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City honoured with Chamber award for excellence in workforce development

The City was honoured with a Campbell River Chamber Business Award of Distinction for excellence in development of a workforce with more than 50 employees. The City's focus on employee recruitment and retention is part of a strategic human resources plan. Cheryl McConnell, Shannon Baikie and Naomi Watts representing award sponsors North Island Employment Foundations Society and North Island College presented the award to Council, city manager Deborah Sargent and human resources manager Colleen Tillapaugh.

Also that evening, the City of Campbell River sponsored the Community Spirit award, which honoured the John Howard Society. Congratulations to all nominees and award winners!

Adoption of zoning amendment for McPhedran Road property

Council adopted a zoning amendment changing a portion of the property from public assembly one to public assembly two and realigning boundaries at 28 McPhedran Rd. to reflect the alignment of Nunns Creek, which bisects the property. Based on recommendations by a qualified environmental professional and registered professional biologist, this amendment increases the protected area along the creek by approximately 560 square metres and provides clarity for future land development. A public hearing was held Sept. 17, and Council gave first and second reading to the proposed amendment at its Aug. 27 meeting.

Cannabis Bylaw Amendments

At the Sept. 24 public meeting and hearing, Council received feedback from four different groups requesting relaxation of the proposed buffering distance between schools and commercial areas zoned to allow potential cannabis retail stores. Public hearing presenters also requested that Council permit locating a cannabis retail store in the Discovery Harbour Shopping Centre.

At the Oct. 1 meeting, Council gave final consideration to proposed amendments to the City's regulatory bylaws to control retail sales and regulate public consumption in response to the legalization of cannabis.

Council gave third reading and adopted amendments to the Zoning Bylaw, which would allow Discovery Harbour Shopping Centre as a potential location for a cannabis retail store. Council also increased the buffer to 300 metres between schools and potential locations for cannabis retail stores.

Council's adoption of the amended Zoning Bylaw would permit a cannabis retail outlet at Discovery Harbour, Mariner Square, Campbell River Common, and limited access along Dogwood Street and along Hwy. 19A in Willow Point.

At the meeting, Council also gave third reading to amendments to the following:

- Business Licence Bylaw;
- Planning Procedures Bylaw;
- Municipal Smoking Regulation Bylaw;
- Parks Control Bylaw;

Council will consider adoption of these four regulatory bylaws at the Oct. 22 meeting.

Skatepark Pilot Project

This summer, the City ran a pilot project to have Skatepark leaders at the popular facility in Willow Point Park. The Skatepark, which opened in 2008, typically has limited parent/adult involvement or supervision. Funding of \$15,000 was available to have two skatepark leaders in place to create a safe, positive and inclusive culture of learning, personal responsibility and respectful use of the facility. This reduced the number of calls to the RCMP, the incidence of



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drug and alcohol use, as well as the potential for bullying. Council directed staff to include a request for ongoing funding to continue the program, which will be considered during upcoming financial plan deliberations.

Transport Canada's Oceans Protection Plan Pacific Dialogue Forums

Council received the Sept. 25 invitation from Transport Canada to participate in the Oceans Protection Plan Pacific Dialogue Forums, an ongoing opportunity to participate in this federally-funded initiative. With Campbell River's busy marine traffic and the demand for Coast Guard services, Council was keen to have City or regional emergency services staff participate and attend.

Correspondence re: parking meters at new hospital

Council received a copy of the Sept. 25 correspondence from Lois and Ed Jarvis to Claire Trevena, MLA North Island/Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure. The letter requests removal of parking meters at the new Campbell River Hospital and that the numbering of parking stalls be discontinued. Council decided to forward the correspondence to the Comox Strathcona Regional Hospital Board for consideration.

Tourism services update

At the Oct. 2 Committee of the Whole meeting, Kirsten Soder, executive director of Destination Campbell River presented tourism's 2019 Tactical Plan to Council. The plan was reviewed by the Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) at their September meeting. The TAC recommended Council approve the 2019 plan, which aligns with the City's five-year tourism strategy. Tactical plans must be filed with Destination BC by Nov. 30 of each year.

Destination Campbell River is starting its third year leading tourism marketing in Campbell River. The first year (2017) established a foundation, which included hiring staff and getting the Visitor Information Centre running. The second year (2018) focused on destination development, creating better alignment with industry and stakeholders while solidifying the Campbell River brand story. In 2019, the priority will be promotional activities among target audiences, including growth in off-season visits.

Visitor services will continue to be a priority, helping people find products and experiences that will encourage extended stays and increase tourism spending in Campbell River.