nail down the costs.
- Would be interested in exploring other possibilities other than a full clinic rebuild.
- Need to know that if we invest, the hospital will still be there in 10 years.

Update on Provincial Health Transformation Process and Timelines

- Southern Health has already completed several large maintenance projects that pave the way for other projects, i.e. new generator and electrical upgrades.

- At the AMM Meetings coming up in June, there will be some preliminary models that will be shared. It will likely be conceptual models that are being shared, probably not based on any specific communities.
- Any changes will probably not happen quickly.
- Southern Health has latitude for Safety and Security Projects under 1.5 million but capital projects need to go through higher channels.

Discussion of Future of Morris General Hospital

- With the age of the hospital, it's difficult to know the sustainability or the future with the province.
- The hospital may still be in use in 10 years, but possibly not operating in the same capacity.
- Urgent Care/Primary Care is needed in all communities with afterhours/weekend access to doctors or health practitioners but in the case of true emergency an ambulance would be called.
- As per Ron Morris, average occupancy is doubled from 6 years ago. The drive is to figure out how to deal with the building repair issues. They have already put \$200,000 towards room upgrades.
- At some point, the hospital's useful life will come to an end. What are we willing to invest into the building? On the other side, if we don't renovate the building will deteriorate further.
- Jane Curtis said she did not feel that the province would invest in building a new hospital in Morris.

Review of Other Past Proposals versus Current Project:

- On a previous project, the province rejected a proposed partnership on the basis that the project was the responsibility of the province.
- Views on partnerships have possibly changed, any future projects could be broken down into phases allotted to either Southern Health or the Town.
- Cheryl Harrison thinks there is more openness towards partnerships.

Discussion of Possible Alternatives to the Current Project:

- Councilor Lewis said there is \$600,000 held in trust, if the clinic renovation project is not viable, what other options would be available. Accessibility issues, elevator project, main entrance – Southern Health and the Town could possibly work together on a project.
- Option #3 from previous proposal was discussed. Reynold Peters and Ken Klassen are going to go back and look at the plans and come up with a new number. Reynold didn't think that the entrance plans would change that much from the earlier plan. Also if EMS is no longer a part of the future at the hospital, the cost of the elevator may be reduced.
- If the Town and Southern Health would be able to cost share on a project, the Town would need a definite number on our portion of the costs.
- Ron Morris sees two different projects – Clinic Reno's or Elevator.
- The Town needs to go with what is affordable but Southern Health needs to have input in any project. If we have a cost certainty on the project, the Town would be able to commit.
- Regardless of future use, accessibility would still be an issue.

Establishments of Next Steps:

- If we were to propose the elevator project, Jane suggested we spin it as a community project – something that would see the building being used/sustained for over 10 years. Nature of hospitals is going to chance, we need to think outside of the box and if we have to, use the space for other things. Might need to include other projects to upsell the project.
- Jane Curtis said there will be a meeting in June (maybe a little later) regarding the transformation plans and they might provide more clarity to this situation. It's unsure if they will bring out a full plan or only roll out a little bit at a time. She would like to schedule another meeting with the Town after this meeting.
- Reynold Peters and Ken Klassen are going to go back and look at the plans for Option # 3 and come back to the Town with more information. They will also check into the province's willingness to partner with municipalities on projects.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Additional specific Board reports that need in-depth discussion outside of Mayor's/Councillors' Reports

- **New Business:**

- **Indemnity By-Law Review**

3. **THAT** Councillors by attending regular meetings of Council will receive a monthly indemnity of:
 - (a) Eight hundred Fifty-two Dollars and fifty cents (\$ 852.50) be paid to the Mayor; and
 - (b) Seven hundred Forty-two Dollars and fifty cents (\$ 742.50) be paid to the deputy mayor; and
 - (c) Six hundred Sixty Dollars (\$660.00) be paid to each councillor.
 - (d) Councillors may be excused from a regular meeting of council through a resolution at either the council meeting prior to the missed meeting or at the missed meeting. A non-communicated miss will be classed as an unexcused absence. During the summer months of July and August if regular meetings are scheduled on the one date, if you haven't been properly excused the non-communicated miss will be classed as 2 unexcused absences.
 - (e) Councillors must notify the office of their need to be excused from a regular meeting of council.

- Excused absences need clarification
- Remove clause "e"

- **Water and Sewer Billings**

- **Policy suggestion**

Town of Morris
Water and Sewer Billings

ISSUE: With the large number of rental properties in the Town of Morris comes an administrative nightmare when trying to bill the tenants. Tenants come and go and fail to notify the Town Office. The property owners say the tenants are responsible to pay.

OBJECTIVE: The objective is to establish a policy that simplifies billing procedures and avoids the duplicate billing to both tenants and property owners. It will also provide a more accurate record in the Town of Morris Utility Billing System.

POLICY: The following be the policy in preparing Utility Bills to Rental properties:

- That all Utility Bills incurred on rental properties in the Town of Morris be billed directly to the Property Owner. It is the responsibility of the Property Owner to ensure the Utility Bill is paid.

- **CAO to bring to Council for approval**

- Offer to Purchase from Build-All (2 lots on Wagon Trail)
 - Approve the offer next council meeting with conditions as follows:
 - Certain date- 2 years to build
 - Buildings must have no less of \$300,000 in assessed value

Moved-Margaret Johnston

Secoded- Tim Lewis

- Be it resolved that Council go “In-Camera” to discuss a Preliminary Development Proposal
“carried”

Moved Mel Baxter

Secoded Trevor Thiessen

- Be it resolved that Council resume it Committee as a Whole Meeting.

- **Dog Park Proposal**

June 10, 2019

Morris Town Council

Mayor Crick

Councillor Baxter

Councillor Hamblin

Councillor Johnston

Councillor Murray

Councillor Thiessen

Councillor Lewis

RE: Morris Dog Park

For some time now there has been talk about the need of a dog park in Morris. We think the time is NOW.

There are currently over 400 dogs that are “registered” in the town of Morris. This does not include dogs who have not been registered yet, dogs from surrounding areas, and dogs and their owners who may be passing through our town.

We conducted an online poll, and had petitions set up throughout town to see what kind of interest we had for the dog park and the response was incredible. The online poll had 118 votes of yes, 18 no, and 4 maybes. We have pages and pages of signed petitions. The people are saying they would like a dog park.

At this time, people are walking their dogs throughout town, using the Stampede grounds as their unofficial dog park, some drive their dogs to neighboring towns/city dog parks, and some are driving their dogs out to the country to allow them the open space for running.

In the past, proposals always suggested the Town as the managers of the Dog Park, what we are proposing is, we will manage the Dog Park on behalf of the Town of Morris, with the on-going support of the Public Works Department who will continue mowing the grass and garbage pick up. The committee proposes; that in partnership with dog owners, all other upkeep will be the responsibility of the Committee/Dog Owners.

The benefits of a dog park in our town are numerous. Dog Parks provide socialization for not only the dogs, but their owners. Dog parks encourage exercise, training, obedience, friendship building for owners and dogs, and encourages socialization for those who may be more prone to isolation.

A Dog Park in Morris would be a Tourism asset. Our town can be included in various travel sites such as www.travelmanitoba.ca, www.manitobadoqparks.com, www.bringfido.com which are just a few of the travel sites suave dog owners know to look at when planning their travels with their dog(s). Signage will also be available for those dog owners passing through town, encouraging them to stop in our beautiful town. It has been proven that Dog Parks are also a consideration for new home owners who are looking to relocate.

The Committee will also take on the responsibility of fundraising for the dog park, alleviating the financial and administrative responsibility from the Town Council and staff. Furthermore, the Committee will seek out sponsorship from various organizations who may be interested in sponsoring the dog park, or supporting it with materials and/or labour.

What we are asking from the Town Council is, the location of the dog park. We are requesting two sections of land adjacent to the Scratching River Campground. We are requesting these portions of land in two (2) phases. Phase 1 would be the mapped area on the attached map. Phase 2 would be an extension of Phase 1 into the gravel area stretching out towards the river. Taking into consideration an area for parking, and not encroaching too much into the flood zone area. Phase 1 will determine the need for an enlarged dog park, ie. Phase 2, we will find out that this one section is sufficient, or insufficient in size. When Phase 1 is introduced, a designated time may have to be specified for small dogs only and large dogs only, to avoid any incidents of intimidation. The Dog Park will have rules that will be clearly identifiable at the entrance to the dog park, as well as within the dog park. We want a safe, happy environment for everyone and their dogs.

Future planning for the Morris Dog Park can include dog training, and offer agility structures for the dogs.

Attached is phase 1 & 2 proposal requests images. Note: measurements as per Town of Morris and Public Works.

So, we ask you to consider the Dog Park for Morris, the location and allocating this land as the future Dog Park. We, as a committee are willing to take on the responsibility to take on the initiative to develop the Morris Dog Park, to research and implement the best possible Dog Park for our town.

Thank you,

Morris Dog Park Committee

Lori Mazinke

Angie Prince-Smoke

Lou Erickson

Bev Wnuk



- Public Works will have to look after the space therefore we have to be cautious of where we approve
- Have they contacted the Cargill location – should we make the Cargill property a more attractive location
- So far, Council is ok with Phase 1
 - Phase 1 is OK (could be a trial phase) we won't approve Phase 2 until we see how Phase 1 works
 - Need to supply their own doggy bags and what is needed to hold the doggie bags etc.
 - Should we have liability or a sign that says "AT YOUR OWN RISK"
 - CAO to look around at what others do (we should probably request what liability insurance will cost)

- **Meow Aid- request for Council support**

From: Margo Malabar <mdmalabar1@gmail.com>

Sent: June 3, 2019 9:07 AM

To: mayorscott@townofmorris.ca

Cc: chris.hamblin@townofmorris.ca; mel.baxter@townofmorris.ca;
margaret.johnston@townofmorris.ca; tim.lewis@townofmorris.ca; ruth.murray@townofmorris.ca;
trevor.thiessen@townofmorris.ca

Subject: Request for council support for new initiative

Meow Aid is a group that has recently formed, and includes services for the Town of Morris

Meow Aid is comprised of community members who are passionate about animal welfare. We want to work together with other community members to reduce the rural cat overpopulation problem and improve cat welfare through proactive humane avenues, in the RM of Morris including Town of Morris and the RM of Montcalm including St. Jean, Letellier, and Emerson.

As Dr. Gina Bowen, veterinarian for the Winnipeg Humane Society, has stated:

"I practiced for 12 years in the Morden/Winkler area and know how unfortunate the cat overpopulation situation is in rural Manitoba".

Meow Aid's goal is to increase the spaying and neutering of rural cats in our area, by increasing accessibility of affordable veterinary cat spay and neuter services and through education.

- *Host a Cat Spay and Neuter Day by the end of 2019* •

Meow Aid is a new group, and we are in the process of partnering with local veterinarians and the Winnipeg Humane Society to establish a low-cost spay and neuter fee for low-income community members and to farmers who have intact farm cats.

We assist clients by providing hands-on help in trapping stray or feral cats, by providing cat carriers, and if need be, by transporting cats to clinics (at a fee).

Our goals include:

- *Partnering with other groups, schools, or businesses who wish to promote animal welfare education, and cat sterilization.*
- *Attending local events to promote the benefits of having farm cats fixed, and for providing opportunities for low-income community members and farmers to sign up for low-cost feral cat fixing*
- *Hosting a Cat Spay and Neuter Day by the end of 2019*
- *Promoting education on topics such as humane cat treatment, cat health needs, cat overpopulation statistics*
- *Working with councils/groups to promote cat spay and neuter bylaws in towns and communities*
- *Exploring the possibility of a veterinary clinic being established either in St. Jean or Morris.*

Could the Town of Morris support our efforts in the following ways:

- Posting our transportation service for s/n of cats for low-income Morris residents
- Posting when our volunteers have kittens that need adoption, so that Morris residents can adopt local cats, rather than sourcing them from WHS.
- Posting Town support for residents to spay and neuter their cats, and for humane responsible treatment of cats, whether owned or otherwise.
- Allowing Meow Aid to attend community events to promote our group
- Providing a venue for Meow Aid to host a spay and neuter day in the fall of 2019
- Meeting with Meow Aid to consider how to further support bylaws that encourage spaying and neutering of cats, and ideas on how to promote education of humane and environmentally conscious ownership of cats.

I would be happy to further discuss this with you if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Margo Malabar
Meow Aid

204-293-7566

- Have them attend a Council Meeting
- **Strategic Planning**
 - We need to pick a date
- Important top 5 to 10 priorities for the next 3 years
 - Don't need to go fully in depth (just keep it simple)
 - Do it in an evening for approx. 3 hours – dedicate the time for priorities
 - By the next 2 Council meetings (Thursday mtg to come up with possible dates)
- **131 Boyne Ave West (Sawatzky issue)**
 - Get building inspector to inspect the property
 - Get public works to look at the back lane
- **Old Business:**
 - Multiplex Governance Discussion
 - Land Purchase (Industrial park)
 - CAO to send the offer to purchase to WWF for consideration
 - Thought- to partner with other municipalities

Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 pm.

