Town Hall Meeting, Parks Acquisition
Tuesday, January 13, 2015
Seniors Centre

71 residents present

Director Siddon introduced RDOS staff, and explained reasons for interest in purchasing Lamb property of which there is an accepted offer in place.

A few questions and opinions were offered, but the overwhelming commentary was positive and supportive of the proposed approach and justification of the Referendum.

The RDOS team gave informative presentations and many of the community offered their perspective. Don Clark made points in support of the proposal, in his capacity as Chair of the Okanagan Falls Parks and Recreation Commission.

Don Clark – OK Falls Parks & Recreation

- Don moved to the Okanagan Falls area 5 years ago. He thinks purchasing the Lamb property is a wonderful opportunity for the community.
- This purchase will increase opportunity for physical activity. It will improve the health of the community. Will increase property values. Opportunities for greater social interaction which park provides. Recreation programs.

Mark Woods (RDOS Community Services Manager) gave a “Waterfront Park Plan, Okanagan Falls” presentation. Sandy Crouteau (RDOS Finance Manager) explained the financing on estimates on what it could be. Christy Malden (RDOS Manager of legislative services) explained the referendum process.

Concerns

A member of the Heritage Hills Homeowners Assn said their number one priority is to have a community park in their community and suggests, “do it once and do it right.”

Dr. Malcolm Patterson – completely in favor of project in principal. He would like to make sure we get it right. Explained the potential health hazards of having a playground below the power lines.

At the close, Director Siddon asked two general “scoping” questions; First - how many in attendance felt we should proceed with a Referendum on the borrowing of $750,000 or more. The answer was a resounding Yes!
Secondly, he asked how many were in favor of splitting the Referendum into two questions for the two Park purchase proposals. The answer was an overwhelming NO!