

## Council sets conditions for Brooks Champion's Centre

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The city's community development committee will make a recommendation to city council on April 6 that the Brooks Champion's Centre be approved pending conditions.

While many of the ideas are already a part of the centre's philosophy, councillor Kimberley Sharkey said it's important to remember those who raised concerns.

Sharkey suggested that the Champion's Centre hire two people to start the process and less than a dozen tenants be housed until everyone is in a comfort zone.

"I'd like to see the perimeters maybe a little bit tighter, especially looking at a six month window and saying we need two people," she said.

"We can't forget that we had essentially 200 people show their concern for this location. I think it's part of our responsibility to at least address their concerns," Sharkey said.

After some discussion the committee came up with a number of recommendations including:

- Up to eight tenants for six months and then a maximum of 12;
- Staff on site 24/7;
- Tenants to be screened by the manager or another trained person. In case of a medical emergency, the centre would know who to contact;
- Anyone with a history of a conviction for a crime against another person must not have committed that crime within the past decade, and if a crime is committed while a tenant they are immediately removed from the premises; anyone on the child registry is not permitted;
- Applicants must assure managers are trained;
- The facility is for permanent residency;
- Alcohol and drugs are not permitted;
- A surveillance system must be in place;
- An updated list each year of the Centre's volunteers with names and addresses to be delivered to the city.

On March 13, councillors Rolf Bander, Kimberley Sharkey, Bill Prentice, Norm Gerestein and Mayor Martin Shields along with Maurice Landry, manager of building development, visited the Medicine Hat Champion's Centre.

Following that meeting, Bander and Sharkey said they were impressed with what they saw. "We met the manager and one of the tenants,

some of the staff and truthfully, I for one, along with the other four that went were quite impressed with the way that centre is set up and the way that particular centre is run," said Bander.

If council approves the recommendations on Monday, the development permit should easily go through city council.

The Champion's Centre will then purchase the Wellness Centre at 416-3rd Avenue West.

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