

NOTICE OF MOTION

Dylan Bressey
Councillor

September 9, 2019

To Mayor Given and Council;

The City of Grande Prairie's Use of Public Lands Bylaw (C-1078) currently reads "Election signs are permitted on municipal property only as designated by Council" (Appendix B, e). However, to my knowledge, Council has not designated any permitted locations. The bylaw goes on to state where election signs are prohibited but does not state where they are allowed. Without a list of designated locations, our current bylaw is contradictory to itself.

An additional challenge with this bylaw is that its prohibition on election signs near construction zones has been inconsistently interpreted by City staff and by candidates.

At the Council meeting scheduled for September 23, 2019, I intend to present the following motions:

Council direct administration to prepare and present to the appropriate Standing Committee a recommended list of Designated Election Sign Locations

and

Council direct administration to prepare and present to the appropriate Standing Committee the necessary bylaw amendments to strike prohibitions on sign locations in playground and constructions zones in Bylaw C-1078, commonly called the Use of Public Lands Bylaw.

The intent of my first motion is for Council to create pre-approved locations for signs in future election campaigns. Doing so will reduce the work of City staff, ensure all candidates abide by the same rules, and create greater transparency as to whether candidates are following City bylaws.

Many municipalities have found this approach to be a practical way to govern the use of public land during elections. For example, the City of Red Deer's Land Use Bylaw 11.17.3 (1a) reads "Election signs may be placed on municipal property only as designated by The City Council" and the City of Red Deer publishes an Election Sign Placement Guide which describes and maps out sites approved by Council

(<http://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca/city-government/election/Election-Sign-Placement-Guide.pdf>).

The intent of my second motion is to remove prohibitions on signs being in playground and school zones or near construction zones. I will only be making it if the first motion passes. These prohibitions seem redundant if candidates are working off a pre-approved list of designated locations.

Current rules surrounding election signs in the City of Grande Prairie are complicated and vague. They should be updated. I look forward to discussion about how to best do that.

Sincerely;

Dylan Bressey

CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

BYLAW 1078

APPENDIX "B"

ELECTION SIGNS

(Bylaw C-1078E - March 7, 2016)

- a) All Election signs shall comply with the requirements of any relevant federal or provincial legislation and any other relevant municipal bylaws.
- b) A candidate whose name appears on an Election sign that is impounded and removed from municipal property may be assessed impounding and removal charges in addition to any fine or penalty imposed in respect of a violation of this bylaw.
- c) Election signs shall be displayed or placed no earlier than: i) Six (6) weeks prior to election day for municipal and school board elections; or ii) The date the election is called for provincial and federal elections.
- d) Election signs shall be removed within seven (7) days after the election to which they refer.
- e) Election signs are permitted on municipal property only as designated by Council.
- f) Election signs shall not be displayed or placed: i) On roadways, including paved shoulders or centre medians; ii) In any location that affects the safe and orderly movement of vehicles and pedestrians, or restricts the sight lines for pedestrians and motorists; iii) Within 30 m of a signalized intersection or within 15 m of an un-signalized intersection; iv) On any traffic control device; v) On any physical roadway structure including bridges, guardrails, retaining walls, fences, concrete barriers, fire hydrants, sidewalks, pathways, crosswalks, or street light poles; vi) Within 500 m of an construction zone; and vii) Within a school or playground zone/area.
- g) A maximum of two (2) Election signs of the same candidate are permitted within a 20 m spacing.
- h) An Election sign in a residential district, as identified in the Land Use Bylaw, shall not exceed 0.6 m².