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SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

SPARWOOD COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Development Cost Charges Bylaw 1374, 2026 Planner

Mich le Schalekamp, Chief Administrative Officer (also Brad Bent, Hannah Morris and Vincent LaLonde

- Asking that Council provide direction regarding potential changes to the Development Cost Charges Bylaw 1374, 2026 by providing feedback to the key questions identified in the report.
- Development Cost Charges (DCCs) allow municipalities to collect funds from new development to help pay for infrastructure required to support growth.
- An open house was held in late June to provide community members with the opportunity to get information and ask questions of District’s staff and consultants about the proposed DCC Bylaw. Only two residents attended the open house and only one resident submitted un writing. No businesses provided feed back.
- ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd. provided a DDC Draft Background Report and forwarded Council with a development model tool to test how different

- scenarios would affect the DCC program.
- Hannah Morris from ISL demonstrated the development model tool.
 - The \$28.9 million of water projects, sewer projects and protective services projects were included in the DDC Draft Background Report.
 - Council discussed changes they wanted made to the DDC Bylaw.
 - Consensus by the majority of Council present at the meeting was the following:
 - Proceed with the DCC Bylaw
 - Single Family Residential (per dwelling unit) have a \$10,000 maximum DCC rate
 - Municipal assist factor be a 2-year increment phase in
 - Keep in the Sparwood Drive Sewer extension in the DCC calculation
 - Remove the Water Water Treatment Plant Upgrade from the DCC calculation
 - Change Light Industrial DCC calculation to gross floor area, not parcel area
 - Consider installments for all DCCs
 - Have the DDC Bylaw to go live 6 months after the Bylaw is adopted
 - These changes will be made to the Development Cost Charges Bylaw and it will come back for a third reading.

Solid Waste Collection Discussion and Direction

Mich le Schalekamp, Chief Administrative Officer

- The curbside recycling program has been operating for five months.
- There is now alternating weekly collection of garbage and recycling.
- Longer-term trends relating to waste generation, recycling participation, service performance, costs, and wildlife impacts is needed.
- Residents are vocalizing their concern about bear activity within Sparwood. Contacting a Conservation Officer is the appropriate route for bear activity complaints.
- There are so many things to analyse that Council entertained the idea of forming a committee because the District staff do not have expertise in this area. External consultants would need to be hired to help analyze all the variables.
- There was a lot of value found from the Recreation Facility Advisory Committee. If the District has to spend money hiring consultants, maybe a committee should be formed instead.
- The cost of an Urban Wildlife Committee was estimated to be between \$75,000 and \$100,000.
- There is a contingency budget of \$100,000 the has not been spent.
- Council decided to have terms of reference for an Urban Wildlife Committee brought to Committee of the Whole for

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

September 2026 Update

Mich le Schalekamp, Chief Administrative Officer

- CAO added solid waste management and removal and the Centennial Plaza stage and washrooms project to the strategic priorities.
- When strategic planning was done at the beginning of the Council term there were three priorities identified, community lifestyle, community growth and economic diversity.
- Looking at the chart, there was a lot accomplished in the four years.
- Motion to accept the Strategic Priorities Chart as amended, carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Council acknowledged the \$10,000 donation from the Elk Valley Thrift Shop to the water fountain at the skate park.

QUESTION PERIOD

Calvin Domin

- Encourages people to contact friends in neighbouring towns and ask about bear activity
- Sparwood in not an anomaly, bears in other mountain towns are also searching for alternate food sources given the low berry yields.

Sparwood council updates community

NICHOLAS L.M ALLEN

Pass Herald Reporter - Local Journalism Initiative

Plaza stage prioritized; preschool classes cancelled due to low registration

Plans for an outdoor stage and public washroom at Centennial Plaza are active again after the District of Sparwood secured a \$650,000 grant.

Council approved its final strategic-priorities update of the current term Sept. 1, placing the Centennial Plaza project among five immediate corporate priorities.

Council had put the project on hold while the District sought outside funding. Confirmation of the Columbia Basin Trust grant allowed it to return to the active list, with project scoping identified for September.

The funding comes through the Trust’s Gathering Area and Town Hub Enhancement and Revitalization program, known as GATHER. The District says it will support construction of a new accessible stage and public washroom facility at the plaza.

The project would add another piece to the redevelopment of the downtown gathering space, which began in 2022. That work raised the former square to street level and added accessible walkways, green space, seating, planters, lighting and an outdoor fire pit. Centennial Street was also resurfaced as part of the project.

Centennial Plaza officially opened in August 2023 during Summer Fest. Hundreds of residents attended the event, which included live music, children’s activities, local vendors and a community barbecue.

The stage and washrooms were described at that time as a future addition intended to make the plaza more useful for music festivals, plays, outdoor events and larger gatherings. The Sept. 1 update returns that next phase to council’s immediate work list after the municipality obtained the grant needed to move it forward.

The council report did not include a final design, total construction budget or building schedule. The current milestone is to determine the project’s scope.

The other immediate priorities are construction of the wastewater treatment plant, completion of the development cost charges bylaw, information gathering on solid-waste management and preparation of a new zoning bylaw.

The solid-waste item could later be renamed urban-wildlife management following council’s direction to develop terms of reference for a possible committee.

Hot-tub repairs and the recreation-facility options process were removed from the active list and recorded among council’s completed priorities.

Chief Administrative Officer Mich le Schalekamp described the update as the final priorities report for the current council term. The plan will not automatically transfer to the council elected in October, but it can inform the next council’s decisions.

Acting Mayor Amy Cardozo said the list of completed work demonstrated how much municipal staff had accomplished during the four-year term.

Council approved the updated priorities without opposition.

In a separate community-services update, Cardozo confirmed that the District has cancelled its preschool classes because too few children registered to form a full class.

Cardozo said combining the classes still did not produce enough enrolment to run the program. The District also had to consider the staff time required to provide the classes with the number of children registered.

The cancellation was discussed during council announcements rather than through a staff report, and council did not vote on it at the meeting.

Cardozo pointed families toward other preschool options available in Sparwood. She said suggestions had been shared through a District Facebook post for parents looking for alternative programming.