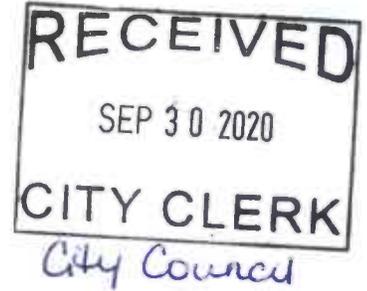


Sherry Person

From: brian <rbii@sasktel.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Sherry Person
Subject: RE: Delegation to Council - RBDC - Cold Weather Shelter
Attachments: Shelter proposal city council.docx final.docx



Sherry,

This is to confirm my request to speak to City Council at the October 13th 2020 meeting. I wish to speak to our request for a development permit for the temporary emergency shelter to be located at the Grandstand Building, Prince Albert Exhibition. I have attached a copy of our request to Council.

Brian Howell

River Bank Development Corporation
B 1350 15th Avenue West
Prince Albert SK S6V 5P2
Phone 306 763 7457

Fax 306 763 4245 Email rbii@sasktel.net

From: Sherry Person <sperson@citypa.com>
Sent: September-30-20 1:03 PM
To: 'brian' <rbii@sasktel.net>
Cc: Craig Guidinger <CGuidinger@citypa.com>; Kristina Karpluk <KKarpluk@citypa.com>
Subject: RE: Delegation to Council - RBDC - Cold Weather Shelter

Brian:

Further to your advisement that you would like to address City Council at the October 13, 2020 City Council meeting, you will need to submit one of the following, which clearly sets out the subject matter to be discussed and the request being made of Council, including your request to speak at the meeting, by 4:45 p.m. on October 6, 2020:

1. Written correspondence, which includes your name, address, telephone number and originally signed; or,
2. An email, which includes your name, address and email address.

Thanks,

Sherry Person

City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
City Hall | 1084 Central Avenue
Prince Albert SK, S6V 7P3
P: 306.953.4305
E: cityclerk@citypa.com
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)



From: Kristina Karpluk <KKarpluk@citypa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Sherry Person <sperson@citypa.com>
Cc: 'brian' <rbii@sasktel.net>; Craig Guidinger <CGuidinger@citypa.com>
Subject: Delegation to Council - RBDC - Cold Weather Shelter

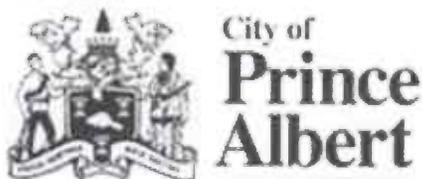
Good Afternoon Sherry,

Brian Howell, with River Bank Development Corp., has indicated that he would like to address City Council (delegation) on October 13th regarding the proposed cold weather shelter. I have copied him on this email so that he can be provided with the necessary info.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,

Kristina Karpluk, MCIP, RPP

Planning Manager
Department of Planning and Development Services
City Hall | 1084 Central Avenue
Prince Albert SK, S6V 7P3
P: 306-953-4888
F: 306-953-4380
E: kkarpluk@citypa.com
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)
citypa.ca



The land on which we gather is Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Métis Nation and the Dakota Nation

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River Bank Development Corporation
1350 15th Avenue West
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5P2
Phone: 763-4221
Fax: 763-4245

Proposal

The YWCA, River Bank Development Corporation, the Prince Albert Vulnerable People's Working Group and the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness are asking the City of Prince Albert to change zoning on a temporary basis at the Prince Albert Exhibition. We are proposing to use the space located under the Grandstand at the Prince Albert Exhibition to operate a Cold Weather Shelter from October 15th 2020 to April 15th 2021. This Proposal originated at the Vulnerable Persons Working Group coordinated by the City of Prince Albert. The Board of the Prince Albert Exhibition has approved the use of the facility for this project. City of Prince Albert Building and Fire Department Inspectors have looked at the site and indicated that it would be appropriate upon completion of some minor changes to the facility.

The Organizations

The YWCA is well known in Prince Albert and has been operating shelters for many years. They will be responsible for operating this shelter. Their shelters include the Central Avenue Shelter which houses women and children and Our House which has emergency beds for men and women as well as transitional housing. They also operate a number of other supportive housing projects.

The CAB (Community Advisory Board) is responsible for overseeing and allocating Reaching Home funds. The CAB has representation from Health, Policing, the Shelter sector, Housing and Indigenous organizations.

River Bank Development Corporation has been operating in Prince Albert since 1998. We are an affordable housing operator with 100 units and we work with the CAB as Community Entity to manage the Federal Government's Reaching Home funding directed towards homelessness. Our involvement in this project will be to manage the funding provided through Reaching Home.

Other organizations involved with developing this project include the City of Prince Albert represented by Planning and Police departments, the Saskatchewan Health Authority represented by Addictions Services and Public Health, the Ministry of Social Services and several non-profits involved in services to homelessness.

Background

The YWCA has been operating a Cold Weather Shelter at the Our House Shelter located at 101 15th Street West for the past several years. The shelter has ten beds with limited overflow capacity and has managed to meet our local needs. The COVID crisis has led us to look for a larger space for this year for a number of reasons.

- We are concerned that the present space may not be the best during the COVID epidemic. Social Distancing requirements will limit the number of available spaces.
- We also feel that demand may increase. There may be more people choosing to stay in Prince Albert, especially if a second wave results in lockdowns in surrounding and northern communities. Also, a significant number of homeless people in Prince Albert rely on others for temporary shelter – couch surfing - during the winter and this supply might be limited because of COVID. This will result in more shelter demand.
- The new space will allow for at least 20 beds and could be increased in an emergency situation.
- We are concerned about the impact of an increase in COVID cases will have if the homeless population is not supported. An unsupported homeless population inevitably leads to greater demands on health care and police services and these will be under extreme stress if there is a second wave. We must think back to the year prior to the establishment of the cold weather shelter when four homeless people froze to death. We do not want to go there again.

Funding

Most of the funding would come from the Reaching Home funds managed by River Bank and is already in place. The Federal Government has provided additional funding to deal with COVID and this project is eligible for that funding. Other funders include the Ministry of Social Services, City of Prince Albert through a grant from the Federal Government and the Prince Albert Community Foundation

Community Safety

Community safety is very important to the organizers of this project. We believe that it can be operated safely and point to the record of the current shelter where there has not been a major incident in the past 7 years of operation. In fact, we believe that the operation of this shelter will increase community safety by removing vulnerable people from the streets of Prince Albert at night when desperation over cold and hunger might drive them to make some bad decisions. Some other factors that will impact on community safety are:

- It is important to note that the shelter is a considerable distance from any residential areas, with a 125-meter buffer zone.
- The number of people accessing this shelter is relatively small. The current shelter has rarely exceeded 15 people and point in time counts conducted over a number of years have found a relatively stable number, averaging 25 people, over the past five years.
- Clients will be accessing the shelter in a number of different ways, most of which do not involve travel through the residential areas in proximity to the Exhibition.

We are implementing the following features to ensure safe operation of the shelter with minimal impact on the community:

- Two staff with required training on duty at all times. One to be behind the front desk which will be inaccessible to clients.
- Panic buttons worn by staff with a connection to outside service provider in case an emergency develops.
- Cameras with a view inside and outside the shelter.
- Discussions with the Prince Albert Police Department to develop a coordinated response if problems arise.
- We will operate within COVID guidelines as defined by SHA.

Summary

Our community is facing a difficult and complex situation as a result of the COVID epidemic. This epidemic has had a profound effect on all of our lives. Our vulnerable population, which will be most affected by the onset of winter needs additional community support for this most difficult time. We are asking City Council to approve this rezoning so that we can work with them to ensure their safety and the safety of our community.

Donna Brooks YWCA

Brian Howell River Bank