



Minutes

Kenora Urban Trails Committee of the City of Kenora

Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

City of Kenora

Operations Centre Boardroom

With Judy Underwood – acting chair, Councilor Sharon Smith, Dave Schwartz, James Williams, Heather Gushulak, Ministry of Sport, Training and Tourism

Staff Melissa Shaw, Planning Assistant, Heather Gropp, Tourism Development Officer, Carson Milko, Parks Technician, Kerri Holder, Kathy Mayes, Administrative Assistants

Regrets Barry Corbett, Diane Pelletier, Steve Mastromatteo, Ren Amell

1. Call to Order

Judy Underwood, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m..

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

There were none declared.

3. Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

Moved by Dave Schwartz, seconded by Councilor Sharon Smith and CARRIED

That the Minutes of the Kenora Urban Trails Committee meeting held on April 6, 2016 be confirmed as written and circulated.

Discussion:

Councillor Smith requested if there was any information on the Miller Road ownership. Melissa Shaw recounted the history of the property and said the City is in conversation with "Clarifier property owners" that any development plans will include Trail designation for an easement agreement, consent to sever, and staff will ensure the planning application includes trails in any development zone

bylaw amendment receptive to that and further conversation easement agreement to include all access for community and designate a trail if remains privately owned. Future development residential on one side to incorporate trails in the development. The commercial lands, the City has own access, easement include access rights as a trail. The boat dock has been gated off to public access by owner due to liability issues.

Heather Gropp said she was working on the bike routes brochure.

4. City of Kenora Urban Trail Committee Volunteer Hours to-date

Judy Underwood asked members for their volunteer hours so they could be recorded.

Volunteer	Jan.1	Feb.3	Mar.2	Apr.6	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct	Nov	De
Diane P.	1.5	-	1.5	1.5	-							
Judy U.	5.0	4.0	1.5	1.5	1.5							
Steve M.	-	-	-	-	-							
Barry C.	1.5	1.5	1.5	-	-							
Ren A.	-	1.5	1.5	-	-							
James W.	-	1.5	-	1.5	1.5							
Dave S.	1.5	1.5	-	1.5	1.5							
Sharon S.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5							
Staff												
Kerri H.	1.5	-	1.5	1.5	1.5							
Melissa S.	1.5	1.5	.5	-	1.5							
Heather Gropp	1	1.5	-	-	1.5							
Carson M.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5							
Kathy M.				1.5	1.5							
Friends of Trails/Bike Committee					6							
Penny B.	1.5	1.5	1.5									
Heather Gushulak	-	-	1.5	1.5	1.5							

5. Work Plan

Current Project Plans

Heather Gropp gave updated information regarding redevelopment of the Trail brochure and reported she will need funding in place before redevelopment and will continue to look for partners to fund this project. It was suggested that the Committee have an opportunity for input once the redevelopment moves ahead.

Annual Report to Council in June

Judy Underwood asked the members what do they want to see presented to Council in June which items include bench policy, updates of what we have accomplished in the year using the 5 year work plan and how it ties in with the strategic plan. They would like the presentation to focus on future growth, mentioning the accessible trails at Norman. Judy Underwood asked if members could submit any new photographs for the presentation for future.

The members discussed that Diane Pelletier would do the presentation and if she is not available, Judy will step in. Heather Gropp offered the assistance of the summer students and said if they were given specific direction summer students could do this for the committee and show to the Chair for any improvements prior to presentation at the June 7th Committee of the Whole. Kerri will submit the deputation request to the Clerk's office.

Carson joined the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

Rabbit Lake Trail Extension Route Planning

Moved by Dave Schwartz, seconded by James Williams and carried –

That the Committee accepts the proposed three kilometer accessible trail as discussed and identified in the 2016 Municipal Road Works Paving Contract, Sections 14a – 14e; and

That this is the direction the Committee will proceed with on the extension of Rabbit Lake Trail project.

Discussion:

Melissa Shaw and Heather Gropp brought the committee up-to-date with recent funding for the 2017 Canada Games/Rowing Club, announcing funding partnership with Kenora Rowing Club approval and Council for a "Legacy" portion which included improvement to the Rowing Club – to be called the Mid-Centre of Canada for Rowing. This funding will enable an accessible 3 km trail loop to be built, extending into the bush and have proximity to the water front, to build new docks, extend the trail to be a 6' wide accessible trail, throughout the park. It will start right at top of the parking pad, and add a barrier free washroom, accessible area which will hug the edge of the sand bank, along shoreline in front of rowing club into trail head, and behind landscaped and play structure/park.

A funding partner was found in Firefly to create an accessible play area. The plan is to tear down Garrow Park structures and replace play area with new natural elements, an idea to model after Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Nature Playground, i.e. slides end in grass for safer play structures. These landscaping natural elements are what they the committee would like to put into their presentation for Council. Firefly may also fund a wheelchair accessible swing as well as fund an accessible trail right to the beach.

Dave Schwartz asked if this 3 km trail could be used for bikes as well. Heather Gropp pointed out that it is designated as a bike route and Dave Schwartz spoke of where the Rotary trail comes out at Valley drive is not formally designated.

Members discussed if the walking trail should be concrete or paving and sidewalk development to maintain accessibility to park. The members decided to let engineering decide. The "chicken" trail will remain widened to allow emergency access to the rowing club start line.

James Williams asked if anything is going to be built there. Heather Gropp said that the Birchwood crescent is being fully revamped, with fully paved shoulders that will connect all the way to the parking lot. She indicated that Birchwood improvements are in the capital budget and can use dollars for leverage for development. As far as trails being pavement or concrete, this will be the engineers choice to consider maintenance cost and longevity.

James Williams asked about the Houghton beach extension which are not accessible pieces. There was discussion of an educational MNR component, which money could be pulled out of to develop shoreline.

Annual Spring Trail Clean-up

Carson Milko spoke of the annual spring clean up, with one school sending students down for a day. Also Harbourtown Biz is holding a clean-up and the City supplying the pickup tools. MNR was involved with Big Green Clean last year, cleaning up Laurensen Creek and the island again. There is a volunteer program Adopt a Block beginning May 20th. Volunteers can pick up supplies at the Discovery Centre and staff there will track clean up routes. Judy Underwood reminded members to record their volunteer hours.

6. City of Kenora participation - Highway 658, Kenora Area

Melissa Shaw reported on her email to Greg Moore, Consultant Environmental Planner from MMM Group, regarding the Notice of Study Commencement, Rehabilitation of Highway 658 from Highway 17A, to please include the City of Kenora, the Kenora Urban Trails committee, as well as the Kenora Bike Committee in all future correspondence and consultation regarding this project. She also

asked to include Dave Schwartz as a Kenora Urban Trails and Kenora Bike Committee as well. Hopefully, they will be involved in future consultation as bike use and access are big safety issues. A formal letter of support has come from the City Operations Department.

Melissa left the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

7. Great Lake of the Woods Trail/TransCanada Trail Update

There was no update on this item.

8. Canada Games Update

Heather Gropp spoke of the marketing package for attendees and their families to encourage them to stay for the games and vacation at various lodges, and focus on the trail guides for visitors.

9. Communications/Announcements

2016 Kenora Beaches, Parks and Trails was released to Council on May 10.

Councillor Smith shared that this report will be adopted by Council at the May 10th meeting, noting the report will be available on the City's Portal. The report includes plans and is a good baseline for funding applications when opportunities arise. Once it is adopted at Council the updated costs and preliminary information will be available online and Kerri Holder will be doing a communications piece on this.

Rotatory Club Splash Park

Judy Underwood is facilitating meetings and James is getting information from builders who are looking at the costs and future inclusion of Norman park, however that will not be going ahead 2017. The Rotary Club will be meeting with Public Health to gather evidence for granting applications. There was a motion to invite a member from the Rotary Club to attend the June 8th meeting to share their plans regarding funding abilities, MOU and next steps. It was suggested to invite Andrew Glassco, Manager of Community and Development Services, to this presentation.

Trailhead North Symposium

Heather Gushulak did not attend however a co-worker did and reported it was very much a duplication of the Group of 7 and Path of the Paddle.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Partnership –

James Williams reported this is in reference to trail clearing. It was recommended to address this item in March 2017 to get start the conversation with the Crews before fire season.

Parks Update

Carson is continuing to work on a new "Bench policy" for presentation to Council. Update on trail maintenance includes putting in a new culverts and new gravel where needed. Members commented it would be nice to finish before summer. The Mink Bay's west entrance, right across from the pumping station has a sign that says it is still closed, however the sign is at the wrong part of the trail. Carson will look after changing this.

Bike Committee Update

Dave spoke of bike routes signage would make cycling safer for city cyclists, seeing increased usage for the city. He stated that there is poor conception about what bike routes are designed to do, i.e. suggest recreational routes, new signage to make motorist more aware of cyclists since there are no bike lanes. He suggested the City look at bike route websites and brochures so they are satisfied with the city's needs.

In the production of bike guide, Dave hopes to work with Bruce Graham and include suggested bike routes and plans in the Trail guide with inclusion of cycling routes. How we sign those trails needs to be correct due to liability for signage bike lanes, paths, right signage with liability are Bruce's job as risk management. Heather will meet with Bruce to discuss as he should be involved to do research from legislation and risk management perspective. Councillor Smith suggested Bruce Graham could attend a Trails meeting in the future.

It was suggested that understanding the different bike designation language and risks associated with each could be included as part of the Committee's professional development plan.

Carson left the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

Dave commented that with reference to trails and having pathways statements build into the 2015 OP, such as 2.6 complete co 2.28, 7.6 pathways statements – virtually guarantee built into future development, Kenora has good systems and infrastructure for moving forward and is a step in the right direction.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2016. Councillor Smith made a motion to have no meetings for July and August and everyone agreed.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.