

VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS

Community Hall Consultation Summary

In 2010, as part of our Official Community Plan (OCP) renewal process, a broad spectrum survey was undertaken to identify perspectives within the community. The survey achieved a 31% response rate thereby demonstrating that the survey was statistically representative of the Radium population.

The following points are taken from the survey as responses that related to community support for a new community hall:

When queried as to what would make Radium a better place to live in, 20% identified a new recreation center as “important”. Tied to this response was support for improved arts and culture facilities and programs.

When asked to describe the primary challenges going forward, the need for improved recreation amenities ranked 12th out of 55 issues identified.

When asked about bridging the perceived gap between permanent and recreational homeowners, 61% felt that efforts should be made to improve relations between the two groups. An improved recreation centre with improved programming was identified as one mechanism to improve community social structure and relationships.

When asked about sustainable development, 37% identified expanded and new recreation facilities as a priority.

When asked to prioritize recreation amenities needed for the community, a new “Fitness Centre”, “Community Centre” and “multipurpose facility”, ranked second, third and fourth, with only hiking and biking trails identified as a higher priority. A follow up question ranked the need to “enhance / renovate / rebuild the community hall” as the second most important priority.

OCP consultation continued in 2011 with several town hall style community meetings. The need for a “refreshed” community hall and expansion into a multiuse facility was the dominant topic of discussion at the meeting focussed on future service and infrastructure requirements. Consultations were also held with the Chamber of Commerce and business community that further supported this as a priority.

The new Official Community Plan, adopted July 10th, 2013, included the following strategy:

“Plan and build the financial resources to renovate or construct a modern facility that serves multiple purposes.”

Also, in 2013, a “Community Recreation Facilities Study” for Radium Hot Springs was undertaken by a University of Victoria Masters of Arts in Community Development student. This study used a structured survey and focus group as a means of data collection. A broad cross-section of the community, including full and part-time residents, seniors and youth, was engaged for the undertaking. The study investigated the strengths and weaknesses of the current Radium Community Hall as well as programming and future development opportunities. The study identified that the current hall is approaching a point in its life cycle where it will require substantial renovation to sustain its use and that aging infrastructure, cosmetic deficiencies and low use patterns are all issues to consider as the Village contemplates renovations or construction of a new multi-use facility.

Each year the Village prepares an “Annual Report” which identifies municipal objectives for the upcoming two years. The report is published on the Village website and public notice is provided through publication in the local newspaper. A public hearing is subsequently held to receive public comment and feedback on the draft Annual Report.

The 2013 Annual Report included the following objective:

“Evaluate and plan for future community hall / multi-use facility requirements.”

The 2014 Annual Report provided the following progress reports related to the prior year objectives:

“A strategic planning session was undertaken which identified priorities for 2013. These priorities were largely accomplished during the year, with the development of a recreation facility plan as an ongoing objective. Evaluation and planning for future community hall / multi-use facility requirements is continuing in 2014.”

The following objectives were stated in the 2014 Annual Report:

“Continue evaluating the recreation facility needs of the municipality and develop a financial and implementation plan to achieve implementation.”

The 2015 Annual Report included the following progress report:

“A preliminary decision has been made to construct a new multi-use ‘community hall’ facility. A financial and implementation plan will be formulated in 2015.”

The following objective was stated in the 2015 Annual Report:

“Initiate the planning process for construction of a multi-use ‘community hall’ facility.”

The current (2016) Annual Report included the following progress report:

“The planning process for construction of a new community hall was initiated with a staff and Council educational workshop related to wood construction and design team options. A “Wood First” bylaw and policy was subsequently adopted and it is hoped that the project will maximize the use of locally derived forest products.”

The 2016 objective stated is to “initiate the integrated design process for the new community hall” and the 2017 objective is to “construct the new community hall”.

There have also been numerous articles in both the Valley Echo and Columbia Valley Pioneer newspapers, going back into 2015, that discuss the planning process for a “new Community Hall”.