

Resort Village of Aquadeo

Message from Council

Aquadeo became a Village in 1988. A Basic Planning Statement was developed in 1989 as well as a Zoning Bylaw. Since 1989, there has been 12 amendments to our Zoning Bylaw. This bylaw is 28 years old.

It was council's view that we should have a total review of both our Basic Planning Statement and Zoning Bylaw. There are a number of changes that should be made to update to the current legislation.

In order to have a complete review, The Community Planning Act, 2007 requires the RV to hire a professional planner involved, that's why we hired Yvonne Prusak, MA, BAsC, MCIP, RPP, Municipal Planner. She has implemented many bylaw changes for the RM's and Villages in the north west.

At our annual meeting on July 9th, we asked our Development Officer who is our Municipal Planner to attend and give a brief over view of the proposed changes. This is in the preliminary stages and still under review by council. For those who didn't attend, Peter gave a presentation about Park Models and why we should include them in R1 zoning.

In our existing zoning bylaw, Park Model Trailers are not allowed in R1 zoning. There is a minimum size of residence of 800 sqft. In R1. Park models **are allowed** in any R2 zoning in the Village, which includes any trailer park.

Its apparent that Grandfather Rights are a major issue. Council did not propose any changes to these.

Council must follow a process as outlined in The Community Planning Act which includes having a first reading, advertising, and have a public hearing. We have not reached the first reading stage at this time.

Council is doing their due diligence and reviewing the surrounding municipalities as well as other resort communities in the north.

On Aug 5th, there was a 3-page letter dropped off to most of Aquadeo residents, except members of council. Some residents are raising issues that are not relevant to the proposed zoning bylaw, by providing false and erroneous information. This questions the integrity of council.

Just to clarify the facts on the 2nd page titled "Questions to Ponder"

- Why was the public beach access next to our Mayor's property closed and annexed to his personal property?

This property was not a public walkway, it was a 20-foot roadway separating the Duncans and the neighboring property. Penny and Cameron Duncan requested to purchase 7' of the roadway, which was approved by Department of Highways, and Community Planning. Both Duncan and the adjacent neighbor, purchased a portion of the 20' lane way that runs between them. This happened in 2013, when Penny and Cameron paid the Village \$10,500 for a 7' strip plus paid all associated costs for ISC survey costs, etc. There is still an 8' walkway down to the beach.

- What does the request for annexation of our water front through the RM of Meota mean.

This was discussed a couple of years ago. The RM wanted to regulate docks, where to put your dock, # of boats, etc. and wanted to charge the Village residents to put their boats in the water. Aquadeo, Metinota, and Cochin are applying to the government to annex the lake front so we have control of the lake, not the RM468.

- Is there a movement to privatize a certain area of public beach and waterfront?

Who made this false statement about privatizing the beach?

- Why did the RV take out a Fidelity Bond of \$500,000 with NB Agencies?

The Municipalities Act, section 113 states: The council shall annually obtain a fidelity bond, or equivalent insurance, to cover, with respect to each of: (a) the administrator; and (b) any other employees of the municipality while carrying out duties relating to any money or security belonging to or held by the municipality. This amount was recommended by NB Agencies in our annual insurance review because of happenings in the municipalities around the Village.

- Why was our previous administrator fired

We don't discuss personnel issues regarding letting staff go. This is unprofessional. We did advertise for a new administrator with 3 people interviewed. Amber was the most qualified as she had all the required courses, the only thing missing was the 1-year experience. We have to follow the guidelines set out by the Urban Municipal Administrators Association or UMAAS, which also requires a mentor. Our administrators are an integral function of our office and council relies on them. Their roles, responsibilities, and certification are governed by UMAAS.

- Why is council against Park Models when most resorts are implementing or changing bylaws to let them in?

Our existing bylaw does not allow for residences under 800 sqft. The statement that most resorts are allowing them in R1 zoning is totally false. A spreadsheet will follow to support this and you can review the other municipalities regulations.

- Recession we should encourage Park Models to help tax base

Council is doing their due diligence and reviewing the surrounding municipalities as well as other resort communities in the north to make an informed decision before passing first reading.

- Are 3 members of council blocking Park Models in their area

Council will make a decision affecting all of Aquadeo, not just Poplar Crescent.

- Council representation from every zone.

We're not sure what a zone is for council representation. There was about 12 people running in the last election. How many more do you want to run?

- Did council raise golf cart tickets so security could hand out as many tickets as possible over the July long weekend? Was this a fund raiser on the backs of our citizens?

We did not raise our fees for long weekends, our current bylaw has been in place for years. It has been approved by SGI. When we have security on weekends, they will enforce our bylaws. The majority of golf cart users are being restricted by the misuse of the minority. Council agrees this is a convenient mode of transportation, we agree with the residents.

In response to the statement about a money grab on the July long weekend, security gave out 26 warnings and only issued 2 tickets based on citizens' complaints!

- Full time residents should pay a higher water fee

We have reviewed our actual costs pertaining to the management of our water system. Regardless of how many people we have in the winter, our water has to be tested every day. We have additional costs for turning on and off the water for seasonal use, replacing the pots, etc. It was determined that there is really no difference. What is your water fees in the jurisdictions where you have a permanent residence? Cochin pays \$680 for all residents plus they pay a water usage. To connect to this line is \$6,000.

Food for Thought page

Gail Adams has been involved with administration for about 32 years with the City of North Battleford. She retired from the City as Office Manager with numerous staff to supervise, so yes, she has experience. She makes \$24/ hr. which is underpaid for her experience.

Sheryl Ballendine was hired as a mentor for \$50 / hr. which is actually lower than the industry standard. She has 35 years' experience with the Town of Battleford. Due to government regulations if you don't have an administrator who has a C Certificate, you must have a mentor. It's a requirement of the municipal act.

Yvonne was hired as our Planning and Development Officer and develop our zoning bylaw and basic planning statement. Again, you must have a qualified Municipal Planner to do this or Community Planning will not allow the total review. She makes \$55 / hr. which is the industry standard.

Your taxes have increased, due to the revaluation from SAMA and your school taxes have increased 14% or more due to the provincial government. We did raise the base tax \$50, that is all.

Haven't your costs increased for launching your boat and marina rent ?? As far as the compound fee increase, ask the surrounding areas how much they charge to store your boat. We have a long list of people waiting for a compound site. And, no, your water rates have not doubled. In 2016 we raised the seasonal water rates from \$250 to \$400. Presently, water rates for the trailer court leases are \$250 per site.

Your council members are duly elected public servants. There are countless volunteer hours put in by all members of council.

What we are presenting is factual information as we know it and it is meant to inform, not misinform.

Thank you to all residents who have told us you see it for what it is. Your support is overwhelming! We also thank those who have talked to us to gather more information and we encourage more residents to do the same.

REMEMBER, FACTUAL INFORMATION IS KEY. GET BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUES- CONTACT THE VILLAGE OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS. FACT SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE.

Additional information will be placed on our website once we have all the information available.