

May 24, 2019



LETTER OF CLARIFICATION

Much has been discussed over the last few weeks regarding Raymond's continued growth and development. With the desire for an increase in clarity, town council would like to share information on five topics and provide some context to the current discussion.

1. Location of a new school

Raymond has a pressing need for new educational facilities. In April of 2018, Westwind School Division approached Council with the desire to build a new school. The approval and timing of a new school are in the hands of the provincial government. Municipalities are required to work with school divisions to provide land for new school projects. Numerous locations were considered and weighed with Alberta Education site guidelines for new schools. Westwind School Division identified the land adjacent to Victoria Park Sports Complex on East Park Street as their desired location for the new school in its application. After further investigation, and on-going council discussion, council moved to support Westwind School Division's application.

The following points regarding the location strengthened the application:

- met the minimum land area required
- the land was owned by the town at the time of the application
- partnering with the school division to share recreation facilities
- existing water and sewer infrastructure
- location alleviates transportation and parking concerns

The venue of Victoria Sports Park will accommodate student activities and become a focal point of the future growth of Raymond. Much of our deliberation about the location of the school rested on the desire to provide the least amount of economic harm and change to the great amenities that Raymond offers.

2. Stampede Grounds

Locating a new school adjacent to the current stampede arena and grandstands presents some challenges. Raymond is known for being the home of the first stampede and this location is important to Raymond's history. The rodeo grounds are the center of Raymond's heritage days celebrations and the July 1st stampede is a tradition that brings family and visitors to Raymond annually. With the potential location of the new school, town council has explored numerous scenarios for the location for a new stampede grounds that can be used as a public amenity and to provide continuing and on-going support for July 1st tradition of the Raymond Stampede.

We are exploring different locations for relocating the stampede grounds, but no decision has been made. Town council has met with representatives of the stampede board and proposed a possible relocation to the south east of corner lake within town boundaries. The stampede board proposed the land immediately south of the current stampede grounds (west of the Ag society buildings). The stampede board and town council both

agreed to review each other's proposals for a possible location and to meet again in the future.

3. Bucking Horse Welcome to Raymond Signs on Highway 52

The current town council has not discussed the removal or the replacing of these two signs.

4. Bucking Horse Logo and slogan

Approximately ten years ago the bucking horse logo was replaced with the Family branded logo, and subsequently modified with the Welcome Home tagline. The bucking horse was made as a secondary logo. Approximately a year ago, the bucking horse logo was updated and is presently used as a proud reminder of our heritage. Raymond is home of the first stampede and we intend to see the stampede flourish for many years to come.

5. The New Logo and Slogan

Listening to public opinion, Council made the following motion: "that administration develop a public participation plan to gather public input on new town branding."

Council recently approved a public engagement committee. We hope this group will help us identify new ways to engage the public in our decision making and help us improve communications. We appreciate the passion that everyone has for our community. We share that passion and strive to balance a range of complex issues with the community's best interest. Please reach out to your town council members as we seek to serve the interests of all of Raymond's citizens.

Mayor Jim Depew and Councillors Ron Fromm, Ken Heggie, Joan Harker, Ralph Price, Bryce Coppieters and Stewart Foss.



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