

Topic: Community Standards Bylaw 03-2012

Introduction:

The Community Standards Bylaw is reaching its sunset clause date of 2359 hours on May 12, 2012 and therefore requires review and resubmission to Council for approval. Administration is planning public engagement to provide our residents with opportunities to learn more about the proposed bylaw; prior to initiating the formal approval process with Council. Administrations purpose for bringing this bylaw forth at this time is to share it as information prior to implementing our public engagement activities.

Facts (Background Information):

Parkland County strives to maintain a safe, enjoyable and attractive environment to live. The Community Standards Bylaw helps promote responsible ownership through education and enforcement.

The Bylaw sets out minimum property standards to address unsightly and nuisance properties, unacceptable noise levels, unsafe excavations, and municipal addressing.

Analysis:

Administration has only made a few changes to the bylaw and they are as follows:

- Adding a definition of “Unsightly Condition” in Section I (2) (ff). This covers structures and land and sets an objective standard; this was missing before.
- The length of grass (currently 25cm) is being removed. Residents will be expected to maintain their property to a level similar to that of the surrounding neighborhood.
- Adding discretionary powers, Part 14. This power is already granted via the Municipal Government Act, and will help us address neighbor dispute scenarios. Enforcement would develop some Standard Operating Guidelines around this to ensure it is being used in a consistent, air manner by County officers.

Conclusion/Summary:

Administration is pleased to provide this report for Council’s information.

Alternatives:

None

Summary:

Administration has amended the current Community Standards Bylaw and is about to initiate public engagement for the purposes of informing the residents of the bylaw and its impacts. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update of the amended bylaw and its changes prior to public engagement. Once public engagement activities are complete revisions, if deemed necessary, will be made and the bylaw brought to Council for the formal approval process.