

Topic: Community Standards Bylaw 03-2012

Introduction:

Parkland County strives to maintain a safe, enjoyable and attractive environment to live. Community Standards Bylaw 03-2012 meets this requirement.

Facts (Background Information):

The Community Standards Bylaw helps to promote responsible ownership through education and enforcement. This Bylaw sets out minimum property standards to address unsightly and nuisance properties, unacceptable noise levels, littering, unsafe excavations and municipal addressing.

On March 13, 2012 Community & Protective Services outlined to Council its Public Consultation Plan. Awareness was raised using the County website, the County Communicator, and a special insert in the tax notices.

On April 24, 2012 a temporary Community Standards Bylaw 14 -2012 was passed by Council to rescind the sunset clause of May 12, 2012.

As a result of public feedback, it was realized “naturalization” had been removed from this bylaw.

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, fair manner by County officers.

There has been one public input – the exemption for naturalization had been inadvertently removed. This exemption has been re-added as follows:

- In Section I(2)(ff) “Unsightly Condition” adding paragraph “iv. Naturalization means a portion of a lot where a lawn or perennial garden previously maintained by the owner which has been allowed to re-establish a reproducing population of native species, through a combination of natural regeneration and deliberate plantings of species or other species to emulate a natural area.”

Alternatives:

- I. None

Conclusion/Summary:

Administration recommends Council provide three reading to Community Standards Bylaw 03-2012.

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