

Council highlights

Delegation: Sport 4 Life

Sport 4 Life Cochrane, a not-for-profit established in 2009 proposed forming a Sport & Recreation Council in partnership with Cochrane. This proposal included a request for an annual \$100,000 investment from the Town of Cochrane to support this work. This proposed council aims to improve communication, provide training, assist in fund development, and promote diversity and inclusion. Inspired by models in other Alberta communities, this partnership seeks to enrich Cochrane's sports landscape through a 5-year plan supported by the Town, focusing on goal setting, organizational engagement, and addressing capacity gaps for a robust sports and recreation community.

Bill 20 Update

Administration provided a report that outlined Bill 20's operational impacts on the Town of Cochrane and detailed the stance of Alberta Munis and The Mid-Sized Cities Mayors Caucus.

The proposed amendments to the Local Authorities Election Act intend to enhance transparency and foster greater trust in local election procedures. Below are the specific impacts of these changes on Cochrane.

- Prohibit automated voting equipment, such as electronic tabulators.
- Allow municipalities to require criminal record checks for local candidates.

- Require municipalities to offer digital options for public hearings on planning and development and restrict them from holding extra hearings when not required by legislation.

Council accepted this report as information.

Council Chambers Renovation Update

Based on Council's feedback regarding proposed renovations to Council Chambers on the June 17 COW meeting, Administration provided additional information. This included clarity on the proposed floor plan, inclusion of renderings and outlined risks associated with deferring this project. Council received this update as information.

Cochrane Library Funding Request Response

After the May 6, 2024 meeting the Cochrane Public Library sought Council's support for extra funding. Administration proposed including the staffing request in the 2025 budget. They also recommended postponing the Facility Needs Assessment to 2025, making it a Town-led initiative funded by the Community Revitalization Levy. This will include a needs assessment and public engagement. Council agreed that this is the intended purpose of the CRL and accepted the report as information.



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Transit Study: What We Heard Report

Administration provided an update on the project including the first round of public engagement as part of the ongoing study of the Cochrane On-Demand Local Transit (COLT) system, which aims to address capacity issues and improve service efficiency.

Five key themes emerged:

1. Improve reliability and usefulness of transit services
2. Support safe, age-friendly and accessible travel
3. Financially sustainable and scalable
4. Ensure transit can meet growing and diverse needs of the community
5. Connect transit to broader community planning outcomes.

Next steps include a second round of engagement, with the consultant returning in the fall to provide additional information.

More details on the engagement responses can be found in the "What We Heard" report at letstalkcochrane.ca/transit.

The Trail Plan

Council was provided with a report on the Trail Project, a transformative trail aiming to link Calgary to Canmore and integrate into the Trans Canada Trail Network. The project promotes inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability, offering

new recreational and economic opportunities for Cochrane residents. The presentation highlighted that trails are significant economic drivers, contributing approximately \$2.9 billion to Alberta's economy.

Council accepted the Trail Plan for information. In September 2024, the Trail Project will be presented to Council again to seek endorsement for a Memorandum of Understanding regarding long-term stewardship.

River Heights Neighbourhood Plan Community Enhancement Evaluation

Two developers acquired the subject lands, met with Administration to draft a Neighbourhood Plan, and presented their Community Enhancement Evaluation to the Committee of the Whole. This process allows for review and discussion of potential Area Redevelopment, Area Structure, and Neighbourhood Plans before formal submission to Administration.

Summit of River Heights Neighbourhood Plan Amendments

Administration presented proposed amendments to the 2017 Neighbourhood Plan for the Summit of River Heights intending to diversify housing types, consider nearby developments, and accommodate changes to James Walker Trail.

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Bylaw 22/2024 ~ The Summit of River Heights

Land Use Amendment

Administration brought forward a proposed amendment to facilitate the future development of low to medium density housing and park space within the community in the Summit of River Heights.