



April 13, 2015

File: 6070-300

RE: RECREATION & CULTURE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

I'm writing to update you on the development of Rocky View County's *Recreation & Culture Master Plan*.

As you know, the County undertook a year-long public and stakeholder engagement process, and hired a consultant to prepare a draft plan based on what was heard. That draft was presented to County Council on December 2nd.

While the draft plan gave us a good base to work from, it contained a number of elements that made it impossible to adopt. At the top of the list of concerns was over \$230,000,000 in new capital spending that the plan proposed, without any feasible source for the funding except tax increases. The number represents well over four times the total annual taxes the County currently collects for all its operations combined. County Council and Administration consider it unrealistic to expect Rocky Viewers to accept this level of tax increase to support the proposed capital plan.

Rocky View County examined revisiting the *Recreation & Cultural Master Plan*, but instead decided to move forward with policy development that could make use of the public and stakeholder engagement that has already been undertaken.

The first of these new policies is an *Active Living Policy* that will form the foundation for future recreation service delivery. It will:

- articulate community goals (values);
- describe the role and purpose of recreation and active living in improving quality of life and community wellness for Rocky Viewers; and
- formalize the County's commitment to volunteers as the backbone of recreation service delivery.

In its commitment to volunteers, the County will be looking at how to provide the best possible support to community groups in the areas of board governance, succession planning, and developing evaluation tools in order to ensure we maximize the value received from public spending on recreation and culture.

Over the next few months, Rocky View County Recreation Services will engage interested residents, community boards, and partner agencies in providing feedback on the proposed *Active Living Policy*. We are committed to keeping you informed as we move forward on this process, and will be in touch with further details in the near future.

Thank you for your ongoing input and support as we work to create strong and sustainable recreation services for Rocky View County.

Sincerely,

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY



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