



Minutes

Of a Meeting of the Lake of the Woods Development Commission of the City of Kenora Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre

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**With** Graham Chaze - Chair, Teresa Gallik - Treasurer, Lindsay Koch, Councillor Mort Goss, Mayor Daniel Reynard, Councillor Kirsi Ralko - Alternate

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

### 1. Call to Order

Graham called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

There were none declared.

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes

#### a) Moved by Councillor Goss, seconded by Lindsay Koch and Carried -

That the Minutes of the regular Lake of the Woods Development Commission meeting held on April 18, 2019 be confirmed as written and filed.

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

There have been discussions amongst different levels of government for improvements to Coney Island. Recognizing that currently there are no Coney Island Projects allocated, preliminary conversations have happened with Coney Island residents about fundraising dollars in order to match grant funds for improvements to Coney Island.

#### c) Tourism Committee Minutes

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

That the Minutes of the regular Tourism Committee meeting held on April 17, 2019 be confirmed as written and filed.

#### 4. New Business:

##### **Financials**

The financial statements were circulated to the group for their review. It was noted the Tourism and Special Events statements have some media buys that are not yet reflected. The Economic Development statement has some project carryover which is also not reflected on the statements at this time.

#### 5. Other Commission Business

##### **a) Economic Development**

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

- It was shared that the Downtown Revitalization, Phase 4 tender was approved on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and work will begin on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Josh and Megan have been working with Mount Evergreen Ski Hill on their four season planning. Drafts for the plan have been made and the final draft should be complete by the end of May.
- Response to the Rural Immigration Pilot Project application has not been received to date. It is anticipated that a response will be received in June.
- Tourism and Economic Development are in early talks with a company out of Winnipeg regarding the opportunity for a floating restaurant. One of the requests is that the City of Kenora assist in locating infrastructure such as floating docks for the facility.

###### **b) Tourism**

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

- The Municipal Accommodation Tax remittance has been provided to Kenora Hospitality Alliance (KHA). There were some delays in KHA receiving the cheque as the item was returned to sender. This has now been rectified.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> is the grand opening of the Science North exhibit Beyond Human Limits at the Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre. The exhibit will run from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Josh met with a local operator to discuss a shuttle to Coney Island. The project would be supplemented by the LOWDC. Early talks were for the shuttle to run for four weekends (two weekends prior to August long weekend and two weekends after the August long weekend) with three pickup times (11:00am, 2:40pm and 5:10pm).

###### **Discussion:**

It was asked if there is any flexibility on the pickup times. Councilor Goss asked to attend the next meeting with the local operator to discuss further options. The idea of the LOWDC purchasing a boat for the shuttle was shared. Staffing, insurance and licensing were discussed.

*Megan left the room at 4:25pm*

###### **ii) Tourism Grant Allocation**

###### **Moved by Lindsay Koch, seconded by Teresa Gallik and carried -**

THAT the Lake of the Woods Development Commission approve the following 2019 Special Events Grant Allocations:

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Harbourfest   | \$5,000         |
| Oktoberfest   | \$10,000        |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>\$15,000</b> |

**Background:**

The Tourism Committee held a special meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> to further review the applications received for the Special Events Grants. There was significant discussion on the applications by the group and the intention of the grants was debated at length.

**Discussion:**

The recommendations brought forward by the Tourism Committee were reviewed and discussed at length. Branding of infrastructure purchased with grant funds was debated by the group. Stipulations such as including a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for infrastructure use to the other groups was also discussed. It was commented that provincial grants would not put such stipulations on their funding allocations and the LOWDC is meant to be an arm's length board. It was expressed that there is concern that the group is getting too hung-up in the small details. It was reiterated that the applications met all parameters outlined in the application process and motion was brought forward.

*Megan returned to the room at 4:40pm*

**iii) Tourism Committee Future Direction**

It was shared that the Tourism Committee was put in place when the paper mill shutdown and the focus for Kenora shifted to tourism. At this time there is a lack of general participation and a need for a project for the Tourism Committee to get passionate about. It was commented there is a need for additional training and resources to assist the Tourism Committee with the direction they would like to go. The Tourism Committee is an advisory committee to the LOWDC and brings forward their recommendations to the LOWDC. Ultimately all decisions are made at the LOWDC level.

**Discussion:**

It was commented that the new committee members had a difficult start to the term. The grant allocations were discussed at the first meeting and the conversations were tough. The idea of bringing together tourism players in the community to meet quarterly was shared. It commented there is a need for tourism industry representation at the LOWDC level.

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

Councillor Ralko informed the group she will be opening her own law firm.

The LOWDC currently has reserves which require Council approval to utilize. There was a request by the LOWDC to submit a report to Council to streamline access to these reserves by eliminating the Council approval process when accessing the reserves. Stace will bring forward a report to Council.

**7. Next Meeting Date**

- To be determined

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.