



M i n u t e s
Of a Meeting of the Kenora Urban Trails Committee
of the City of Kenora
Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
Operations Building Board Room

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**With** Diane Pelletier - Chair, Judy Underwood, Councillor Sharon Smith, Dave Schwartz, Tanis McIntosh, Dave Schwartz

**Staff** Josh Nelson - Tourism Development Officer, Kelly Galbraith - Administrative Assistant

**Regrets** Diane Pelletier - Chair, Barry Corbett, Heather Gushulak, Steve Mastromatteo, Kylie Hissa - Planning Assistant

**Guests** Jacob Jeswiet, Heather Mutch, Colleen Randall

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

There were none declared.

**3. Mink Bay Trail, Outdoor Classroom Program with guest Jacob Jeswiet, Keewatin Public School**

Jacob Jeswiet along with his colleagues Heather Mutch and Colleen Randall presented to the group on the Outdoor Classroom Program offered at Keewatin Public School. They expressed their interest in meeting with the committee was to share what they have been doing and what they are hoping to do with the Outdoor Classroom Project on the Mink Bay Trail in the future.

Four staff members at the school are completing the Forest School Practitioners course and the programming will align with the values of the Forest and Nature School Canada (FNS) and those of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB). Jacob shared that the program began in Denmark with a small group of kids in daycare. Daycare facilities were at capacity and one daycare began sending students to a nearby forested area to learn and play. Educators found the children were more calm and relaxed in this type of learning environment. The school programs in Denmark incorporate an outdoor component no matter what the weather is.

As the Outdoor Classroom Program is a KPDSB program, all activities supervised by KPDSB Staff and will be covered under the school board insurance. The learning is inquiry based and helps students develop an appreciation for the trails and surrounding area. Councillor Smith provided some history on the trail and shared that it is a provincially designated background. Councillor Smith requested that Josh located the provincial designation for Mink Bay and share with Jacob.

Councillor Smith spoke to hazards on the trail such as poison ivy. She recommended the school contact the City for removal if it is found along the Mink Bay Trail. Josh disclosed there are inherent risks with all of trails including poison ivy and unfortunately the City does not have the man power to remove all poison ivy from all trails including Mink Bay however, if other hazards such as downed trees are identified to please contact the City. Kelly will provide the contact information to the guests.

The committee thanked the group for meeting with them. It was asked that the committee be provided with periodic updates. Judy informed the guests that the Trails Committee has documents such as the Mink Bay Historical Walking Tour Information Sheet and the Trail Development Toolkit. Kelly will circulate these documents to the guests.

*Jacob, Heather and Colleen left the meeting at 4:35 p.m.*

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

**Moved by Judy Underwood, seconded by Councillor Smith and CARRIED**

That the Minutes of the Kenora Urban Trails Committee meeting held on June 13, 2018 be confirmed as written and circulated.

#### **5. Walking Tour App Update**

Josh shared that the launch of the Walking Tour App is taking a little longer than expected. It is currently in the beta testing phase for the mural, historical and cemetery tours. There is a push to begin beta testing for the trails before

the winter weather arrives. A soft launch will happen in early 2019 with the official launch happening in early May. It was asked if the launch of the app could coincide with Trails Week. The group agreed this would be a great opportunity to launch and showcase the app. It was asked if links for the historical background on the trails could be incorporated however it was felt link would pull the user away from the app. Josh shared that the City will have control of the backend of the app once it is completed therefore the app can always be built on. The idea of having high school students update the app as part of their volunteer hours was discussed.

## 6. 2019 Capital Priorities

2019 budgets are due now. Josh asked the group to think of their long-term vision for developing trails. Proper bike paths was suggested and it was recognized that the harbourfront redevelopment might be an opportunity to begin with bike paths by having a dedicated walking and bike path. Opportunities to enhance Laurensens trail were discussed. With the upcoming election capital priorities will be identified. There is a need for background on the accomplishments of the Trails Committee and a solid work plan with the direction and visions the committee wishes to take.

## 7. Volunteer Hours

| Volunteer                               | Jan  | Feb | Mar | Apr  | May  | Jun  | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------------------------------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Barry                                   |      |     |     | 25   | 1.25 |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Councillor Smith                        | 1.25 |     |     |      | 1.25 | 2.25 |     |     | 1.5  |     |     |     |
| Dave                                    | 1.25 |     |     |      |      | 1.25 |     |     | 1.5  |     |     |     |
| Diane                                   | 1.25 |     |     | 1.25 | 1.25 |      |     |     | 1.5  |     |     |     |
| Erik                                    | 1.25 |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Heather                                 |      |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Judy                                    | 1.25 |     |     | 1.25 | 1.25 | 2.25 |     |     | 1.5  |     |     |     |
| Ren                                     |      |     |     | 1.25 | 1.25 | 2.25 |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Steve                                   |      |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Tanis                                   | 1.25 |     |     | 1.25 |      | 1.25 |     |     | 1.5  |     |     |     |
| Staff                                   |      |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Dwayne                                  |      |     |     | 1.25 | 1.25 |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Josh                                    | 1.25 |     |     | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 |     |     | 1.5  |     |     |     |
| Kelly                                   | 1.25 |     |     | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 |     |     | 1.5  |     |     |     |
| Kyliee                                  |      |     |     | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Melissa                                 |      |     |     | 1.25 |      |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |
| Friends of Trails<br>/Bike<br>Committee |      |     |     |      |      |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |

## **8. Roundtable**

### **Raising the Vibe – Judy Underwood**

Judy shared information on a project called Raising the Vibe. Community members from communities all over the world are putting positive messages on rocks and leaving them behind for others to enjoy. The rocks can be tagged kept, moved, or given away. Judy asked the group if there would be interest in a community event to place rocks throughout the trails. The group shared excitement for the project and thought this may also be a fun event to incorporate into Trails Week and the launch of the Walking Tour App.

Councillor Smith inquired if Josh had followed up with Dave Sinclair from Kenora Hydro regarding the rehabilitation of the trees along the Laurenson's trail. Josh was apologetic that he did not get in touch with Dave. A discussion was held on the feasibility of re-plating trees on a hydro corridor because of future work. Councillor Smith made a request to have Dave Sinclair invited to the next committee meeting. Kelly will extend an invite to him. The MNR Rehab funding was discussed once again. Josh reiterated that the MNR grant is 50 cent dollars and the Trails Committee has zero budget therefore they need to find creative ways to fund the project. A suggestion was made that Ontario Hydro be the cash contribution partner.

On the topic of trees, Dave expressed the need for shade trees along the harbourfront. Josh shared that there will be a public forum held for the harbourfront redevelopment in mid-October and encouraged all members of the Trails Committee to attend and bring forward their ideas such as shade trees and bike paths.

## **9. Next meeting**

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.