

Record of Submissions

This document contains the written submissions received in response to the notice of public hearing for:

Land Use Bylaw Amendment 2017-28 – Political Campaign Signs Location

The public hearing was held June 21, 2017. Public submissions respecting this bylaw were accepted between May 16, 2017, when council approved the hearing date, and 6:25 p.m. on June 21, 2017, when the public hearing adjourned.

This document was prepared by Cheryl Hyde, Municipal Clerk, June 23, 2017.

From: Jerry Auld
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 5:19 PM
To: Cheryl Hyde
Subject: Campaign Sign Limitation

Dear Municipal Clerk,

I'd like to add my voice to the call to limit campaign signs on public property.

We are very much in favour of the limitation.

Jerry Auld
Anne-Marie Fafard
Sophie Auld
Emilie Auld

Susan Kay Barry
201 Lady MacDonald Drive
Canmore, AB
T1W 1G9
403 (678-4616)

June 1, 2017

Mayor and Council
Town of Canmore
901 7th Avenue
Canmore, AB
T1W 3K1

Dear Mayor Borrowman and Council:

Re: Election Signage

I am opposed to the proposed amendment to the Land Use Bylaw respecting election campaign signage. I do, however, support amendments that would limit such signage on public property. My reasons for supporting signage on public property are as follows:

It is important to engage the public leading up to an election. Canmore is still, relatively speaking, a small town and does not have a daily newspaper and, in **any event, that medium is also expensive. If you don't read the print media cover** to cover or miss a week somehow, then your opportunity to be informed about candidate names is very limited without signage.

There are few public forums and most of those are geared to a specific **audience. If you can't attend a forum, for whatever reason**, then your opportunity to be informed is further limited.

Social media is fine for those who use it and who would use it to explore campaign issues but I know that the senior demographic (those who regularly vote **as a matter of principle**) **aren't universally social media adopters. I** sign on to Facebook but find it quite frustrating as a news source or a way to develop an informed opinion.

Candidates will still, perhaps, prepare written campaign material and distribute it through Canada Post or by knocking on doors but that, too, carries its **own costs and expenses. With the Town spread out so much, I don't see how any** candidate could possibly cover all the doors by his or herself; a small army of volunteers is required.

Signage on private property is still permitted and that's a good thing and especially appropriate for larger signs attached to buildings – if that's still allowed – but the opportunities for that are limited. I don't want signs on my property and if I were to allow one, it would not be a good location and what do I say to other candidates? No, I only like X? Or, no, I only want one and X got here first. As I said it's a small town and it's easy to offend people you don't want to offend when all you want is the peaceful enjoyment of your property.

In a full-featured democratic process, signage is an integral part, not the only part but an integral part, of an election campaign. If the public can see your name, they can also google it or try another media to get more information. So what's my problem with the proposed bylaw?

First, I think corners are the worst place to put signage, especially with the plethora of candidates that seem to want to get involved every three, now four, years. Although they are usually fairly low to the ground, they do obscure sight lines and create a potential hazard for the safety of people and other vehicles at crosswalks or making turning movements.

My first suggestion is that signage should be set back a requisite distance from corners (50'? 100'?) and a minimum distance back from the curb. Surely engineering has a rule of thumb for this kind of thing.

Secondly, the number of signs per candidate in any approved location should be limited to one.

Thirdly, bylaw officers should have the authority to remove duplicates, without further notice, that contravene the bylaw. There are ways to do this without engendering candidate anger. For example, slapping a small sticker on the back of the remaining sign that says something like: duplicate signs in this location have been removed by bylaw enforcement in accordance with bylaw etc.

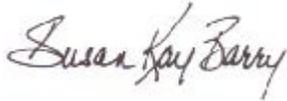
Finally, the Town should designate specific public property locations where election signs can be placed. For example, Elk Run Blvd has a number of suitable locations. One could be the strip of berm (on one or both sides of the road) between Glacier Drive and Lady MacDonald Drive on one side and Glacier Drive and the entrance to the Benicon multi-family project on the other. I can see at least four possible locations from Bow Valley Trail up to the skating rink, all of which could be designated. Does the current bylaw specify a time frame for signage – like no more than 2 months before an election? That could be considered. I believe a very small group (engineering, bylaw, planning and at least one public person with campaign experience) looking at a map could come up with appropriate sites throughout the community. The sites map could be an appendix to or regulation under the bylaw so that it could be readily amended as required, from time to time.

The problem, however, is that this has been raised too late in the game. Signage has to be ordered now and so potential candidates need to know how many signs to

order. I don't know if this group could meet and get back to Council before the break, especially if another public hearing is required.

If not, then I suggest that an election signage group be struck to prepare bylaw amendments for future elections and the results presented to the new Council early in its first year. In the meantime, depending on how Council feels after the public hearing, a minor amendment could be adopted to restrict signage at intersections and a minimum distance between same-candidate signs elsewhere on public property.

For your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Kay Barry". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "For your consideration,".

Susan Kay Barry

From: Maureen Cormack
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 2:00 PM
To: Cheryl Hyde
Subject: campaign signage

I support imposing a limit to the number of campaign signs on public property for several reasons:

- they are visual pollution
- voters are rarely influenced by them
- candidates have lots of opportunities to have supporters post signs on private property
- signs are often vandalized
- a limit on number of signs, which are expensive, would make campaigning accesible to more candidates.

There are many more effective ways to reach voters and candidates who want to spend money can explore those. Additionally, I would like to add thatsigns for candidates in neighbouring municipalities should not be allowed.

Thank you.

Maureen Cormack
#4 1050 Cougar Creek Drive
Canmore
T1W 1A5
403 609 2357

From: Hotmail
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 3:09 PM
To: Cheryl Hyde
Subject: Election signage

I am not in favor of election signage. It's an eyesore, they aren't taken down when supposed to be, they are often vandalized and a mess left behind.

Sharla Hanna

June 21st, 2017

Campaign Signage By-Law Public Hearing

Thank You Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak to this issue.

I am speaking in opposition to this proposed amendment.

Candidate signs on Public Property, particularly in Municipal elections are an excellent way for first time candidates to get name recognition within our community. In a municipal election people are not voting for a party but for a person. Name recognition is critical to the process.

Additionally, candidate signs on public property are a consistent reminder to the voting public that there is a municipal election occurring and who the candidates are.

By limiting the number of locations where signs can be placed on public property you are limiting the ability of people who have never run before in an election to get their name out in the community in a cost effective way. New candidates may not have the same resources available to them as incumbents or those who have previously ran in elections and have established name recognition. ~~They may not be able to afford costs associated with mail outs, brochures or ads in papers:~~ Signs on public property that serve as a continuous reminder of who is running while fostering name recognition for new candidates may be an affordable option for them.

As Municipal Elections are held once every 4 years, the signs on public property are only up for 4 weeks ^{approx.} ~~every 4 years~~. To ensure a fair political process for all candidates this is acceptable.

In closing, signs on public property provide an excellent way for new candidates to get name recognition while reminding voters that there is an election occurring within their community. It is also an effective way of informing the voting public who the candidates are.

As incumbents historically have an advantage over any new candidate in a Municipal Election I encourage Mayor and Council to not support this Amendment to the Land-Use By-law and give new candidates every opportunity that they were afforded when they first ran for Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pam Hilstad

From: Jill Kimpson
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 2:57 PM
To: Cheryl Hyde
Subject: Land Use By-law 17-28

I am writing this memo in support of Land Use Bylaw 17-28 of the Town of Canmore to amend the political campaign sign section of Land Use Bylaw 22-2010.

Jill Kimpson
#8 1530 -7th Avenue
Canmore, AB T1W 1R1

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From: Andrea Rankin
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 4:00 PM
To: Cheryl Hyde
Subject: Election signs

Please add my support for the restriction of election signs to designated areas only on public land, and private property. I believe their are not environmentally friendly and there are better ways to encourage citizens into political discussion. They are also a distraction to drivers so on the proposed map there needs to be serious restrictions on the Railway Ave locations.

Thank you very much for taking comments.

Andrea Rankin
403-609-0269

From: Ron Remple
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 5:49 PM
To: Cheryl Hyde
Subject: Election Sign Bylaw

I support an election signage bylaw that limits the number of public locations for election signs and limits the number of signs per candidate at each public location.

Signs on private property speak more about how much support a candidate has and these signs on private property should still be allowed.

Thanks.

Ron Remple
114 Moraine Road
Canmore, Ab

From: Brenda Stanton
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 1:10 PM
To: Cheryl Hyde
Subject: RE: Election Signs

Please accept this submission noting that I am fully in favour of limiting if not completely eliminating election signs. We do not have to look far to see what can happen when voters vote based on whose name they see the most instead of educating themselves on what candidates believe in. I believe it is our civic responsibility to educate the electoral on community issues and stop cluttering the landscape with signs that are simply 'awareness' marketing tools. At no time should someone become a representative of and for the people simply because they had a bigger budget and could afford more signs to get their name out.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brenda Stanton".

Brenda Stanton
212, 505 Spring Creek Drive
Canmore, Alberta
Phone: 403-679-3340