

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Notice of Motion – Community Garage Sale Board

Motion:

That Council direct Administration to investigate the feasibility and possible locations for installing a fixed community garage sale board, and further that this information be presented to Council at the September 26, 2017 Council Meeting.

Purpose:

That Council provides direction on the motion to request installation of a fixed community garage sale board.

Background:

Every year, garage sales occur in neighborhoods throughout the City. Due to the increasing number of garage sales, concern may occur that garage sale signs lead to littering and unsightly premises.

Several municipalities in the Capital Region, including Fort Saskatchewan, have restrictions on where garage sale signs can be located within the community, and include timelines for how long they may be permitted. Some municipalities use a community garage sale board to consolidate the garage sale advertising.

During a regular Council meeting in February 2014, an inquiry regarding the feasibility of a implementing a community garage sale board was put forward. Administration reached out to a number of municipalities to inquire about experiences with the community garage sale board. Ultimately Administration recommended not pursuing a board based on the following findings:

- None of the municipalities noticed a decrease in garage sale sign placement throughout the community or a change in garage sale advertisement practices with the installation of the community garage sale board. Residents still felt the need to place directional garage sale signs;
- Message boards can become very unsightly if not managed. Continuous monitoring and removal of old postings requires resources;
- Municipalities that use community sign boards either:
 - o Have no regulations relating to postings (staff periodically check the boards for removals); or
 - o Require submission to Administration for review. Many advertise only specific items (e.g., local fundraisers, community events, yard sales, etc.);
- Other options, such as the Internet and social media websites, are more accessible and convenient. Many local newspapers also contain special sections that advertise garage sales in the spring and summer months;
- While no quantifiable data is available, it is generally felt that while they do receive a fair amount of poster traffic, community boards are not viewed by a significant amount of people within the community;

- Many of the municipalities use bylaws to regulate garage sale signage. The Community Standards Bylaw would be an effective tool should greater control of signage be desired.

Communities researched included:

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| - Athabasca, AB | - Lamont, AB | - Coppell, TX |
| - Brooks, AB | - Leduc, AB | - Dartmouth, MA |
| - Camrose, AB | - Oyen, AB | - Hobbs, NM |
| - Canmore, AB | - Three Hills, AB | - Mundy, MI |
| - Coaldale, AB | - Spruce Grove, AB | - Superior, CO |
| - Cold Lake, AB | - Hampton, NB | |
| - Grimshaw, AB | - Nanaimo, BC | |

Prepared by:	Taran Samra Development Technician	Date: September 6, 2017
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Reviewed by:	Janel Smith-Duguid Acting General Manager, Infrastructure & Planning Services	Date: September 6, 2017
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Approved by:	Troy Fleming City Manager	Date: September 6, 2017
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Submitted to:	City Council	Date: September 12, 2017
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