

VILLAGE OF ACME

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2015  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF ACME  
AT THE ACME COMMUNITY CENTRE  
219 ALLISON STREET, ACME, ALBERTA  
COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM.

**PRESENT**

Mayor	Bruce McLeod
Deputy Mayor	Dennis Kuiken
Councillor	Jason Bates
Councillor	Ross Gilmore

**ABSENT**

Councillor	Lucy Ann Daubert
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**OTHERS PRESENT**

CAO Brad Mason  
Clerk Colleen Herrera

**Mayor McLeod in the Chair:**

Mayor McLeod called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**1.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Additions to the Agenda:

6.4.3.1 - FCM

060/15

BATES  
IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

**2.0 DELEGATIONS - NONE**

**3.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**3.1 – Proposed Bylaw 2015-01 to Amend Land Use Bylaw 2004-04**



**CALL TO ORDER** at 6:31p.m.

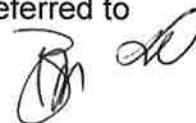
**1. OPENING STATEMENTS**

- 1.1 This Hearing is held pursuant to Sections 230, 606 and 692 of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, as amended.
- 1.2 The purpose of Bylaw #2015-01 is to amend the Village of Acme Land Use Bylaw #2004-04, specifically to amend Part VIII, the Land Use District Map by re-designating Lot 4, Block 12, Plan No. 0010346 in the Village of Acme from "P" – Community Service District to "R-1" – Residential District."
- 1.3 The notice of the Hearing was given in writing to:
  - i) the applicant, the assessed landowner or landowners, and adjoining landowners; and
  - ii) the Planning & Development Officer.
- 1.4 The notice of the Hearing was advertised in the Three Hills Capital Newspaper on February 11 and February 18, 2015.
- 1.5 Presentations are to be brief and to the point and limited to 5 minutes.
- 1.6 All persons giving presentations are to state their name and address. All persons giving presentations must be electors of the municipality, meaning they must be eligible to vote in a civic election and must be a resident of the Village of Acme.
- 1.7 The Chairman may allow questions from members of Council after each presentation.
- 1.8 The Chairman may allow rebuttal from persons having given presentations.

**2. HEARING PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1 Planning & Development Officer**

The purpose of Bylaw #2015-01 is to amend the Village of Acme Land Use Bylaw #2004-04, specifically to amend Part VIII, the Land Use District Map by re-designating Lot 4, Block 12, Plan No. 0010346 in the Village of Acme from "P" – Community Service District to "R-1" – Residential District. For discussion purposes, the property is referred to as the "tire park".



Council desires to create new residential lots within the Village of Acme. The first step in this process is to propose an amendment to the Acme Land Use Bylaw to re-designate the property on Prospect Avenue from its current use, Community Service District to Residential District.

**Existing Land Use:** "P" – Community Service District. The property is not a designated Municipal Reserve or School Reserve as defined in the Municipal Government Act.

**Municipal Development Plan:** The proposed re-designation is in accordance with the Municipal Development Plan.

Council gave First Reading and set the required Public Hearing at its January 23, 2015 meeting.

- The Planning and Development Officer has reviewed this application, consulted with Palliser Regional Municipal Services, and consulted the relevant statutory documents (Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw, Municipal Government Act) and has determined that the proposed land use district for the lot is an appropriate fit with the surrounding uses.
- Prior to any further development of the property, subdivision approval must be obtained. Following subdivision approval, a Development Permit must be approved.

## 2.2 Those in favour of the Bylaw

Tyra Leather, 402 Walsh Avenue

Believes she represents the silent majority. Thanks Council for finding and fixing a problem. There are 6 public green spaces in Acme. Develop this park if cost effective, it is prime land for single family homes. Has never seen anyone in the park.

Glen Rieger – 534 Prospect Avenue

States former Mayor and Councillor. On behalf of taxpayers, getting back to business, feels it is important to change lots to residential.

Bert Jackson – 434 Fowler Street

On Council when the land was purchased from the school with the idea of making it residential lots. Bought in May 2002 at the same time Heritage Estates was being developed. Waited to make it residential lots. If a park was needed there was land for a park at the end of Clarke Street. Tire Park was left as it was until lots were needed.



2.3 Those opposed to the Bylaw

The CAO read the written submissions received (Attached)

Leona Dekoter – 619 Prospect Avenue

This is the third attempt since 2010 to get rid of park. Mr. Kuiken wants to sell the park, is this for personal reasons? Where is that planning? Has any been done? The majority of people want the park, why won't Council listen. There is a utility right of way across the parcel. The Day Care and Playschool are also on it. Atco gas installed a cathodic field behind the park. The utility right of way can be removed but she has been told it is very expensive to do this. The proposed costs are too high and the money could service more lots in Heritage Estates. Council are our servants, listen to the people. If Council chooses to pass this, then she encouraged people to sign a petition to challenge the Bylaw.

Cliff Dube – 530 Prospect Avenue

Other areas in town should be expanded. Taxpayers should not pay for it. Green space is needed in this town. He does not like this, taking the swings down was underhanded.

Betty Martin – 705 Prospect Avenue

In 1994 moved across from the park on purpose. The park was used by her and her granddaughter. No reason to lose the park. Children used the park until the playground equipment was removed.

Jodi King – 709 Prospect Ave

Moved here 8 years ago to be near the park. Her kids play there, even though there is no equipment. She can send her kids there by themselves. Does not want to see the park go.

2.4 Any person deemed to be affected who wishes to be heard.

None

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair McLeod declared the public hearing closed at 7:10 p.m.

(End of Bylaw #2015-01 Public Hearing Minutes)



### 3.2 - Proposed Bylaw 2015-02 to Amend Land Use Bylaw 2004-04

**CALL TO ORDER** at 7:10 p.m.

#### **1. OPENING STATEMENTS**

- 1.1 This Hearing is held pursuant to Sections 230, 606 and 692 of the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, as amended.
- 1.2 The purpose of Bylaw #2015-02 is to amend the Village of Acme Land Use Bylaw #2004-04, specifically to amend Part VIII, the Land Use District Map, by re-designating Lot 47 feet South of 31-32, Block 6, Plan 2315AB (202 Main Street) from 'R-1A' Residential District to 'C-B'– Central Business District.
- 1.3 The notice of the Hearing was given in writing to:
  - iii) the applicant, the assessed landowner or landowners, and adjoining landowners; and
  - iv) the Planning & Development Officer.
- 1.4 The notice of the Hearing was advertised in the Three Hills Capital Newspaper on February 11 and February 18, 2015.
- 1.5 Presentations are to be brief and to the point and limited to 5 minutes.
- 1.6 All persons giving presentations are to state their name and address. All persons giving presentations must be electors of the municipality, meaning they must be eligible to vote in a civic election and must be a resident of the Village of Acme.
- 1.7 The Chairman may allow questions from members of Council after each presentation.
- 1.8 The Chairman may allow rebuttal from persons having given presentations.

#### **2. HEARING PRESENTATIONS**

- 2.1 Planning & Development Officer  
The purpose of Bylaw #2015-02 is to amend the Village of Acme Land Use Bylaw #2004-04, specifically to amend Part VIII, the Land Use District Map by re-designating Lot 47 feet South of 31-32, Block 6, Plan 2315AB (202 Main Street) from 'R-1A' Residential District to 'C-B'– Central Business District.



The applicant has applied to re-designate the parcel to Central Business for the purposes of operating a personal services business, which is an approved Land Use in this district.

**Existing Land Use:** "P" – Community Service District. The property is not a designated Municipal Reserve or School Reserve as defined in the Municipal Government Act.

**Municipal Development Plan:** The proposed re-designation is in accordance with the Municipal Development Plan.

Council gave First Reading and set the required Public Hearing at its January 23, 2015 meeting.

- The Planning and Development Officer has reviewed this application, consulted with Palliser Regional Municipal Services, and consulted the relevant statutory documents (Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw, Municipal Government Act) and has determined that the proposed land use district for the lot is an appropriate fit with the surrounding uses.

2.2 Those in favour of the Bylaw

None

2.3 Those opposed to the Bylaw

None

2.4 Any person deemed to be affected who wishes to be heard.


None

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McLeod declared the public hearing closed at 7:14 p.m.

(End of Bylaw #2015-02 Public Hearing Minutes)

### 4.0 MINUTES

Handwritten signatures in black ink, appearing to be initials or names, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

The Councillors, all having read the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Acme held February 9, 2015, and amending item 5.4 to change the dates from 2014 to 2015, and there being no further errors, omissions or corrections, are approved as amended.

CARRIED

## **5.0 BUSINESS**

### **5.1 – Bylaw 2015-01 to Amend Land Use Bylaw 2004-04**

Bylaw 2015-01, a Bylaw to Amend Land Use Bylaw 2004-04, specifically to amend Part VIII, the Land Use District Map by re-designating Lot 4, Block 12, Plan No. 0010346 in the Village of Acme from “P” – Community Service District to “R-1” – Residential District, was presented to Council for Second and Third reading.

062/15

GILMORE

To refer Agenda Item 5.1, Second Reading of Bylaw #2015-01, to the April 27, 2015 Regular Council Meeting, and further that the Chief Administrative Officer bring information to Council at that meeting regarding the Right of Way on the property and a financial plan including a cost vs. benefit analysis.

CARRIED

### **5.2 – Bylaw 2015-02 to Amend Land Use Bylaw 2004-04**

Bylaw 2015-02, a Bylaw to Amend Land Use Bylaw 2004-04, specifically to amend Part VIII, the Land Use District Map by re-designating Lot 47 feet South of 31-32, Block 6, Plan 2315AB (202 Main Street) from ‘R-1A’ Residential District to ‘C-B’– Central Business District, was presented to Council for Second and Third reading.

063/15

BATES

Council reads Bylaw #2015-02, being a bylaw of the Village of Acme in the Province of Alberta to amend Land Use Bylaw #2004-04, for the second time.

CARRIED



064/15

GILMORE

Council reads Bylaw #2015-02, being a bylaw of the Village of Acme in the Province of Alberta to amend Land Use Bylaw #2004-04, for the third time.

CARRIED

**5.3 – Bylaw #2015-05 – Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board**

Council was presented with a draft Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board bylaw which will allow for the use of an Intermunicipal SDAB with the Village of Linden and the Village of Carbon.

065/15

KUIKEN

Council reads Bylaw #2015-05, being a bylaw of the Village of Acme in the Province of Alberta to create an Intermunicipal Subdivision and Appeal Board, for the first time.

CARRIED

**6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6.1 Correspondence For Action**

**6.2 Circulated**

6.2.1

**6.3 Council Perusal Basket**

6.3.1

**6.4 Meetings, Courses and Events**

6.4.1 Council Meetings:

March 9, 2015 Regular Council Meeting

March 23, 2015 Regular Council Meeting

6.4.2 Courses:

6.4.3 Events:

FCM Conference, Edmonton, June 5 – 8, 2015

066/15

GILMORE

Council approves attendance of two delegates at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Edmonton on June 5 – 8, 2015.

CARRIED

067/15

KUIKEN

Council accepts Information Items circulated, in the Council Perusal Basket, and regarding Meetings, Courses and Events as information.

CARRIED



**7.0 REPORTS**

**7.1 Financial Reports**

7.1.1 Accounts Payable – as of February 23, 2015.

068/15

GILMORE

That the accounts payable as of February 23, 2015 in the amount of \$45,323.91 are approved.

CARRIED

7.1.2 Bank Reconciliation – Monthly

7.1.3 Financial Reporting – Quarterly

**7.2 Administrative Reports**

7.2.1 Chief Administrative Officer (1<sup>st</sup> meeting each month)

7.2.2 Public Works (1<sup>st</sup> meeting each month)

7.2.3 Council Resolution Status - E

**7.3 Councillor Reports**

7.3.1 Mayor McLeod

Attended Brownlee Law Emerging Trends Seminar

Attended Aqua 7 Regional Water Services Commission meeting, water rates approved at 5% increase effective January 1, 2015

7.3.2 Deputy Mayor Kuiken

7.3.3 Councillor Bates

Kneehill Regional FCSS Meeting, including policy review

7.3.4 Councillor Daubert

7.3.5 Councillor Gilmore

069/15

BATES

Moved that all Administrative and Councillor reports, as recorded on the agenda for February 23, 2015 be accepted for information and filing.

CARRIED

**8. IN CAMERA –**

070/15

BATES



Moved to recess the Regular Meeting at 7:42 p.m. in order to hold an "In Camera Meeting" pursuant to Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act, RSA Chapter M-26 and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 24.

CARRIED

071/15

KUIKEN

Moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting at 7:52 p.m.

CARRIED

9.

**ADJOURNMENT**

072/15

MCLEOD

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.

  
MAYOR

  
C.A.O.



FEB 17 2015

A. DeKoter  
P.O. Box 424, 619 Prospect Ave.  
Acme, AB, T0M 0A0

February 17, 2015

RE: PROPOSED BYLAW 2015-01 - PARK REZONING

To CAO and Council:

I am opposed to bylaw 2015-01.

I believe the park on Prospect Ave is serving the people of this community best as a green space and it would be a shame to loose such a beautiful piece of public land.

I also think it is a misplaced and foolish waste of Village resources to put sewer and water to a property where you can't even build because of the utility right of way. Money would be better spent improving current infrastructure such as the existing old sewer lines and the lagoons.



A. DeKoter

cc: Honorable Diana McQueen, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Bruce Rowe, MLA  
Debbie McCann, Municipal Affairs



RECEIVED

FEB 17 2015

Ken DeKoter  
 P.O. Box 424  
 619 Prospect Ave,  
 Acme, AB, T0M 0A0

February 15, 2015

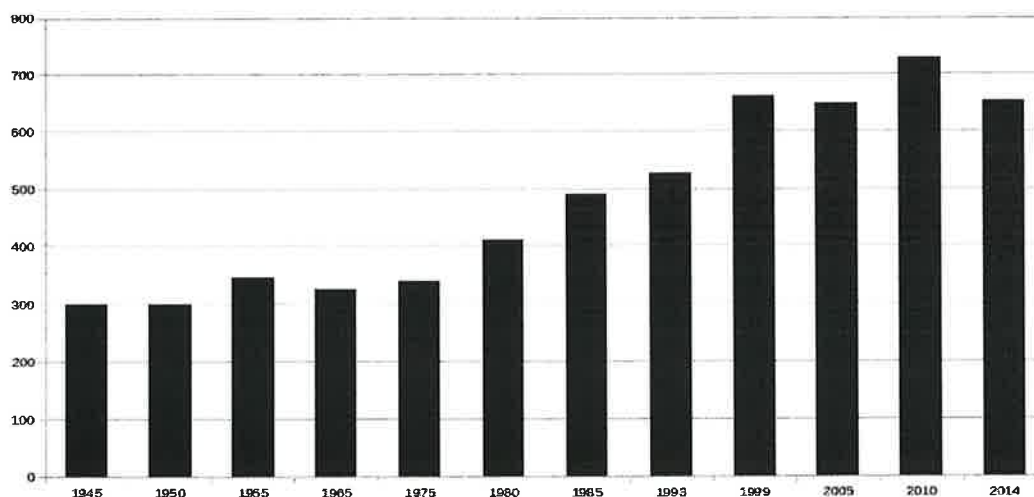
RE: VILLAGE OF ACME BYLAW #2015-01

To CAO and Council:

I am in full opposition to the rezoning of any parks / green space within the bounds of Acme. I oppose the passing of bylaw 2015-01.

If Acme wants to grow in population, this can only be accomplished by increasing business activity. Building new homes or investing into fully serviced lots for sale will not bring new investment or people to the area if there are no jobs available.

The following graph is the census data from Municipal Affairs for Acme from 1945 to 2014. The graph shows a few up ticks in population that coincide with events that would have boosted our population, such as paving the highway under premiere Don Getty 1985 – 1992. Ralph Klein, making Alberta a corporate friendly place to do business, would have boosted business by 1999. After that our population stagnated until the drilling and completions work that was being done in the area in 2010. Since 2010 our population has been on the decline, and we are currently below the 1999 levels, and trending towards 1993 levels. It is clear that there is enough housing in Acme to accommodate a more than a 10% increase in population without additional housing inventory, especially if that increase is accomplished by removing current green space.



This is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt (that I know of) to divest of the park. The first time, I was told in person by David Alderdice that Dennis Kuiken (owner of a construction company) as Mayor in 2010 told him to call a Realtor and sell the park. Council's previous attempts to sell this park leads me to believe that this Council is either incompetent or corrupt. Following the MGA, some current council members should be up on charges for how they ran their last 2 attempts, not to mention how the last election was

run. Elected officials are servants to the public, not rulers. There have been petitions that clearly show that this council is not following the wishes of the majority of the population of Acme. I call for the resignation of all members of this current council.

I wish this council would stop wasting my time on this silly project of ridding the village of valuable green space, but on the other hand, I am sure they wish I would stop spending my time watching what they are doing. This is like catching a child with their hand in the cookie jar. In 2010 it felt like someone personally was going to make a good profit by selling the park, and it's still not a benefit for the community.

Changing the zoning on this park only means one thing, council wants to sell it. This makes no business sense. They claim it's 4 lots; it's not, it's one lot. After rezoning, they would need to remove the utility right of way, which encompasses the entire park, and then they would have to apply to subdivide the property. They claim that there are 4 lots - there is only one lot 200' in width, which would create 4 - 50' lots. Every property on Prospect is around 100 foot frontage, which means that to keep in the established look of the street, there would only be 2 potential housing developments on this property.

Then the question of services to the lots comes up. Council has been trying to get or apply grants to the large price of \$200,000 or more to run sewer & water to these properties. At an estimated \$4000 per year of property taxes times 2 properties, less the school portion, it will take 50 years to pay off (plus interest) for the utilities alone. Grants can be used for better uses around town (how about Bert's sidewalk project).

Sadly the only conclusion I can come up with is that someone, or some people on council, have some interest to make money at the expense of the tax payer. The optics on this one are not good.

In the interest of the Park, I love that park. I have often walked out there, and watched the world go by. I love it when I am working from home and can turn my chair around and look at the trees. There have been so many times that I see the kids that are too young to be playing in the school yard just having fun running around in the park or playing on the swings. At least, they used the swings until Bruce McLeod saw (from the road as he drove by) a defective link in a chain and ordered the swings removed. During the summer, most days there are mothers with their kids meeting at the park for some unwinding.

At the risk of sounding like an old fogey, removing green space / parks is the worst thing we can do for our youth today. It's hard enough to get them off their X-Box, Chrome Book, or whatever other electronic form of entertainment that they use. We need space where people can go to. We need to stretch our legs, have a destination that is in the real world.

Many of my neighbors and I have bought our homes on Prospect because there is that park. It's a place we go to to play badminton, and many other games. If the people that want to sell it don't see us there on their way to work, it's because we work too. We pay our taxes so we can have that place.

There is a level of anger building between the administration of this town and the residents, and I don't believe that the solution is to force residents to do what council and administration demands.

Again, I call for the resignation of all of council. Council is not following the directives set forth in the MGA. I am ashamed for you and what you have been doing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'BM' followed by a flourish.

I propose this solution: that I buy the park for what the village paid for it, and I will maintain it as a park. With the way this village runs, I have to plow my streets and alleys, and end up going to the transfer station most weeks to bring the rest of my garbage away, so why not own and maintain my park. I will always have a smile on my face when I see others using it.

Ken DeKoter

cc: Bruce Rowe, MLA  
Honorable Diana McQueen, Minister of Muncipal Affairs  
Debbie McCann, Municipal Affairs



RECEIVED

FEB 17 2015

**Leona DeKoter**  
P.O. Box 424, 619 Prospect Ave.  
Acme, Alberta, T0M 0A0

February 16, 2015

Attention: CAO and Council

RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LAND USE BYLAW 2004-04, BYLAW 2015-01

I am writing to express my opposition to this proposed bylaw amendment.

Our family purchased our home and moved to Acme in large part because of the proximity of this park and the fact that it has mature trees. Green spaces are an important factor for the health and welfare of people within a community, and any good development planning includes green spaces. People are not attracted to communities which lack parks.

I believed that after Dennis Kuiken's attempt to sell the park in 2010 failed so badly and caused so much anger among residents, that he would not have the audacity to repeat that mistake. It seems that I underestimated his desire to eradicate public spaces that are to be enjoyed by all. When current Council expressed their intent in 2014 to once again try to sell our park, even then CAO David Alderdice laughed at them.

At the 2014 public meeting on the matter of rezoning the park, it was stated that this park is not necessary for residents in this area because the daycare, kindergarten and school all have playgrounds. While those institutions do have playgrounds, **they are not available for public use**. Whenever my family wants to enjoy green space, whether it is to play badminton, lawn bowling or just enjoy a picnic, this is the space available to us and the space that we use. We are not the only people who use this park, and a visit to any other municipality will show public playgrounds near or beside those of schools.

I have no confidence that Council will listen to the public opposition to the rezoning of the park any more at this meeting than they did at the last. After all, the signatures of more than 200 electors opposed to the rezoning meant nothing to them, and the public works foreman was not reprimanded for telling a resident to "sit down and shut up." Only one member of council was ethical enough to vote according to the wishes of the public, but that was only after the estimate from Urban Systems for installation of services was presented at the council meeting following the public meeting.

The continued push by a small few to take away a valuable, beneficial resource does not make any sense. I cannot see any way it could be of a benefit to the community, but I can certainly see the potential benefit to at least one of those pushing this forward.

Since the eradication of this park seems to have no benefit for the community, I wondered if a back room sale of the land had already been arranged in 2010. With this in mind, I pulled current and historical title. Now the push to rezone this park makes even less sense, as there



is a Utility Right of Way registered against the title and which covers the entire lot. **No permanent structures can be built on any part of this land.** This is why it has always been a park, long before Acme purchased it from the school district for \$7,000.00 in 2002. Since the daycare and kindergarten fall within the same UTRW, it also explains why mobile classroom units were put in place rather than regular buildings.

Acme has some very pressing infrastructure needs, so any grant applications should be focused on real needs rather than Council whims. The sewage lagoons are well past their expected lifespan, needing both upgrading and maintenance, and were designed for a much smaller population load. Several of the sewer lines are weak and also past their expected useful life. The liner put in the sewer line from the Village to the lagoon was to buy time for a real solution; it is a temporary fix to buy us 5 to 10 years during which time an alternate line could be installed. Three of those possible 10 years have already passed. Let's not have a situation like Nanton in Acme!

I am not opposed to spending money on infrastructure. If a reasoned examination of current vacancy and available properties reveals a need for more serviced lots, it makes more sense to spend the funds to expand Heritage Estates, for which the subdivision, planning and zoning has already been done. Limited infrastructure funds need to be spent wisely, obtaining the best value investment for the entire community. Aside from the negative impact on the health and welfare of residents on the West end of the Village by taking away green space, spending funds to install prohibitively expensive services for two or three houses is wasteful and foolish.



Leona DeKoter

cc: Honorable Diana McQueen, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Bruce Rowe, MLA  
Debbie McCann, Municipal Affairs





GORDON KESLER HOLDINGS LTD.

RECEIVED

130 MAIN STREET ACME, AB

FEB 18 2015

P.O BOX 297 TOM-0A0

PHONE: 403-546-3066, 403-264-7033

Feb 10/15

Village of Acme:

Re: the Rezoning of the "TIGER PARK!"  
I am sure it will be a Park - and just slides,  
swing - sand box - back in.

The green space in our community is an  
asset and much needed - we have more  
young families than ever before, and these  
areas are a must

Concerned Citizen

Gordon Kesler

February 17 2015

Village of Acme

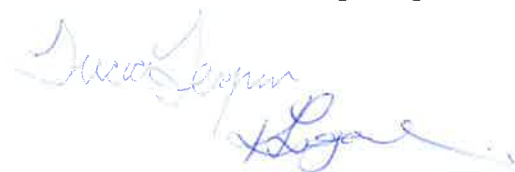
Re: Amendment of Land Use Bylaw #2004-04 for Bylaw #2015-01 and Bylaw #2015-02.  
Prospect Ave Tire Park, Green Space

We moved to Acme in October 2014 and have enjoyed getting to know the town. One of our hopes in moving to a small town is to raise our children in a safe environment. We have a toddler and are expecting another child in March. The park on our street is a place we have already visited. It is somewhere where small children can run and play safely.

Although our property backs onto the school yard we would not consider using the playground during school hours.

Losing the park on Prospect Ave would have an impact on our family. Green space where families can take their children and meet other families is an important feature in any community.

Please reconsider rezoning this park, and leave the green space as it is.



Trevor and Katelyn Legare  
606 Prospect Ave  
Acme AB



FEB 17 2015

February 14,2015

BYLAW 2015-01

To CAO and Council,

I am opposed to rezoning our park to residential.

We chose our house because it was close to this park. My son plays in this park, and contrary to what the public works foreman says, not only DeKoters use this park. The park is enjoyed by many people, and I enjoy having the park available to my son whenever he wants to use it.

Kari Nielsen  
609 Prospect Ave



RECEIVED

FEB 17 2015

Doreen Ternowetsky  
610 Prospect Ave.  
Acme, AB TOM OAO  
February 17, 2015

Acme Village Council/CAO Brad Mason  
Box 229  
Acme, AB TOM OAO

Attn: Acme Village Council/ CAO Brad Mason

I am writing to vehemently oppose the proposal of a bylaw to consider amending Land Use Bylaw No. 2004-04, Part VIII, The Land Use District Map, by re-designating Lot 4, Block 12, Plan No.0010346 in the Village of Acme from "P" – Community Service District to "R-1" – Residential District. For almost five years, the citizens of Acme have fought this rezoning in various ways.

The first attempt was actually an attempt to sell the park on Easter Weekend of 2010. On that occasion Realtor For Sale signs suddenly appeared on the property. The citizens organized a delegation to the next council meeting and a well-attended and heated public meeting to try to prevent this sale. After persistent questioning, the then mayor, Dennis Kuiken, accepted responsibility for this action. The signs were removed and at the municipal election in October of that year, Dennis Kuiken and the other councillors who had supported the sale were soundly defeated.

The second attempt was in June, 2014. At that time, a petition was circulated. 207 elector signatures were collected and presented to the council. The council said that the matter was unpetitionable and paid no attention to it. At the public meeting, the people who spoke in favour of the rezoning were present and former employees of the village and their families, former mayors and relatives of councillors. The people who opposed were people who had signed the petition and other residents. The feeling by the general public was that council was obviously not going to listen and they didn't.

There seems to be three main arguments that the council is presenting as to the necessity of this rezoning. The argument presented in 2010 was that no one played in the park. The people disputed this and I, as someone living right next door, especially disagreed with this. Examples are during soccer season- the younger/ older siblings would play at the park while their siblings played soccer and it was easy for the parents to watch both groups. Children also played there because of the mature trees giving them shade during the summer. However, after 2010 there was cited a safety report (never found by Mayor Bruce McLeod) which said the equipment was unsafe and the favorite piece of equipment was removed with nothing put in its place. Children, however, continued to play in the park along with people who came to have picnics. The final piece of equipment was the swings just before the 2014 rezoning attempt. Mayor Bruce McLeod had these removed after driving by and seeing that there was a broken link even though the people using the park the evening before had not seen anything wrong with the swings. Children and other people, even so, have continued to use the park.

The two further reasons given in the 2014 rezoning were that the land was needed for housing and that there were many parks in the area. The argument against the first reason is that there is land at the end of Prospect Ave. and Clark St. which can be developed and Heritage Estates also has lots which can be developed. Infrastructure has to be put in for both the park and Heritage Estates and the cost for return can certainly be questioned – 4 small lots compared to a large number of lots. The plan from Urban



Systems for water and sewer lines for the development of the park was received and presented to council at the June 23, 2014 meeting and was tabled. We were not allowed to know what this figure was. Councillor Ross Gilmore then voted against the second reading. During the discussion of the information received from Urban Systems for the Tire Park at the July 7, 2014 Council Meeting, Mayor Bruce McLeod mentioned the figure of \$233,000.

The third argument – that there are two other parks in in the area is incorrect. The Day Care park is a private park and not available to the public. The school park is equally unavailable during school days. This leaves the children in the northwest part of Acme with no park.

If we want to attract people to our village, parks and green spaces are a definite draw. In fact, I know of several families who have moved here just because of the park. The village council says they want our village to grow and yet they are taking away a method to get people to want to come to our village – a green space with mature trees.

If the village council continues to refuse to listen to the wishes of a large majority of the electors, perhaps it is time that they stepped down and let people who really care about the village take over. It is hard to see how the rezoning of this park shows integrity and transparency.

Sincerely,



Doreen Ternowetsky

Cc: Bruce Rowe

Diane McQueen

Debbie McCann

