

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August 14, 2012

The Advisory Council received an update on the Lakeridge Park subleases and it would appear that they are very close to being finalized. It is anticipated that a final sublease may be available very soon. For more information on this issue, please contact Marcus Hadley, WFN Legal Counsel, at 250-769-4999 or mhadley@wfn.ca.

The Advisory Council also received an update on water works and meters. Meter installation should be completed by the end of October. Meters are being read now but solely for the purpose of establishing what the water rates should be. For more information on water works and meters, please contact Dave Gold, Utilities Supervisor, at 250-707-3332 or dgold@wfn.ca.

The Communities in Bloom (“CIB”) competition is now over and the results being awaited. The Advisory Council was very pleased with all the hard work that went into this initiative by a whole host of people. For more information on Communities or Bloom, please contact Jayne Fosbery, Economic Development Manager, at 250-769-2402 or jfosbery@wfn.ca or Bonnie Semeniuk, Advisory Council representative on the CIB Committee, at 250-768-3000.

There have been a number of concerns expressed, both by area residents and by the media, regarding WFN’s choice to keep a section of IR #9 beach as a private beach. The Advisory Council affirmed that those lodging the complaints need to be aware that this section of the beach has always been the private property of WFN. As previous signage indicated that it was for Members only, there has been no change of use for this section of the beach. It should also be noted that over \$500,000 of WFN’s private (non-taxation) monies have gone into the beach improvements and WFN should have no more obligation to make their privately-owned land accessible to the public than any other private party would. The park, sidewalk and road improvements, which WFN has made accessible to the general public, are all major benefits for the whole community.

With continued support for the improvements being done on the IR #9 Beach, the Advisory Council recommended approval of a Capital Expenditure Bylaw to expend a further \$150,000 on this project for offsite improvements. Once the project was underway, a number of issues arose that weren’t apparent at the outset and so it was decided to address these issues while the construction crew was on site. These issues included:

- Finding that the underlying base of Boucherie Road was not of suitable quality to allow for new paving;
- The need for more retaining walls than what was originally planned for; and
- The addition of bioswale to allow for the appropriate treatment of stormwater before it enters Okanagan Lake.

For more information on the beach improvements, please contact Dan Brown, Manager of Planning and Development, at 250-769-2449 or dbrown@wfn.ca.

The Advisory Council is continuing to explore how to best lobby for the granting of the carbon tax rebate / homeowner grant to residents on WFN lands. To date, the Advisory Council's attempts to influence government officials in this matter have been unsuccessful despite various meetings with government representatives and much correspondence being sent back and forth, including correspondence with the Premier. The rebate is provided to residents not residing on reserve lands. In an attempt to see if there is any further action that can be taken on this issue, the Advisory Council met with the Chief Operating Officer of the First Nations Tax Commission ("FNTC"). They were informed that initially, the provincial government indicated their willingness to sit down for a round table discussion with the FNTC and other First Nation representatives but later reneged on that and now will be accepting written submissions only with the submission deadline being August 31, 2012. Both the FNTC and the Advisory Council will be making written submissions. For more information on this issue, please contact Terry Turcan, Chair of the Advisory Council, at (250) 707-1326 or tturcan@telus.net.

The next meeting of the WFN Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, September 11th at 9:00 a.m. in the Inter-Governmental Affairs Boardroom of the WFN Government Building.