



From the Bear Pit

May 25, 2021

Phoenix Theatre Drive-In

Regional Council gave preliminary approval to the Phoenix Theatre Management Society's application for a Temporary Use Permit (#2101) that would be for a period of three years to permit the use of a Drive-In Cinema within a Highway Commercial (C2) zoned lot owned by Northern Rockies Regional Municipality located at 5307 50th Avenue South.

Phoenix Theatre Expansion Request

In a letter dated April 6, 2021, the Phoenix Theatre Management Society (PTMS) formally requested that Mayor and Council consider designating the lot adjacent to the theatre for the future expansion and development of an arts facility. The letter indicated that grant funding through the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) was available to develop a proposal related to the expansion and that the success of the project would be contingent on procurement of the land. The parcel, currently owned by the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, is located at 5307 50th Avenue South, legally described as Lot B DL 1587 Peace River District Plan PGP 29656.

The request was discussed at the April 26, 2021 Regional Council meeting where it was determined that NRRM staff seek additional information from the PTMS regarding details of the proposal and procurement of the land in relation to the NDIT funding opportunity (RESOLUTION 100/21). PTMS expressed that they did not want to put forth a proposal to NDIT until they had secured the property.

Council requested staff contact PTMS to arrange a presentation to Council on their future plans for the space, or them to be able to make an informed decision moving forward with this request for expansion.



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Also of note...

- Council made the decision by email ratification that Northern Rockies Regional Municipality donate \$3,000 to Fort Simpson community to assist with flood relief efforts, from the Mayor's Discretionary budget.
- Council approved that the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality submit an application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust Main Street Revitalization – Planning grant to come from their Northeast Regional account for up to \$20,000 to offset the costs of developing a Main Street Revitalization Plan.
- Council discussed the bringing a common natural gas rate to Fort Nelson, and

- directed staff to do some research on how this will effect our community gas rates.
- Regional Council approved the request of a letter of support for an NDIT application from the Fort Nelson Motocross Club from Wade Mathison.
- Council awarded Rehabilitation of Runway 04-22 Contract 2021-19 to IDL Projects in the amount \$12,693,356.04, funded from Transport Canada's Airport Capital Assistance Program (ACAP).
- Council directed staff investigate Bill 7 regarding the reform of Provincial Electoral Area Boundaries and how this will effect our current MLA representation.



Eligible B.C. homeowners can apply for the 2021 homeowner grant now:

24/7

online: gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant
With an agent: Toll-free at 1 888 355-2700, Mon - Fri; 8:30 - 5

Municipalities are no longer able to accept applications.
For more information about the change, visit our Home Owner Grant page.

Animal Rescue Update

At the April 12, 2021 Council meeting, Regional Council requested that staff work with current providers of animal control and welfare services to identify challenges and seek feedback in developing a more cohesive approach to animal control issues in the NRRM.

Staff have continued to liaise with Takashi's Animal Rescue, the BC SPCA, Terry Streeper Expediting (the Pound Service Contractor), Jim Hart (Animal Control Service Contractor) and local veterinarian service providers to identify existing animal control challenges and troubleshoot solutions. On April 29, 2021, these stakeholders met to discuss current pet ownership challenges in the NRRM.



Council asked that staff bring back a report to analyze our current animal control measures, including value for money, service levels provided, the process by which the public accesses the services, and any gaps given the absence of a local animal rescue organization.

NRRM Board of Variance

The term for the Northern Rockies Board of Variance expired on December 31, 2020. While applications to the Board are rare, and the Committee is seldom convened, s. 536 of the Local Government Act requires that "a local government that has adopted a zoning bylaw must, by bylaw establish a board of variance. As an alternative to applying for a development variance permit from the local government, a person may apply to a Board of Variance if they feel compliance with the zoning bylaw could cause them hardship. Once the NRRM has adopted a new Board of Variance Bylaw, to reflect the current land use bylaws and governance structure, a Board of Variance will be assembled.

