

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the City of
Nelson Council

June 2019



Downtown Wednesday Market Relocation

Council supported a request by the Eco-Society to change the layout of the Downtown Market for 2019. The Wednesday Market location will continue to include the 500 Block of Hall Street (the Plaza) with the second block being shifted to the 600 Block of Baker Street (thus creating an “L” shape from Hall Street turning onto Baker Street). This change comes after hearing from staff, the EcoSociety (which manages and operates the Market) and the business community. The EcoSociety proposed the relocation with the hopes that it will create a more cohesive market experience, accommodate additional vendors, and alleviate safety concerns with last year’s location. In an effort to address some of the concerns from the businesses on Baker Street, Council directed that the EcoSociety to first fill the Hall Street Block and the Baker Street vendors to face their booths outwards towards the business store fronts. Finally, in order to guide future market related decisions, Council has directed staff to engage in a comprehensive community consultation.

Heritage Streetlight Replacement

The current historic downtown streetlights are over thirty years old and are starting to fail. The current streetlights are a replica of the original historic lights and were installed in the 1980s during the downtown revitalization. The lights were produced from a custom cast and the company that manufactured the current lights no longer has the cast. The cost to develop a new cast and manufacture the replicas is cost prohibitive.

A Lighting Committee made some initial recommendations and supported completing a public survey. Over 500 people participated in the survey and the top streetlight chosen was a complementary heritage style streetlight called ‘Ancestra’.

Council considered a number of options and chose to side with public and replace the downtown streetlights with a similar style light to the Ancestra, with the exception of those on Victoria Street (this is because the current streetlights on Victoria Street are newer).

There will be 85 new street lights installed at an approximate cost of \$522,500. The street lights will be purchased and installed over a two-year period.

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Wildfire Management Related Bylaws Introduced

Development Services, in collaboration with the Nelson Fire and Rescue Services, introduced a number of wildfire management related bylaw amendments to Council for first and second reading. These bylaw amendments are part of larger effort by the City to prepare our community for emergencies including protecting our homes and structures against the threat posed by a wildfire ember shower.

The first bylaw amendment is to the Official Community Plan and changes the Development Permit (DP) Area #3 requirements, which address Natural Environment and Hazardous Lands. The changes require fire resistant building material and restrict certain flammable landscaping being planted close to homes and structures. The new bylaw requirements are consistent with the recommendations in the BC FireSmart guidelines. A covenant will be placed on title for properties in DP Area #3 ensuring that property owners maintain their properties in accordance with the DP Area #3 requirements.

The second bylaw amendment is to amend the Off-Street Parking and Landscaping Bylaw to implement a City-wide planting restriction to restrict highly combustible new vegetation within 1.5 metres of homes and structures. This bylaw would not be applied retroactively, but rather only to new plantings.

Notably, the Mayor also encouraged property owners in Nelson to work with the Nelson Fire and Rescue Services to identify how they can better prepare their property to deal with wildfire threat. Nelson Fire and Rescue Services has a program to assess homes for wildfire preparedness at no cost to the homeowner. Call (250) 352-3103 to book an appointment.

Establishment of Active Transportation Working Group

Pursuant to the Active Transportation Plan, Council established an Active Transportation Working Group with Councillor Anderson as the chair and Councillor Renwick as a member. The Working Group will also include a diverse array of members from the community. The City's Active Transportation Plan was completed in 2010 and is due for an update. The Working Group will explore ways to implement the Plan's goals, which include encouraging alternative modes of transportation in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase accessibility for City residents. The Working Group has been approved for an initial period of four months, at which time it will provide Council with a status update on the Plan and future direction.

Council Extras This Month....

In the photo below, Councillor Rik Logtenberg, Mayor John Dooley, Councillor Janice Morrison and Councillor Brittney Anderson attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Quebec City in late May.



On June 19, 2019 the Chinese Consul General visited Nelson during a tour of the Kootenays. In photo below, Anna Purcell, Acting Executive Director of Touchstones Museum, Consul General Tong and Mayor John Dooley visit at City Hall in Nelson.



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The Local Government Management Association (LGMA) of British Columbia is celebrating 100 years as an organization this year. To commemorate this anniversary, municipalities across the province have planted trees and installed commemorative plaques to mark the occasion.

In the photo below, from left to right - City Manager Kevin Cormack, Councillor Brittny Anderson, Chief Financial Officer, Colin McClure and Councillor Jesse Woodward were on hand to recognize LGMA and its members, including Nelson staff.



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