



City of Kenora Committee of the Whole Minutes

Monday, October 3, 2022
9:00 a.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

Live Stream Recording: <https://kenora.civicweb.net/Portal/>

Present: Mayor Daniel Reynard
Councillor Mort Goss
Councillor Andrew Poirier
Councillor Sharon Smith
Councillor Chris Van Wallegghem

Regrets: Councillor Graham Chaze
Councillor Rory McMillan

Staff: Kyle Attanasio, CAO, Heather Pihulak, Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk, Stace Gander, Director of Community Services, Ryan Marsh, Incoming Director of Finance, Marco Vogrig, Acting Director of Engineering & Infrastructure, Roberta Marsh, Director of Human Resources, Risk & Insurance

A. Public Information Notices

As required under Notice By-law #144 -2007, the public is advised of Council's intention to adopt the following at its October 7, 2022 meeting:-

- Council will amend their December meeting schedule to reflect the December Committee of the Whole date being December 6 at 9 a.m.

Blessing & Land Acknowledgment – Councillor Smith

As we gather, we recognize that we are on Treaty Three Lands which are steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations and Metis people today. We continue to be thankful for the partnerships with Indigenous people.

We give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy in the City of Kenora. We seek wisdom in our minds, clearness in our thinking, truth in our speaking and always love in our hearts, so that we may try always to unite the Citizens of Kenora. Let these principles guide us in our decision making.

B. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof

- 1) On Today's Agenda
- 2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance.

There were none declared.

C. Confirmation of Previous Committee Minutes

Resolution #1 - Moved by Councillor Poirier, Seconded by Councillor Goss & Carried:
That the Minutes from the last regular Committee of the Whole Meeting held September 13, 2022 be confirmed as written and filed.

D. Deputations/Presentations

Randy Nickle – A&W Kenora – Rural & Northern Immigration Program

Mr. Nickle brought his concerns to Council regarding immigration opportunities for employees and in particular the City of Kenora's glaring absence on the recent expansion of the Northern and Rural Immigration Program.

Although Kenora had applied through LOWBIC in 2019 we were not chosen as a participant. 11 Cities including 5 in Northern Ontario were invited. Those cities were Sudbury, Timmons, Sault Ste. Marie, and Thunder Bay. The RNIP has just announced an expanded catchment area. This applies to all of the original cities in the Northern Ontario RNIP. For Thunder Bay this includes the Rainy River district right through to Rainy River but also Ignace, Dryden and Sioux Lookout as well. Glaringly absent from this expansion is Kenora, Red Lake and Vermillion Bay. Was there any consultation with the City of Kenora? What were the deciding factors in establishing these new defined boundaries?

Mr. Nickle requested Council to advocate for Kenora to be included in the expanded area for this program.

Mayor Reynard thanked Mr. Nickle for his presentation and a copy was left with the Clerk.

Michael Roma, RC Strategies – Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Mike Roma presented Council with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. There was an extensive engagement strategy that took place to capture solid community input into the development of the plan.

Kenora has an active and committed volunteer community. The City believes in the value of recreation and parks. Kenora is surrounded by natural beauty and recreational opportunity. Most indoor recreation facilities and parks spaces are in good state, utilized, and provided at comparable levels to other similar communities. The City is aggressively pursuing external funding opportunities which have been leveraged into a number of major capital projects underway as well as increases in the inventory of parks spaces.

There were several key findings and recommendations for the future focus of recreation in Kenora. With indoor recreation they recommend investigating options for expanding the footprint of the fitness centre to accommodate fitness equipment and fitness program rooms. Pursue funding that may be available to support arena facility renewal, and opportunities to reduce facility emissions and environmental impacts. Maintain the current two standalone ice arenas. An additional (third) ice surface is not required.

Under outdoor recreation they recommend providing a fully accessible playground at Norman Park. Prioritize playground enhancement and development in areas where free, quality play spaces will have the greatest impact to the community. Renew existing ball diamonds to enhance quality and condition. Pursue renewal of 4 tennis courts at the Kenora Recreation Centre.

In regards to the future of parkland and trails they recommend creating a sustained budget allocation for trail, park, and beach infrastructure, including capital, and operations. Develop a strategy for reducing environmental impacts of parks operations. Continue to enhance public docks, boat launches, and marina support infrastructure. Focus on the City's urban tree canopy. Investigate the development of a Trail Centre at a strategic location within the City's existing and emerging trail network.

With service delivery it is recommended that staff review ice allocation and user fee policies for indoor ice arenas in the City to ensure equitable access, and to balance affordability with cost recovery considerations. Collaborate with various sports clubs in Kenora, including pickleball, hockey, and ball groups, to enhance opportunities for sport tourism and tournament hosting. The City should consider providing or enhancing program delivery in the following areas: drop-in youth programs, youth mountain biking and BMX, pre-registered fitness and wellness classes, Nordic activities, and community gardening.

The Master Plan will help guide decision-making and action into the future. Starts with acceptance of goal, outcomes, and principles that become part of the City's planning fabric. Some recommendations are suggested to occur in the first three years, with others in a medium and long term time horizon. Potential metrics are outlined for monitoring progress in each area.

A copy of the full report will be posted on the municipal website for public viewing.

Mayor Reynard thanked Mr. Roma for his presentation and a copy of his presentation was left with the Clerk.

E. Reports:

1. Corporate Services & Finance

1.1 August 2022 Financial Statements

Recommendation:

That Council hereby accepts the monthly Financial Statements of the Corporation of the City of Kenora at August 31, 2022.

Discussion: No significant change from the July financial statements. Ryan provided an initial report on the disaster relief application. The report outlines all the expenses we have incurred to date. This is different from the eligible expenses. We will be submitting in excess of \$2.1M to the province with everything included and are running a parallel process with the insurer. These are the eligible expenses under the provincial guidelines that we are submitting. A more fulsome report will come to Council once those details are finalized so we can report the actual costs to the emergency.

1.2 Budget Amendments Approved by Director of Finance/Deputy Treasurer

Recommendation:

That Council approve the 2021 Budget Amendments Approved by the Director of Finance or Deputy Treasurer from January 1 to December 31, 2021.

1.3 December Meeting Series Date Change

Recommendation:

That Council hereby amends the 2022 Council meeting calendar to reflect the December Committee of the Whole meeting date be rescheduled to Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

October 3, 2022

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

2. Fire & Emergency Services

No Reports

3. Engineering & Infrastructure

No Reports

4. Community Services

4.1 Operation & Maintenance of Coney Island Park Agreement

Recommendation:

That Council of the City of Kenora gives three readings to a bylaw authorizing an agreement between the City of Kenora and Jennifer Schott for the purpose of providing operations and maintenance of Coney Island Park for a three year term including 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Discussion: Council questioned if there was a work plan to remediate the beach given the high water. The docking infrastructure is almost complete and it looks great.

4.2 Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Recommendation:

That Council hereby accepts the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Discussion: Our community is strong and we are very fortunate for the community partnerships we have and how committed the public is to our parks and recreation.

5. Development Services

5.1 Application to NOHFC & FedNor – McLeod Park Phase II

Recommendation:

That Council approves an application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) in the amount of \$558,123 for the second phase rehabilitation and renovation of McLeod Park; and further

That Council approves an application to FedNor in the amount of \$558,123 for the second phase rehabilitation and renovation of McLeod Park; and further

That Council confirms its financial commitment of up to \$124,026 for the project to be funded through Municipal Accommodation Tax revenues and the Future Land Development Reserve; and further

That Council hereby approves any cost overruns associated with the project.

5.2 Advocacy for Rural & Northern Immigration Pilot

Recommendation:

Whereas the Government of Canada announced the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot in 2019 to assist in attracting and retaining skilled immigrants in Canada's rural and northern communities in response to labour market challenges; and

Whereas the City of Kenora had supported an application to be a host community under the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot in partnership with the Lake of the Woods Business Incentive Corporation; and

Whereas the City of Kenora was not selected as a host community; and

Whereas the City of Kenora, local businesses and other community partners have, since that time, advocated for the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot to be expanded to include additional communities; and

Whereas the recent geographic expansion of the Thunder Bay catchment area for the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot announced in August 2022 did not include the City of Kenora;

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council hereby petitions the Government of Canada and the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission to include the City of Kenora in the Thunder Bay catchment area for the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot or as a standalone community.

Discussion: The City of Kenora had previously supported an application to the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) in 2019. This pilot was aimed at attracting and retaining skilled immigrants in Canada's rural and northern communities in response to labour market challenges. Ultimately, the City of Kenora was not successful in being selected a host community in Northern Ontario, however, has advocated over the past few years to senior levels of government to expand the pilot beyond the current communities of Thunder Bay, Sudbury, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins.

F. Proclamations

None

G. Other

- Councillor Goss referenced a study in regards to Statistics Canada and it is felt that they are undercounting the Indigenous population in Kenora. We are seriously underfunded in some areas and would like to dig in deeper on this article and we take a serious look at this issue. Funding is based on statistics and this is important.
- Councillor Smith agrees that this study will be important to Kenora and can have consequences to our OPP costing and other social service funding that is received in our community.
- Marco provided an update on the rural roads study. The City has retained Stantec Engineering from Winnipeg to conduct the study. They have been out multiple times to conduct their study and they will be providing that report to the City later this year and will have recommendations for the City once the report is completed. This consulting firm has done a lot of work in our area and we are committed to looking at our rural roads and that report will form part of our 2023 capital budget.
- Councillor Poirier attended a meeting with administration and Pioneer Construction to discuss the project delays with the City. There are several factors that have contributed to the delays. They are committed to completing these projects in 2023 and there are several factors including staffing shortages, significant rainfall that took place over the summer, flooding, and multiple projects that have led to significant delays in various City projects.

- We follow Ministry standards which dictates the temperatures that you can pave and it is different for gravel versus hard surfaces. All municipalities in Ontario follow this standard.
- Mayor Reynard expressed his pride for the work and what this Council has accomplished during this term.

H. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, December 6, 2022

I. Adjourn to Closed

Resolution #2 - Moved by Councillor S. Smith, Seconded by A. Poirier & Carried:

That Council now adjourn to a closed session at 10:37 a.m.; and further

That pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, the Closed Session will discuss items pertaining to the following:-

- i) Educating & Training Members of Council (1 matter-CAO update)

J. Reconvene to Open Meeting

Council reconvenes to open session at 11:10 a.m. with no reports from its closed session.

K. Close Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.