



Minutes

Of a Meeting of the Kenora Urban Trails Committee of the City of Kenora Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. Operations Building Board Room

~~~~~

**With** Diane Pelletier, Chair, Judy Underwood, Northwestern Health Unit, Councillor Sharon Smith, Ren Amell, Logan Wright, Steve Mastromatteo, Dave Schwartz

**Guest** James Tkachyk, Parks & Facilities Division Lead

**Staff** Melissa Shaw, Planning Assistant, Josh Nelson, Tourism Development Officer, Kelly Galbraith, Administrative Assistant

**Regrets** Barry Corbett, Heather Gushulak

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:07pm.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

There were none declared.

**3. Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Moved by Ren Amell, seconded by Logan Wright and CARRIED**

That the Minutes of the Kenora Urban Trails Committee meeting held on April 10<sup>th</sup> be confirmed as written and circulated.

**Discussion:**

It was asked if Josh contacted the Ontario Trails Council to have the Rat Portage Trail corrected on the Find a Trail feature on their website. He confirmed he has contacted them.

#### 4. Volunteer Hours

| Volunteer                               | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Barry                                   |     |     | 1.5 | 1.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Councillor Smith                        |     | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Dave                                    |     |     |     | 1.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Diane                                   |     | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Erik                                    |     | 1.5 | 1.5 |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Heather                                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Judy                                    |     | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Logan                                   |     | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Ren                                     |     |     | 1.5 | 3.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Steve                                   |     |     |     | 1.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Staff                                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Dwayne                                  |     |     | 1.5 | 1.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Heather                                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Josh                                    |     | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Kelly                                   |     | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Melissa                                 |     | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Friends of Trails<br>/Bike<br>Committee |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |     |     |

#### 5. Urban Forest

Councillor Smith notified the group she was contacted by the Kenora Rotary Club as they have interest in planting an urban forest. The committee members were asked to think of possible locations where this could be planted. The concept and definition of urban forest was conversed.

The harbourfront was suggested as an ideal location. The health effects of being exposed to the direct sun with no shade access were discussed. City Beaches, the Blue Heron and the stretch of highway between the Discovery Centre and the Stud Mill were also identified as areas being in need of trees to produce shaded areas. It was commented the stretch of highway between the Discovery Centre and the Stud Mill is well treed but the sightline of the lake is affected. The trees are in need of trimming to lift the canopy and improve sightlines.

The enchanted forest project was discussed however the status of the project was unknown. The group expressed concerns with the costs associated with the urban forest project.

The Forest along Rotary Trail was commented as aging and being in need of some new growth. Safety concerns of fire and blow downs in this area were discussed. It was said that the MNRF is always looking for opportunities to provide their staff forestry and chainsaw training and that they are always looking for locations for this type of work. Liability was conversed. Councillor Smith with follow up with Todd Skean regarding this. Steve will put a plan for the area together and it will be brought forward to the Kenora Urban Trails Committee and Parks Department at the City of Kenora.

#### **6. Follow-up; Trapping Otters in the City**

Councillor Smith informed the group that she brought forward the concerns she received to the Enforcement Supervisor with the MNRF, regarding trapping otters in the city. Councillor Smith shared an email she received from the enforcement supervisor and noted she will request they have a conservation officer contact the person in question.

#### **7. Park By-Law**

The amended Parks By-law was circulated to the group via email for their review. The by-law now includes set-fines for infractions such as non-motorized vehicles on trails (i.e. snowmobiles and ATVs). The definition of non-motorized vehicle was given and discussed. Signage along the trails needs to be addressed to ensure it is well posted that non-motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails before enforcement can be done.

#### **8. Trails Week(May 29-June 4)**

With the approach of Trails Week the group was asked if they would like to plan a celebration to promote Trails Week and showcase trails in the community. Due to the tight timeline the group requested this be added to the Work Plan for 2018.

#### **9. Work Plan Preview and Discussion**

On April 24<sup>th</sup> a sub-committee meeting was held to put together the 2017 Work Plan. Ren, Logan, Josh and Kelly attended the meeting. Josh spoke on the highlights of the work plan. Kelly will circulate the work plan and meeting notes to the group via email.

#### **10. Great Lake of the Woods Trail/Trans Canada Trail Update**

An update was provided that an application for a \$500 grant from Trans Canada Trail Organization was submitted. The proposed funds will be used to host an unveiling event on August 26th. An event planning meeting was held and it was felt the best location for this event would be the Discovery Centre. The importance of including a First Nations component to include acknowledgment that the trail is on Treaty 3 land was discussed. An invitation to elders will be sent and there is hope to hold a drum ceremony at the event.

## **11. Canada Summer Games Update**

An update on the work being done at Garrow Park in preparation of the Canada Summer Games was given. It was commented that Rotary Trail is in need of some work to remove posts that once had solar lights and relocate signs that are on the posts. Steve and Ren have offered their assistance with the cleanup of the trail and will coordinate a date that is suitable for them.

Steve mentioned that the Army and Navy Reserve have resources including a dive team that may be willing to assist with any of the preparations being done at Garrow Park. Josh noted the Rowing Club is the lead on this project however he will inform them of the resources available.

### **. Next meeting**

Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

### **. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.