



M i n u t e s
Of a Meeting of the Kenora Urban Trails Committee
of the City of Kenora
Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.
Operations Building Training Room

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**With** Chair Judy Underwood, Northwestern Health Unit, Ren Amell, Dave Schwartz, Heather Gushulak, Councillor Sharon Smith, Diane Pelletier (by phone)

**Staff** Adam Smith, Special Projects & Research Officer, Colleen Neil, Recreation Services Division Lead, Melissa Shaw, Planning Assistant, Josh Nelson, Tourism Development Officer, Carson Milko, Parks Technician, Kelly Galbraith, Administrative Assistant, Kerri Holder, Communications Clerk

Guests Accessibility Advisory Committee members; Ruth Bowiec, Denise Miault, and Marion McKay, Rotary Club Members: Cindy Behrsin, John Dahl, Ron Noseworthy, Tom Hallas, Gord LeMaistre, Deb LeMaistre.

**Regrets** Diane Pelletier, Steve Mastromatteo

**1. Call to Order**

Judy called meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and introductions were done.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

There were none declared.

**3. Presentation –Tom Hallas, Deb LeMaistre and Gord LeMaistre, Kenora Rotary Club**

Members of Accessibility Advisory Committee attended by invitation and Diane participated by phone. Kenora Rotary Club Members, John Dahl and Deb LeMaistre spoke about the Splash Park Development at Norman Park.

Fundraising for the Splash Park began in July 2015 and has included many community events and partnerships to help raise funds. To date the Rotary Club has raised \$98,827.57. The City of Kenora has stepped in and offers tax receipts for any donations of \$75.00 and over. The City of Kenora will also be donating the land for the Splash Park site.

Renderings for the project were shown for the proposed location near the waterfront at Norman Park. Accessibility to the site is a key component to the project with a strong focus being on the trail system to access the Splash Park from the parking lots. There are currently 4 handicap parking spots near the location which would require the development of a trail to the site. A trail from the Splash Park to the Discovery Centre was also mentioned which would draw visitors between the two attractions. The overall design will include a Lake of the Woods theme with fixtures such as boats, animals, fish and a float plan. Once construction of the Splash Park begins it is estimated to take approximately 6 weeks to complete.

Denise Miault remarked the pictures in the presentation do not show any children in wheelchairs playing in the Splash Park. A personal story was shared about a young child in a wheelchair who experienced a splash park for the first time and the joy it brought to the child and their family. There was a recent visit to the purposed Splash Park site by Accessibility Advisory Committee Members and it was asked if there was any feedback from this. There was a discussion about how the excitement in the community for the project is increasing. Councillor Smith questioned if vandalism to the site and structures is a concern? Deb LeMaistre advised the structures in the Splash Park are constructed of steel and are designed to take a lot of wear and tear from people climbing and playing on them, similar to a playground. There was a discussion about the visibility from the street which may be a concern for late night vandalism such as spray paint. It was asked if the Railroad Museum near the purposed Splash Park site has ever been vandalised and it was confirmed it has been.

John Dahl spoke on how the proposed Norman Park location was chosen as there is less foot traffic in the evenings in the Norman area, it is also a central location which is accessible by bus and is a landing point for Path of the Paddle. The site within Norman Park was chosen for its close proximity to bathrooms, the beach and the existing play structure. An alternate location in Norman Park, near the Lions Club building is a possibility which has not been ruled out however, items such as the slope of the land and bedrock need to be taken into consideration. It was asked if sand could affect the equipment due to the Splash Park's close proximity to the beach and it was confirmed sand should not create any issues with the equipment.

Melissa Shaw raised the question if it had been thought of to include an age-friendly component to the design as there has been a growing demand for this in other communities. She will be in touch with Judy Underwood who is on the Age-Friendly Committee to discuss this further. The question if benches and seating would be available on and near the site was raised. Deb and John advised the main focus at this time is on the Splash Park structure and they hope benches will come once the site has been constructed. Councillor Smith advised the City of Kenora does have a bench policy and provided examples of areas where these types of benches can be found.

Judy thanked the Rotary members for the presentation and to those who took time out of their day to attend. She went on to comment on the connection made between the groups represented today.

The presentation concluded at 8:45 a.m.

*Ruth Bowiec, Denise Miault, and Marion McKay, Cindy Behrsin, John Dahl, Ron Noseworthy, Tom Hallas, Gord LaMaistre, Deb LaMaistre, Adam Smith, Colleen Neil, and Dave Schwartz left the meeting at 8:46 a.m.*

The meeting resumed at 8:50 a.m. it was noted that there was not quorum present. Judy suggested carrying on with the items for discussion purposes and forwarding other items that require action to the next meeting. All were in agreement.

#### **4. Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes**

This motion was not carried at this time, due to no quorum. The May 11, 2016 minutes will be confirmed as written at the next Kenora Urban Trails meeting scheduled for December 7, 2016.

#### **5. Volunteer Hours**

Volunteer hours were not discussed at the meeting due to lack of attendance and forwarded to the next meeting.

#### **6. Work Plan**

The Work Plan was not discussed, to be forwarded to the next meeting.

#### **7. Great Lake of the Woods Trail/TransCanada Trail Update Moved by J. Underwood, seconded by D. Schwartz and carried –**

That the Kenora Urban Trails Committee approve the proposed design for the co-branded TransCanada Trail and Great Lake of the Woods Trail signage project.

#### **Background:**

An e-vote to approve the co-branded TCT signage was conducted on Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with a deadline to respond in favour or not and preference of vertical or horizontal layout, by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup>. Images of the signage and logo were circulated with the following information: the City of Kenora has had a Trans-Canada Trail (TCT) registered trail system in place since 1999. The existing TCT Trail traverses 37.4 kilometres of scenic terrain in and around the City of Kenora. However, with the development of the Path of the Paddle Association (POPA) Water Trail from the Manitoba border to Thunder Bay on Lake Superior, the existing trail does not provide trail users with a complimentary experience. In order to achieve a trail system that provides a premier user experience and takes advantage of the POPA trail and adjacent land based amenities and infrastructure, the city of Kenora rescinding the existing registered TCT route and replaced it with a 10 km waterfront trail that is more appropriate from a tourism, cultural and recreational perspective, The TCT new route will co-exist along the newly designated Great Lake of the Woods Trail.

Most of the existing trail to be deregistered will not be abandoned; it will continue to be maintained and promoted by the City of Kenora and serve a wide variety of users as it has done in the past. This fall City staff will undertake a wayfinding project to direct people and provide information about destinations, directions, and/or distances. All segments of the Trans Canada Trail require wayfinding signage. The installation is the responsibility of the local trail organization. Costs for the new trail system proposed are estimated to be \$10,000, half of which have been approved from Trans Canada Trail, the City of Kenora has approved the remaining dollars in the 2016 Budget. As mentioned, the TCT will be co-branded with the Great Lake of the Woods Trail, cobranding provides a way for the Trans Canada Trail and stakeholders to celebrate the partnership and effectively communicate the mutual interest in this initiative. Standards are necessary to ensure that all brands are presented in a way that's advantageous to all parties.

With Kenora Urban Trail Committee approval, City staff will then place an order to co-branded signage which will be placed along the TCT and Great Lake of the woods trail by October 31st, 2016. It was requested to conduct an e-vote as there was a tight timeline to complete the project. It was clarified that this is in addition to all the signage that currently exists. There was overwhelming support for the horizontal layout.

### **Discussion:**

Melissa advised the signage has been put in place now. There is a large amount of monies remaining from the grant which has been allotted for a new information kiosk. It was recommended by the TransCanada Trail Organization the information kiosk be located the Discovery Centre however it was felt there may be too much signage at the Discovery Centre and it would be more beneficial to have the kiosk along the harbor front. The

Planning department is working with a consultant on the design and layout. An amendment to the agreement has been sent requesting an extension of time in order to have the kiosk constructed. Judy requested an image of the design be shared with the Trail Committee once available.

## **8. Tourism Northern Ontario and City of Kenora Trail Wayfinding Partnership**

Josh Nelson spoke on the TODS (Tourism Ontario Directional Signage) provided by the Tourism Northern Ontario and City of Kenora trail wayfinding partnership. This is a 50¢/dollar partnership and has an available balance of \$18,000. Josh asked the committee members where they felt the money could best be spent and offered ideas such as the Tunnel Island trails, Rotary Trail and Mink Bay. The deadline to use the remaining funds is March 31, 2017. Judy commented this should be a priority for the next Trails meeting as it is time sensitive. It was mentioned the Tunnel Island Organization would need to be contacted to have a discussion to see where they stand on the idea of signage for their site. Birchwood Crescent and Birchwood Place signage was also discussed. Judy asked if the same look and feel of the existing wayfinding signage will be maintained. Melissa advised the same look and feel will be maintained however a new consultant has been hired as the previous designs submitted were not suitable to the desired look. The desired look is a neutral design.

## **9. Canada Games Update**

Josh and Melissa attended a Canada Summer Games Planning Meeting in October to discuss items such as accommodations, food, transportation, etc. Preparation has begun at Garrow Park however with the cold weather approaching some work will need to be completed in spring 2017. This will also allow time to consider the different tenders which have been submitted. Judy asked Melissa to bring forward any trails items that this committee can advise on.

## **11. Roundtable**

There was a discussion on the Splash Park presentation by the Rotary Club. All agreed there is a need for accessible trails at the splash park location however the location needs to be solidified before any talks can begin and decisions can be made. It was identified if the location is set at the purposed site the priority should be on the trail from the handicap parking stalls. Concerns were brought forward about the slope of the property and it was mentioned the artist rendering's of the trails to the Splash Park are not up to spec. The slope of the land in the area hinders the costs of developing trails. Josh and Melissa mentioned they are working on Capital budgets and it was asked if the Splash Park trails development could possibly be done in

phases. Accessible bus routes and sidewalks in the area were also identified as items which need to be taken into consideration for the Splash Park location. It was said the Trails Committee would need to act as an advocacy for the Splash Park and the trails to the Splash Park site.

Ren asked for an update on the extension of the Rabbit Lake trail, extending to the West of Rabbit Lake. Melissa advised there has been some work done to connect trails in the Rabbit Lake area and that the funders like trails which connect so at this time the extension to the west has been put on hold.

## **12. Communications/Announcements**

### **National Post article discussion – Tristin Hopper: Take it from a cyclist, stop building me private roads that nobody else uses.**

It was asked the National Post article be recirculated to the committee members and added to the next meeting's agenda for discussion.

Judy extended an invitation to the committee members to attend the Northern Ontario Multimodal Transportation Strategy meeting at the Discovery Centre on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Councillor Smith extended a big thank you to Carson and the City crews for all of the work done at the Mink Bay Trailhead Redevelopment. Carson advised he will share her appreciation with the Roads Crew.

It was confirmed that Ren will attend the Kenora & Lake of the Woods Community Foundation granting ceremony on November 2, 2016 on behalf of the committee. A grant of \$1,00 is being awarded to the Trails Committee for redevelopment of the trail guide brochure.

Judy advised the group that James Williams had resigned from the Committee. There was a discussion about filing the vacancy and it was thought that a new member had been unofficially appointed by Council on November 1, 2016. Encouraging members to attend meetings to ensure quorum was stressed, as well as looking for new active members.

### **Healthy Meetings and Events Policy**

The Healthy Meeting and Event Policy was not discussed.

### **13. Next meeting**

- December 7, 2016

### **14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.