

# Council Highlights

April 19, 2022 - Committee of the Whole



## Delegation: Bighill Creek Preservation Society

Gerry Bietz, President of Bighill Creek Preservation Society, provided an update on their activities to protect the Bighill Creek drainage which is an environmental and recreational asset of the Town and region. The presentation included a status update regarding the gravel mines near Big Hill Springs Provincial Park.

## Delegation: The Great Trail Project

Rotary Club member, Alex Baum, provided Council with an overview of the Trail project.

The Trans Canada Trail stretches over 27,000 kilometers coast-to-coast. Portions of this trail between Calgary and Cochrane, as well as Cochrane to Canmore, remain unfinished or are not entirely usable for all travelers.

Stage one of The Trail project seeks to organize interested stakeholders to collaborate on the completion between Calgary and Cochrane. This will include Treaty Seven Territory, connecting the existing Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park and the Rotary/Mattamy Greenway Trail in Calgary, through the Town of Cochrane via a future bridge to the east of Cochrane.

While much of this pathway system exists, it is yet to be fully connected and still requires fundraising and construction of a pedestrian river crossing into Cochrane. The Rotary Club of Cochrane is working to plan, develop and construct a lasting trail by 2025.

## The Station Programming Update

The Station at Cochrane Crossing is on track for completion and official opening in September 2022.

This facility will include space for:  
Cochrane Information Centre (CIC) (relocating from current facility on 1st Street)

- COLT / Southland Transportation On-It service, providing an interim regional service to Calgary
- Transit area with shared space for the Information Centre, providing shared seating, transit information and transit passes for purchase
- Municipal reception and payment services (municipal taxes, utilities and licenses)
- Public washrooms, as well as a future beverage and food kiosk
- Municipal office space

Through research, Administration determined that the Town can support innovation through supporting community innovation by providing physical space, creating innovation friendly development policies, funding business development through grants and promoting the entrepreneurial spirit of the community.

It was determined that in order to have a successful entrepreneurial ecosystem in Cochrane and provide value to the community through programming in the Innovation Space, the community would need to have a say in the programming. This prompted the creation of Innovate Cochrane; a soon to be Non-Profit organization that will assist in determining the best programming based on the needs of the community.

The Innovation Space programming will continue to be realized for the short term as we reach out to the community through Innovate Cochrane. Council will have opportunities to provide input throughout the evolution of the program offerings as Cochrane's entrepreneurial ecosystem grows.