



CITY OF  
**Pitt Meadows**  
*The Natural Place*

## Staff Report to Council

Community Development

FILE: 09-3900-02/17

**DATE:** March 14, 2018  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Lisa Grant, Manager of Community Development  
**SUBJECT:** Shooting Range Regulation Information Session Feedback

**Date of Meeting – March 20, 2018**

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** THAT Council:

1. Receive the report entitled "Shooting Range Regulation Information Session Feedback"; OR
2. Other.

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION:**

**PURPOSE**

This report is intended to provide Council with an overview of the shooting range regulation open house hosted by the City on March 5, 2018, and summarize feedback received from the event.

☒ Information Report      ☐ Direction Report      ☐ Decision Report

**DISCUSSION**

**Background:**

At the December 5, 2017 Regular Council Meeting, City staff presented proposed amendments to the Discharge of Firearms Bylaw 647, 1975, and the Noise Control Bylaw 2138, 2004, in relation to shooting ranges and the operation of the Pitt Meadows Gun Club (PMGC). Council directed staff to conduct a public information session open house regarding the proposed bylaw amendments.

**Relevant Policy, Bylaw or Legislation:**

Discharge of Firearms Bylaw 647, 1975; Noise Control Bylaw 2138, 2004

## PITT MEADOWS

**Event Summary:** The Information session was held on March 5, 2018 at the Pitt Meadows Heritage Hall. City staff prepared display boards outlining the identified issues heard to date and the proposed bylaw amendments presented by staff in December 2017. Results from the noise testing conducted at the PMGC in January 2018 by BKL consultants were also presented. City staff were on hand, along with Mayor Becker and members of City Council.

The RCMP Firearms Officer who is involved in inspection and licensing of the PMGC range was on hand to answer questions related to the federal shooting range licensing process and public safety concerns. A representative from BKL Acoustic Consultants was on hand to explain and answer questions about the noise testing procedures and results. Representatives from the PMGC were invited to attend and display information about their environmental monitoring initiatives. The Ministry of Environment was invited to the event but were not able to provide a representative to attend.

A notice was mailed out to owners and occupants of 85 properties within a 488 m (1600 ft) radius of the PMGC site and the event was also advertised in the local paper and on social media. The event was very well attended with an estimated 130 total attendees, approximately 40 of whom indicated they were from Pitt Meadows. A large contingent of PMGC members and supporters from the general shooting community from other municipalities were present.

### **Feedback Summary:**

Staff received 51 feedback forms and around 15 post-it comments at the event. Due to the large number of PMGC members present, much of the feedback received expressed a desire to allow the Club to resume operations. Outstanding concerns largely involved further addressing noise and public safety issues. There appears to be general support for reasonably limiting PMGC operating hours and a desire for further measures such as a physical noise and safety barrier/berm. The RCMP Firearms Officer noted that a berm may not necessarily improve safety for trap shooting, as guns are aimed at a target in the air above berm height. General themes and comments are summarized below:

#### Noise:

- Gunshots should be defined as continuous sound
- Support for limiting PMGC operation to regular hours
- There are other sources of noise in the area such as the airport, CP train tracks, and highway
- Council should have say in frequency of special events
- What measures are being taken by club to mitigate noise?
- What is the cost of the noise testing?

#### Safety:

- How can residents be assured that shot will not leave the property?
- Minimum shooting distance to public areas in Firearms Bylaw should be enforced

#### Environmental:

- Independent environmental testing should be done
- Lead is also used for fishing

#### General:

- PMGC provides safe family recreation opportunity
- Trap shooting is a legitimate sport
- PMGC should amalgamate with Thompson Mountain

The representative from BKL Acoustic Consultants provided staff with a summary of some of the questions she received over the course of the evening, and the responses provided, listed below:

Noise mitigation options:

- To be effective it needs to interrupt the line of sight between the receiver and source
- Height and length of the barrier required depends on site conditions, but a short barrier probably wouldn't do much and given the shooters are standing, the barrier/berm would need to be higher than that

Potential for hearing loss:

- Outside of area of expertise
- An audiologist would be better placed to provide information for the hearing sensitivities of different age groups

Noise Control Bylaw definition of continuous noise:

- Because the noise from a gunshot is so short, if you sum the time of a number of shots over a 15 minute period of time, that gun shots would still likely be non-continuous noise (sum to less than 3 minutes in a 15 minute period)

Type of ammunition used:

- Not sure of the ammunition used during the shooting
- A PMGC member provided details later in the night

Impact of weather conditions:

- Meteorological conditions can impact noise propagation
- Magnitude depends on local conditions/topography but if a receiver is downwind of the source, the noise levels at the receiver are often higher than for neutral conditions

#### **COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

- ☐ Corporate Excellence      ☐ Economic Prosperity      ☒ Community Livability
- ☐ Transportation & Infrastructure      ☒ Not Applicable

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#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- ☒ None      ☐ Budget Previously Approved
- ☐ Other      ☐ Referral to Business Planning
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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

☐ Inform      ☒ Consult      ☐ Involve      ☐ Collaborate      ☐ Empower

Comment(s): Attendees of the information session were invited to provide written feedback regarding the proposed bylaw amendments or related issues. Feedback from the information session is compiled in this report.

**KATZIE FIRST NATION CONSIDERATIONS**

Referral      ☐ Yes      ☒ No

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**SIGN-OFFS**

Written by:

Mike Bandy, Development Services Technician

Reviewed by:

Lisa Grant, Manager of Community Development

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**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.