



BOUCHIE-MILBURN COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM

E: BMCommunityPlan@gmail.com

September 23, 2020

Cariboo Regional District
Suite D- 180 North 3rd Avenue
Williams Lake, BC,
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Delivered via Email

RE: Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission - not operating as per the *Quesnel Fringe Area Official Community Plan* (adopted September 12, 2014) & decision making outside of public meetings

Dear CRD Board of Directors

On September 21, 2020, two members of the Bouchie-Milburn Community Planning Team attended the Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission / BLRC meeting. The reason for attending was to hear the discussion in regard to the Team's proposal titled "*Bouchie-Milburn Heritage Plaque Project*" (see attached). The proposal was submitted, by email to the BLRC, on September 15, 2020 with a request that it be forwarded onto the commissioners. The proposal was also forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services with the Cariboo Regional District on the same day as they are the holders of the "Sign permit" for the site of interest. The proposal very clearly outlined what the BMCPT intention was by presenting the proposal to the BLRC and what the next steps would be. The request was reasonable and focused on requesting support from the BLRC so the project could move forward.

In the BLRC Agenda, the "**Heritage Family Plaque Proposal**" was originally under Sec. 8, New Business. At the onset of the meeting, the proposal was moved to Sec. 5, Correspondence (vii) at the request of Chair Stephanie Hanes. When Sec.5 (vii) came up for discussion, Chair Hanes immediately brought the motion forward that the proposal be tabled as she stated that the BLRC needed more information regarding the BLRC's responsibilities in terms of the proposed project. There was no discussion and no time stated as to when the discussion would be tabled too. None of the

Mission Statement

To bring Bouchie-Milburn community residents together as involved members of the Community Planning Team. The Team will have a collaborative voice in planning, organizing, implementing any, and all, community development and initiatives, that the either promote or hinder the growth of our immediate area. This grassroots team will work together to promote growth, inclusion, transparency, and non-partisan community involvement.

Adopted by the Bouchie-Milburn Community Planning Team, June 26, 2018

commissioners enquired about the project or requested clarity on any part of the proposal. Chair Hanes referred to a discussion of the proposal being held at an earlier time. It has been confirmed by one of the commissioners that this did indeed happen as they were told upon arrival at the meeting venue that the proposal would be tabled. This is discouraging, disconcerting and very wrong. For the BLRC members to discuss content and make decisions outside of a sanctioned meeting does not adhere to the Community Charter as the BLRC members know. BLRC meetings are to follow the policies of the Cariboo Regional District and while Director Bachmeier attended the meeting she did not call “*point of order*”.

Under Sec. 6. Reports (j) - Bouchie Lake Community Park, the proposal was referenced by Ken Falloon, a BLRC commissioner and Chair of the Bouchie Lake Community Park Committee. Ken spoke about the project and what was being proposed in the “*Heritage Family Plaque Proposal*”. Chair Hanes responded that the proposal had been tabled as there was confusion because there were two committees - the “*Heritage Plaque Subcommittee*” of the BMCPT and the Bouchie Lake Community Park Committee of the BLRC. Chair Hanes referenced Conflict of Interest and that neither committee were connected. In fact, the committees are linked and could be one of the same. Ken Falloon, as lead of the Bouchie Lake Community Park, has been an integral and active part of the “*Heritage Plaque Subcommittee*” and Chair Hanes has been invited to all the meetings of the sub-committee through email and has responded to many emails. The Minutes have also been circulated and posted online. The BMCPT recognizes the need for collaboration and community to work together for this project to be a success. This is clearly stated in the proposal. It appears that the BLRC does not value the community minded approach the BMCPT has taken in this regard. We have since learnt that the BLRC has no intention or wish to work with the BMCPT and for this project to move forward with BLRC support, the BLRC wants the project to be under the BLRC. This is hardly fair considering the project was first brought to the BMCPT to initiate and all of the work and meetings to date has been lead by the BMCPT.

Further in the Agenda, under Sec. 7 - Old Business (a) Rink Updates, Chair Hanes presented a proposal titled “*Bouchie Lake Ice Rink Improvement Project*”. Chair Hanes immediately apologised to the commissioners for not having sent out the proposal in advance of the meeting. The commissioners took an active interest in the proposal and were apparently very supportive of it. Some discussion ensued but at no time, was there time for the commissioners able to review the entire proposal. Regardless, a motion was passed by the BLRC stating acceptance of the proposal in terms of gathering details to get the project started, seeking grants, speaking to the Cariboo Regional District with an understanding that the BLRC would be kept current on the status of the project.

It is very disconcerting that two well written proposals of likely equal value developed by volunteers in our community would be given such a different approach by a body representing our local government. It is clear that the proposal brought forward by Chair Hanes (an “insider”) was supported with little to no questioning so the project could move forward. By comparison, the proposal from an “outside” group was scrutinized and not discussed openly with the aim to find solutions. Rather it was “set aside” by the BLRC until such time the BLRC could gather more information with no details as to what this means.

This approach will thereby hold up a project which is time sensitive. This is not working together and as such, conflicts with the *Official Community Plan for the Quesnel Fringe Area* (OCP) that was adopted by the Cariboo Regional District board on September 12, 2014. This higher level plan on page 91 states that the BLRC is responsible for *maintaining* the Bouchie Lake Hall (and Recreation Grounds) and Claymine Property followed by:

*In addition to these commissions there are also “not for profit societies”, such as the Bouchie Lake Parks and Recreation Society, that have evolved as grass root organizations to address local issues. These societies are governed by The Societies Act, they are directly accountable to their membership, and their mandate can be changed with the approval of their membership. Within this administrative structure they can be responsive to changes in community needs and interests. The co-existence of commissions and “not for profit societies”, **working together**, ensures an effective combination of community participation strategies for delivering services to the local area.*

Sec. 9.3.16 of the plan references a review be held that clarifies the working relationship and partnerships between the BLRC and Bouchie Lake Recreation Society (no longer exists as an “ordinary society”) and that there are “*clear benefits to the co-existence and collaboration of these two groups*”.

Under Section 3 of the establishment bylaw for the Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission (Bylaw 4918), the purpose of the BLRC is stated as “*to manage the land and buildings, ... as described in Schedule A*”. This purpose is different from the responsibility of the BLRC as stated in the OCP which is to *maintain*. Manage and maintain¹ have quite different definitions and result in different actions and processes which are being felt at the community level. It is time that the Bylaw 4918 be amended to be consistent with the OCP.

The objective of the Bouchie-Milburn Community Planning Team is stated in our Mission Statement. The project is funded with provincial dollars through the BC Rural Dividend Fund. The intention of the project is to bring our community together, discuss issues of concern, and propose solutions. We currently have many individuals and representatives from many local groups participating in the project. We are working towards creating a community whereby working collaboratively and in partnership is valued. The absence of the Cariboo Regional District and Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission in this process has been noted.

In closing, we are losing patience with the lack of response, respect, and accountability shown by the Cariboo Regional District, CAO John MacLean and Director Bachmeier. We have written several letters and emails outlining our concerns and thus far, no response. The decision-making process followed by the BLRC at the September 21st meeting is symptomatic of a larger issue that the community has been attempting to address for a number of years. For a community group of active,

¹ Maintenance: the process of maintaining or preserving someone or something, or the state of being maintained

Management: the process of dealing with or controlling things or people.

engaged, and well-meaning volunteers to be treated the way we were at the BLRC meeting on September 21, 2020 is unacceptable. The approach taken by everyone representing our local government does not meet the CRD Vision Statement of *“Building Communities Together”*.

By way of this letter, we will be taking this letter to the next level unless we receive what we deem a satisfactory response from the Cariboo Regional District by 4 pm on September 25, 2020.

Thank you.

In community spirit

The Bouchie-Milburn Community Planning Team

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Leslie Holland, BMCPT Tier I
Susan MacNeill, BMCP Project Co-ordinator
Susan Phillips, BMCPT Tier I
Elaine Ross, BMCPT Tier I
Peggy Smith, BMCPT Tier I
Claudia Vogt, Heritage Plaque BMCPT Subcommittee

Cc:

Councillor Laurey-Anne Rodenburg, Co-Chair NCJPC
CAO John MacLean
Alice Johnston, Deputy CAO
Nigel Whitehead, CRD Planning
Coralee Oakes, MLA, Cariboo North
Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission
Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services
BC Rural Dividend Fund