



# Minutes

## Of a Meeting of the Lake of the Woods Development Commission of the City of Kenora Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. City Hall, Council Chambers

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**With** Graham Chaze - Chair, Teresa Gallik - Treasurer, Sarah Minor, Councillor Mort Goss, Mayor Daniel Reynard

**Staff** Megan Dokuchie - Economic Development Officer, Josh Nelson - Tourism Development Officer, Stace Gander – Community Services Manager, Kelly Galbraith – Deputy Clerk

**Regrets** Lindsay Koch, Councillor Kirsi Ralko – Alternate, Adam Smith – Development Service Strategist

### 1. Call to Order

Graham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### 2. Welcome & Introductions

Sarah Minor was welcomed by the group and roundtable introductions were done.

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

There were none declared.

### 4. Confirmation of Minutes

#### a) Moved by Teresa Gallik, seconded by Councillor Goss and Carried -

That the Minutes of the Lake of the Woods Development Commission meeting held on May 15, 2019 be confirmed as written and filed.

#### b) Follow-Up on Previous LOWDC Meetings

##### i) LOWDC Board Recruitment

Board membership was discussed. It was requested that a call for members be put out in the near future.

## **ii) Dock Enhancement**

### **Moved by Teresa Gallik, seconded by Mayor Reynard and Carried -**

THAT the Lake of the Woods Development Commission allocate the remaining \$8,715.47 from the Harbourfront and Winnipeg River dock enhancements to Coney Island dock enhancements.

## **c) Tourism Committee Minutes**

This item was tabled until the July meeting. Kelly will circulate the May 9<sup>th</sup> Tourism Committee Special Meeting Minutes to the group for their review.

## **5. New Business:**

### **Financials**

The financial statements were circulated to the group. It was asked if the Farmers Market vendors are required to pre-pay for the season and why this revenue is not yet reflected. It was shared that staff do their best to receive pre-payment but there are a few vendors on a payment plan and casual vendors pay historically pay on the day of. The majority of the 10 week and seasonal vendor's revenue will be reflected by the end of July.

## **6. Other Commission Business**

### **a) Economic Development**

#### **i) EDO Update**

An update on Economic Development projects was given. The partnership with Mount Evergreen Ski Hill is moving to phase two. The application for the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Project was rejected. A meeting with Allyson Pele, Manager of the Northwest Business Centre has been planned to discuss the tourism start-up grant. Planning for Small Business Week is underway.

## **ii) Destination Northern Ontario–Partnership Memorandum of Understanding**

### **Moved by Councillor Goss, seconded by Teresa Gallik and Carried -**

THAT the Board of Directors authorizes Graham Chaze, Chair, to execute an agreement between the Lake of the Woods Development Commission and Destination Northern Ontario for the provision of Second Street gateway wayfinding signage.

## **b) Tourism**

### **i) Tourism & Special Events Report**

An update on Tourism and Special Events was given. Kenora played host to an international travel trade familiarization tour with representatives from Japan, Taiwan, U.K, France and Netherlands. The events attended by the representatives were said to be hugely successful. Surveys completed by the visitors showed positive comments throughout. The Science North exhibit Beyond Human Limits seen 450 students visiting the exhibit as well as visitors from the general public.

Josh brought forward some concerns he received from event organizers surrounding security at their events. Increased security and daytime security are resulting in higher costs to the event organizers. Foot patrols and liquor licences were discussed.

*Stace joined the meeting at 9:30am.*

**i) Coney Island Shuttle**

The Tourism Committee would like to see a Coney Island shuttle made available with more frequency than the current proposal. The idea of the LOWDC or the City purchasing a boat and having a summer students operate the shuttle was shared. City insurance and liability was discussed. 2019 timelines were also discussed and it was expressed this would not be viable for this year.

A meeting with the proposed operator will be held to discuss what further options they may be able to provide. The group was in agreement that there is a definite need for a dedicated shuttle service as the LOWDC moves forward with promoting Coney Island. This item will be added to the agenda for a planning session in the fall.

**ii) 2019 Tourism Grants Remaining Funds**

It was identified there is still \$7,500 available for special events grants. The group was asked if they would like a second intake of grant applications for the remaining funds or if the funds should be put in reserve. The group agreed that there should be a second intake for applications.

**iii) Future of Tourism Grants**

The intake for 2020 applications will start in November 2019. The criteria for the tourism grants was discussed at length the group. The criteria and scoring of applications will be reviewed in the fall by the LOWDC prior to a call for applications being put out.

**7. Communications and/or Announcements Roundtable**

Stace informed the group there is need for repairs and replacement to structures on Tunnel Island. He shared this may be a project the LOWDC may be interested in. The City is title holder therefore if there was any incident it would come against the City's insurance. There is need to invest some money and replace manmade structures on the site. Indicating trails are nature trails on a trailhead absolves liability.

Councillor Goss expressed that he stands by the idea of hiring an event recruiter. There is a need to commit to more of the touring national events that are passing through Kenora. There is also a need to provide major funding to the Winter Carnival to develop it into a much larger event.

Sarah shared she would like to see the Winter Carnival revamped. There is a need for entertainment for all ages including adults. Ideas such as an ice bar and long john festival were shared. The need for a Coney Island shuttle is strong as there is lots of money going into developing Coney Island however people are unable to get there.

Graham asked if there are any updates on the sound study. City staff was able to locate the previous sound study that was done three years ago and from it two of the three recommendations have been done. The sounds baffles is the outstanding item from the study that has yet to be done.

## **8. Next Meeting Date**

- July 23, 2019

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.