

County amends bylaw to allow campground on Mayatan Lake

By Jordan Wilkins
Staff Writer

Parkland County Council passed a bylaw to amend a previous land use bylaw that will now allow a tourist campground to develop on a 73-acre site adjacent to Mayatan Lake.

The amendment, which was passed four to two, came two weeks after a public hearing that saw the proposed developers as well as residents from around Mayatan Lake give their opinions on whether or not Mayatan Lake was a suitable area for a campsite.

With the campground having to be 1,000 feet from the boundary of the nearest subdivision, Coun. Tracey Melnyk felt that looking upon previous residential areas in similar situations in Parkland, the proposed campground wouldn't hurt the area or its residents.

"I had to look at an example in Acheson where we have an industrial area 200 meters from residential and it seems to be working," Melnyk said. "I'm sure that the campground and the sub division can work well together. I have a home half a mile from a provincial campground and I enjoy it; there are no negative setbacks."

Parkland Mayor Rod Shaigec agrees that a reasonable relationship can occur between the two parties.

"I support the amendment," Shaigec said. "I think that the development can occur in a responsible manner."

Coun. Phyllis Kobasiuk, who was opposed to the amendment, feels that the development isn't right for the area.

"I think that there is a better use for Mayatan Lake than this," Kobasiuk said. "This scale of operation doesn't belong."

Coun. Jo Szady, who was the other councilor who voted against the amendment, agrees with Kobasiuk.



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"I have issues and concerns with this amendment," Szady said. "What gets approved here today will be there for decades to come. I've heard what the community has said and they are the ones who have to live with the decisions we make."

At last month's public hearing, applicant of the upcoming Mayatan Lake RV Resort, John McNab supported his development by saying how he feels a campground would benefit the area.

"Recreational camping is an

important part of our culture and promotes family bonding," McNab said. "We hope to attract campers from all over the province and keep Alberta campers in Alberta."

McNab also felt that an amenity like Mayatan Lake should be taken advantage of.

"Access to the lake must be equal to all people," McNab said. "Ownership of lake front properties doesn't give people special rights. Mayatan Lake is an underutilized environmental area in Parkland County."

Walter Neilson, the president of Mayatan Lake Management Association also spoke at the public hearing, speaking on behalf of the association and their feeling that a campground has no place on Mayatan Lake.

"We aren't opposed to development, just inappropriate development," Neilson said. "This lake is not the right size for this development, the environmental issues could cost Parkland the quality of this area."

"Mayatan is one of the last areas like this in Alberta, this development will destroy that."

After the amendment was made, Mayatan resident Ron Allen wasn't pleased with the outcome.

"I'm deeply disappointed," Allen said. "I don't think that enough consideration was given in concerns with the amount of disruptions that this campground will cause the area."

Coun. Darrell Hollands was not eligible for the vote since being unable to attend one of the public hearings.

