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Public hearing considers rezoning for increased affordable housing density

A public hearing was held to consider rezoning 531 9th Ave. for higher multi-residential density. Rezoning would increase the number of one and two-bedroom rental units within the four-storey building from 14 to 27. The application allocates 10 units to Campbell Head Injury residents and 17 rental units for low to moderate-income residents.

This is the first proposal to apply for Council's recently-adopted affordable housing density bonus for the multi-residential land use zones, and the application is consistent with the Official Community Plan and surrounding area of multi-residential buildings.

The application received first and second reading Aug. 28.

Council approves grant for downtown façade improvement at 1100 Shoppers Row

Council endorsed a wall mural for 1100 Shoppers Row and will provide grant funding up to \$10,000 to match costs paid by the building owner for the improvement.

Local artist Alex Witcombe will paint a mural on the blank building wall this fall to enhance the cultural district and the downtown revitalization initiative.

Council exempted the requirement for a development permit, in accordance with the Official Community Plan.

City will not finance increased water pressure in Maryland/Parkway neighbourhood Council seeks options on neighbourhood traffic improvements

In response to letters from residents and a July presentation from Parkway Properties regarding low water pressure within portions of their developable lands, Council confirmed that the City will not share in the costs for expanding the 107-metre pressure zone into the Parkway/Maryland neighbourhood.

In response to requests for improved traffic controls in this area, Council directed staff to report on recommendations for traffic network improvements for the Parkway/Maryland and Twillingate/Dahl areas, based on this fall's neighbourhood traffic study. The report will include any recommended cost sharing arrangements with Parkway Properties.

After-hours staff praised

Councillor Babchuk thanked the City's after-hours employees, and in particular, Gord Smith, for his quick response and professionalism in assisting with a water line break on a neighbouring property.

Tourism strategic direction endorsed

Council endorsed the brand concept developed by Destination Think! to enhance Campbell River's destination marketing. The concept has also been endorsed by the Tourism Advisory Committee, and, in keeping with the pattern of extensive community consultation related to the tourism service, was publicly shared through an open house.

2018 tax exemptions considered for three community groups

Council considered the Community Partnership Committee's recommendation to award Permissive Tax Exemptions to three local community groups. The committee has recommended property tax exemptions for:

- Habitat for Humanity on their expanded lease space adjacent to their ReStore operation
- Campbell River Fraternal Order of Eagles for their hall on 14th Avenue



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- Storey Creek Golf and Recreation Society for their golf course operation on McGimpsey Road

Councils may exempt property taxes to reduce the financial burden for community groups that add to the City's quality of life by delivering economic, social, recreation and cultural programs. With the three newly-added properties, a total of 87 community groups and 120 properties are either partially or fully exempt from property tax payments, saving them approximately \$476,000 in City taxes and \$387,000 in other government taxes annually.

Public input will be sought before Council proceeds with final approval of these exemptions.

Amendments considered for park control bylaw

Council gave third reading to amendments for the parks control bylaw that was first adopted more than 20 years ago. Recommended changes include conditions for temporary park closures and signs restricting hours, smoking, parking and use of barbeques, an updated list of non-permitted activities and clarification of activities requiring a permit as well as the ability to recover costs associated with damage or removal of items from parks. The bylaw received first and second reading at the Aug. 28 Council meeting.