



# Minutes

## Of a Meeting of the Lake of the Woods Development Commission of the City of Kenora October 12, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre

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**With** Graham Chaze, Teresa Gallik, Jeff Kurz, Lindsay Wenaas, Councillor Mort Goss, Ken Behrsin, Crystal Kast, Josh Nelson, Tourism Development Officer, Megan Dokuchie, Economic Development Officer, Corey Jones, Economic Development Intern, Kelly Galbraith, Administrative Assistant

**Regrets** Colt Manson, Chief Lorraine Cobiness

### 1. Call to Order

Graham Chaze, Chair of the Lake of the Woods Development Commission (LOWDC) called the meeting to order at 5:05pm. All were welcomed to the meeting. There was a small group of members of the public and representatives from the media in attendance.

### 2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

There were none declared.

### 3. Confirmation of AGM Minutes

**Moved by Theresa Gallik, seconded by Lindsay Wenaas and Carried -**

That the Minutes of the August 31, 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Lake of the Woods Development Commission be hereby confirmed as written and filed.

### 4. AGM Business

#### **Welcome & Introduction of 2017 Board of Directors**

The board of directors were introduced and it was noted that Colt Manson and Chief Lorraine Cobiness were unable to attend. Graham spoke on the past year being one of transition for the LOWDC with a new Treasurer - Teresa Gallik, a new Chair – himself, and the engagement of new board members Crystal Kast, Ken Behrsin, Lorraine Cobiness, and Jeff Kurz. Furthermore, Josh Nelson accepted the position as Tourism Development Officer in addition to the successful hiring of an Economic Development Intern, Corey Jones.

## ***Report from the Chair***

Graham explained that moving forward the Commission will be moving its annual AGM to end of February or beginning of March to better coincide with yearend financials and allow for reporting on the whole fiscal year.

The work of the LOWDC has been focused on building relationships with local business and community partners. A major initiative completed was the development of a Strategic Plan which provides a framework for LOWDC activities for the period of 2017-2019. The plan was developed in alignment with the City of Kenora Strategic Plan to ensure that the LOWDC is working to meet the objectives of the municipality and Council. Fives priority areas were identified including; Creating an Open for Business Culture, Collaborating on Housing Development, Advancing Kenora's Brand Promise, Pursuing Opportunities for Indigenous Engagement and Encouraging Younger Generations to Work and Live in Kenora. The LOWDC developed a work plan for 2017 that would deliver projects in these five priority areas.

Some key activities under creating an Open for Business Culture include re-creation of a Business Development Working Group, continuing the new business welcome program and forging strong City of Kenora and LOWDC collaborations through education, facilitation and communications.

One of the key focuses for the LOWDC is priority two – Collaboration on Housing Development. Megan Dokuchie, Economic Development Officer (EDO) in conjunction with the LOWDC has been working on encouraging housing development through the expansion of existing Community Improvement Plans (CIP), development of an affordable housing information package and working with assisted living facility builders committed to the Kenora area.

Priority 3 Advancing Kenora's Brand Promise revolves around the 2014-2019 Tourism Strategy that had been previously adopted. Josh Nelson, Tourism Development Officer works with the Tourism Committee – a sub-committee of the LOWDC - to deliver priorities outlined in the Tourism Strategy such as enhancing & expanding activity infrastructure, increasing year round visitors and enhancing venue infrastructure.

Priority 4 – Indigenous Engagement and Partnerships and Priority 5 – Encouraging Younger Generations to Live and Work in Kenora are areas of emphasis for the LOWDC. Strengthening relations with Indigenous businesses in the community as well as promoting the Indigenous community in business and tourism.

LOWDC understands that Kenora is an aging population and wants to work to attract younger generations back to Kenora through actions items like developing a youth attraction and retention campaign, supporting and participating in the Study North and Stay North program and exploring opportunities for expanded post secondary school opportunities.

## ***Financials***

### ***Report from Treasurer, Teresa Gallik***

Teresa shared that with a new Economic Development Officer and Tourism Development Officer taking on their roles midway through the budget year, they worked on completing projects their predecessors started while forging ahead with new ideas. Due to the transition, the 860 – Economic Development budget was underspent as projects like the sector profile and youth intern did not take place until 2017.

LOWDC continues to deliver a robust marketing campaign under 861 – Advertising in 2016 leveraging the City of Kenora’s contribution more than threefold to \$88,910. Partners that contributed to campaigns like Take a Hike and Go North include the Kenora Hospitality Alliance (KHA), Harbourtown Biz, Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls, OTMPC, etc.

Lastly 862 – special events budget was in line with previous years. The main revenue generator continues to be the Matiowski Farmers’ Market. Expenses incurred under this account include Canada Day, Winter Carnival, Matiowski Market and hosting the Northwestern Ontario Food Forum in December of 2016.

**a) Moved by Councillor Goss seconded by Jeff Kurz and Carried -**

That the Financial Report for 2016 be accepted as presented.

***Confirmation of the Auditor***

**Moved by Teresa Gallik, seconded by Councillor Goss and Carried –**

Whereas the City of Kenora appointed MNP as the City’s Auditor from 2013 through 2018;  
and

Whereas the City of Kenora provides certain services to the Lake of the Woods Development Commission;

Now therefore be it resolved that the financial statements of the Lake of the Woods Development Commission will be audited by MNP, Auditor for the City of Kenora.

**5. Adjournment**

The floor was opened for questions from the public, to which there were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.