
From: Chris Nicholls <exec@gibsonschamber.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:49 AM
To: Lesley-Anne Staats
Cc: Deb Mowbray; Fran Miller
Subject: Follow Up Gibsons Chamber Comments - Short Term Rental Bylaw Draft

Good Morning Lesley-Anne:

I hope you had an enjoyable long weekend.

Now that we are "Reopening" new challenges begin.

My Board of Directors have discussed the Staff Report Draft of the Short-Term Rental Bylaws that you sent me (File 6440-19). Here are their comments.

1. The introduction of such a bylaw be done in concert with the same process that SCRD is currently planning.
2. Such introduction of a new bylaw be held off and not implemented until after this current critical Tourism season is over. (June through September). Many businesses that have missed revenue during a very important Spring are now being faced with a rush of reservations (with the travel restrictions being eased) that will be very important to reducing the negative financial impact of the Covid-19 economic implosion.
3. More discussion is required on the requirement of a property owner having to reside in rental. Many of the Air BnB, B&B, VRBO or other forms of short term rental are by owners who actually live on the property, but not in the unit (separate home or cottage) or they live away from the rental, while still on the coast.
4. Even with businesses that are Property Managers and represent many short term rentals, the feeling is that bylaws, rules and insurances can be put into place that will mitigate the infrequent challenges that sometimes occur with owners who actually live off Coast. A requirement of having on Coast representation could be a boost for local businesses.
5. We are very supportive of the short term rental sector as a viable revenue generator for local owners who spend here on the Coast. They bring much needed off coast revenue, plus it has been demonstrated that people who are able to visit here in very acceptable accommodation (no hotels, marginal motels) enjoy their visit and many have even ended up migrating to the Coast and become new contributors, investors and community supporters..

Lesley-Anne, we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback. If there is more information that can be provided by over 600 subscribers to our Chamber News, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

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Chris Nicholls
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Gibsons & District Chamber of Commerce

Advocate/Facilitate/Communicate: Sunshine Coast Prosperity

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