M I N U T E S
Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, February 2, 2026
City Hall, Council Chambers

Present:	Ashley Nordlund	Stephanie Charles
	Kim Mowrey	Ashley Shouldice
	Craig Debbo	Rory McMillan
	Brie McCardle	Peter Kirby
	Lisa Devlin	
Virtual:	Councillor Lisa Moncrief	
City Staff:	Greg Breen, Director of Infrastructure & Operations, Kelly Galbraith, Manager of Customer Services/Deputy Clerk	

1. Call Meeting to Order and Land Acknowledgment

Ashley Nordlund, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. and read a Land Acknowledgment.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest by any members present.

3. Adopt Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion #1 - Moved by Kim Mowrey, Seconded by Stephanie Charles & Carried: -

That the Minutes of the Regular Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting held December 1, 2025 be confirmed as written and filed.

4. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Motion #2 - Moved by Rory McMillan, Seconded by Lisa Devlin & Carried: -

That Ashley Nordlund be appointed as the Chair of the Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term at the pleasure of Council, no later than November 14, 2026.

Motion #3 - Moved by Ashley Nordlund, Seconded by Kim Mowrey & Carried: -

That Craig Debbo be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term at the pleasure of Council, no later than November 14, 2026.

5. Previous Action Items

2026 Reuse Area Trial

Director Breen provided an update on where Council is at with the 2026 budget process which will determine the possibility of a reuse area. The budget will come forward at the February, 2026 Committee of the Whole and Council meetings. In 2025, members of Council didn't approve of the ongoing operating/staffing costs to operate the reuse area.

We have to wait and see if the budget exists. If there is potential, we can bring the report back to Council. A reuse area would require staffing and if we change the level of service we have to bring it before Council. It would then be up to the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) to bring forward solutions for staffing. The community wants it, it's not a flat out no, it's how do we consider the ongoing expenses.

The May 2026 timeline was questioned. It looks less feasible for May. We may be able to seek approval to set up a reuse area and do a pilot program later in the summer. Once the budget is known we can begin to look at a long-term initiative. It is important to look beyond this year and think about the long-term feasibility to ensure a success initiative.

Mayor Poirier is very interested in getting the budget passed as soon as possible. Staff should know the budget decision by the next SAC meeting. Staff have enough information to readily bring a report to Council for April. The background has been done and it should not take long. Councillor Moncrief will bring this forward to the February Committee of the Whole meeting.

City Idling Policy

Included in the agenda package was a report to the SAC from Bruce Graham, Acting Human Resources Manager & Risk Management Loss Prevention Officer regarding the City Idling Policy. The report speaks to the guiding documents that address vehicle idling including the Driver Safety handbook and HR-2-4 Vehicle Operation Policy.

Director Breen also shared with the group that on January 20th supervisors attended a kickoff for a new fleet GPS. Within the new system there are reports that can be pulled including one on idling time. It was asked if the reports can be shared externally. Director Breen explained the system is new and there will be a learning curve in the beginning. It was noted that there are times that vehicles may be required to idle especially during weather events with extreme heat or cold. Councillor Moncrief suggested there may be opportunities to flip the script and promote the things that are already being done to reduce idling. It was asked if a copy of the Vehicle Operation Policy and Driver Safety Handbook could be shared with the group. The policy is a public document and is available on the City's website. Kelly will follow up on the Drive Safety Handbook. Kim shared that while there are health and safety concerns of temperatures, workers are standing by carbon monoxide. She would like to see the policy reflect that it is part of the Sustainability Action Plan under green infrastructure and sustainable transit to reduce emissions. It was requested that in staff training anti-idling and the importance of not putting noxious substance into the air, the cost savings to the municipality, etc. be addressed. Director Breen assured the group that this is done in staff training, but he will speak with Bruce to ensure there is active conversations with staff on idling.

Ashey Nordlund shared that when she presented to Council in December, Inspector Jeff Duggan, Kenora OPP Detachment Commander, was at the same meeting, and he noted that the OPP have reduced costs by implementing an anti-idling policy. Special equipment was purchased for the OPP officers as part of the implementation of the anti-idling.

It was asked if the City has fuel consumption tracking. Director Breen advised the group that as we learn the new software, we can look at automated report generation in idling and fuel trends. It will allow us to see how we are trending, and we can inform the committee of what a base line looks like. The group expressed interest in fuel trends to

see if we are going down annually with more fuel-efficient vehicles. As fleet is refreshed, the industry is imposing more lower emission initiatives.

It was asked if there is an avenue for the public to report City vehicles that are idling for a long period. Director Breen advised that these calls should be directed to Customer Service.

6. Current Action Items

2026 Budget Priorities

The 2025 Sustainability Work Plan was reviewed by the group.

Line 4 – Communications – Future communications on LittaTraps, composting (including pollinator support), extreme cold tied to climate change and the Museum solar panel project were identified.

Line 5 – Household composting – Additional composters have been purchased. The pickup event will be scheduled for April 11th. Kelly will confirm if the stickers have been ordered. Councillor Moncrief requested that the Black Sturgeon Property Owners be included in the communications. It was suggested that photos showing the size of the composters be included in the communications. The survey will be the same as last year. It was requested that a pollinator piece be included in the handout with composters. It was asked if there were any challenges from a staff perspective last round. Kelly shared there were customers who ordered composters that did not pick them up. The remaining composters were housed at City Hall. It would be nice to have a cutoff for those who ordered them and did not pick up. If not picked up by a certain date, we would start to call the waitlist or readvertise for the limited number available.

Line 6 – Re-use station – On-going

Line 7 – Recruitment of members – Active recruitment continues. Rory will seek contact information for GCT3. 2026 is a municipal election year, all members will need to re-apply after the municipal election.

Line 8 – Support reconciliation and water stewardship initiative – It was suggested that in 2026 the SAC try to solidify a relationship with Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT3) and their environmental departments. The focus should be on relationship building. It was identified there is opportunity to reach out to them and see if there is anyone interested in joining SAC. Attending GCT3 events was identified as a priority for 2026. On February 25, 2026 they are hosting the Seed to Sovereignty Agri-Food Series in Dryden which brings together agri-food sector specialists, community members and leadership to unite knowledge and build relationships that can strengthen food systems in Treaty #3 communities. The Water Walk was held in April last year. It does not look like the 2026 date is available yet. Attending events and presenting at conferences was identified as good opportunity to give the committee exposure. Awaiting date for the 2026 Water Walk.

Line 9 – Solar Panels on the Lake of the Woods Museum – Installation scheduled for 2026.

Line 10 - The heat recovery system at the Moncrief Construction Sports Centre can be removed from the list. This project has been completed.

Line 11 - Storm water renewal study - LittaTraps can be added.

Line 12 – Support healthy shorelines – Keep for 2026.

Line 13 – Energy Audit – Keep for 2026. Director Breen shared there is a new Manager of Facilities and Maintenance. This will be part of their role.

Line 14 – Water bottle filling stations – Downtown Revitalization has been pushed to 2029. Fire hydrants cannot be used for drinking water. It was asked when projects are done, to please consider the incorporation of water bottle filling stations. Community clubs were identified as ideal locations for water filling stations. There may opportunity for the SAC to use their budget to fund water fill stations on future projects.

Line 15 – Community composting – Kenora does not meet the threshold for curbside composting. A composting site at the Transfer Station was identified a potential project for the committee in 2027.

Line 16 – VIA micro transit – Keep as a 2027 action item for The Wave to have an electric vehicle in their fleet.

7. New Business
None.

8. Next Meeting Date
Monday, March 2, 2026 @ 4:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.