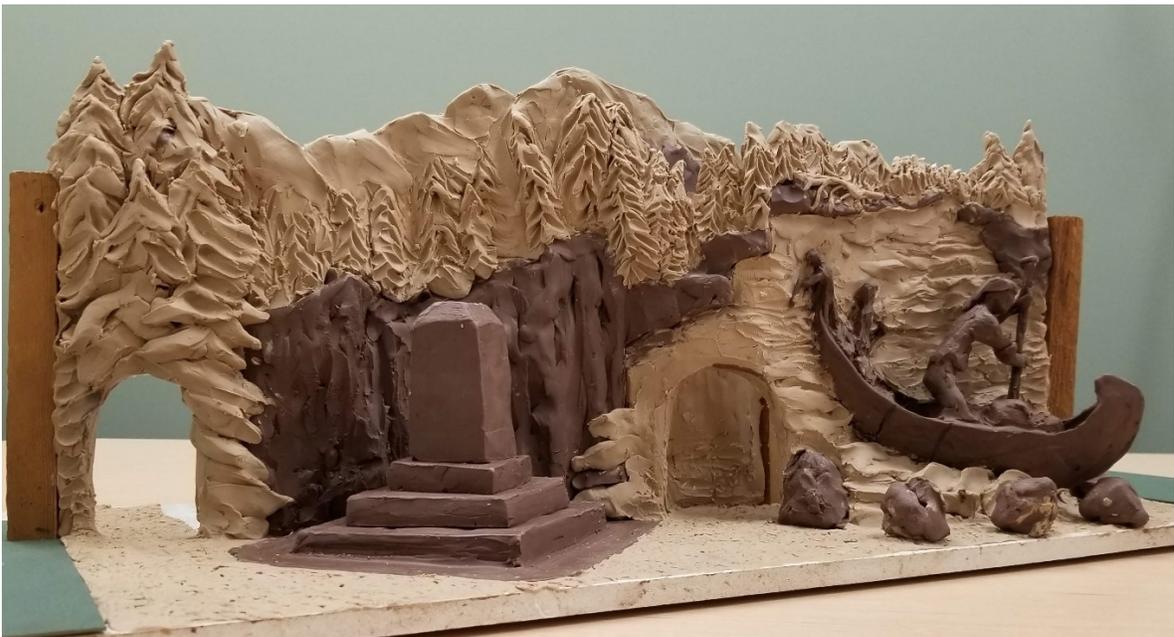


Rocky Mountain House council highlights from the Sept. 4, 2018 meeting.

Helen Hunley Park plan approved

Councillors approved a major redesign of the Helen Hunley Park, adjacent to the Rocky Museum and Visitor Centre. The Helen Hunley Foundation has committed \$240,000 to cover all costs of the development, including a feature wall and bronze statue, a picnic/amphitheatre shelter, lighting and site cleanup in accordance with Fire Smart principles. Consultation for the park's redesign was part of the Recreation Master Plan.

Sculpture artist Crystal Mossing attended the meeting to introduce her feature wall model, pictured here:



The concrete and bronze feature wall will measure approximately 48 feet across and 15 feet high. It will be built between the existing cenotaph and the public washrooms. The two tunnels will provide access to the washrooms and the Helen Hunley Park.

[Sculpture model by Crystal Mossing]

Public cannabis consumption

The Town of Rocky Mountain House will begin soliciting public input to draft a municipal bylaw regulating the consumption of cannabis in public. In April 2017, the federal government introduced Bill C-45 (Cannabis Act) to legalize recreational cannabis.

Legalization of cannabis is a federal decision but provinces and municipalities have the right to set limitations on cannabis production, sale and consumption within their jurisdictions.

In anticipation of federal legalization of cannabis on Oct. 17, 2018, the Town of Rocky Mountain House has already amended its Land Use Bylaw to list cannabis retail stores as discretionary uses in the following districts: central commercial, highway commercial, general industrial and light industrial.

Council will now consider whether or not to place restrictions on the public consumption of cannabis within town limits.

A [public opinion survey](#) will be open until Sept. 28, 2018. Residents can also call the Town Office (403-845-2286) to complete it over the phone. Council will also host a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 18, from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Town Office (5116-50th Ave.) for residents to have their say.

Utility late-payment penalties for July billing cycle

The Town of Rocky Mountain House will credit utility account holders an amount equal to penalties levied for the July billing cycle, provided your account was not already in arrears. [Click here for more details.](#)

Utility Bylaw 2018/17V

Bylaw 2018/17V (The Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Bylaw) received third and final reading on Sept. 4. This new bylaw combines all utilities (solid waste, water and wastewater), rates and penalties into one bylaw. Base rates for residential and commercial water, wastewater and solid waste will increase slightly. The largest increases will be to residential and commercial water and wastewater consumption rates per cubic metre. This means if you use more, you pay more. Council has chosen this user-pay model coupled with a goal of achieving full cost-recovery on utilities as part of its long-term strategic plan to maintain the community's assets.

The new fee structure will be phased in over the next year, with rate increases to take effect in January and July of 2019.

Municipal Police Committee to be established

Council have directed administration to draft a Policing Committee Bylaw.

Under the Police Act, the Town is responsible for having its own municipal police force. The Town meets this obligation by contracting the RCMP. The 2018 budget for the municipal police force (RCMP) is \$2,258,000. The net cost of policing is 12.5 per cent of property taxes collected from ratepayers. (The cost of the RCMP and Town's Peace Officers' services combined represents 15 per cent of all taxes collected.)

The Police Act provides for towns to implement police committees where the RCMP serves as the municipal police force. These committees work with the RCMP in establishing yearly plans for the strategies and policing priorities desired by municipal councils.

Once council establishes the committee by bylaw, the Town will be recruit public committee members.

Delegations

Shaw: Rocky Mountain House councillors welcomed Ian Phillips, manager of government and regulatory affairs for Shaw Communications, to discuss the company's presence and plans for growth within Rocky Mountain House. Councillors extended an invitation to Shaw for further private discussion.

Municipal Planning Commission highlights from the Sept. 4, 2018 meeting

The Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) approved three discretionary use development permits this week, as follows:

Ian Grotkowski has been given approval to develop a 2,266 square-foot cannabis retail sales location at 4439-47th Ave.

Bruce Rudkin has been given approval to developer a 2,452-square foot cannabis retail sales location at 5027-45 St, Unit B.

1940252 Alberta Ltd. O/A Browood Developments has been given approval to develop multiple family row housing located at 58A Ave. south of 65th St. (Lot 3/Block2/Plan 142-0703).

Any person claiming to be affected by these decisions may appeal by serving written notice of appeal before Sept. 25, 2019, to:

Secretary, Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
Town of Rocky Mountain House
Box 1509, Rocky Mountain House
T4T 1B2

For more information on these items, please contact:

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