



# MINUTES

**Of a Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Kenora  
Wednesday, November 16, 2022  
City Hall Council Chambers  
8:30 a.m.**

**Live Stream Recording:** <https://kenora.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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**With** Mayor A. Poirier in the Chair, Councillor Robert Bernie, Councillor G. Chaze, Councillor L. Koch, Councillor B. Manson, Councillor L. Moncrief, Councillor K. Van Belleghem

**Staff:** Kyle Attanasio, CAO, Heather Pihulak, Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk, Charlotte Edie, Director of Finance, Stace Gander, Director of Community Services, Marco Vogrig, Director of Engineering & Infrastructure, Roberta Marsh, Director of Human Resources, Risk and Insurance, Dave Pratt, Deputy Fire Chief

## **Call to Order**

Mayor Poirier called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

## **Blessing & Land Acknowledgment Delivered by Councillor Bernie**

As we gather, we recognize that we are on Treaty Three Lands which are steeped in rich Indigenous history and home to many First Nations and Metis people today. We continue to be thankful for the partnerships with Indigenous people.

We give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy in the City of Kenora. We seek wisdom in our minds, clearness in our thinking, truth in our speaking and always love in our hearts, so that we may try always to unite the Citizens of Kenora. Let these principles guide us in our decision making.

## **Public Information Notices as per By-law Number 144-2007**

**Mayor Poirier then read the following notices:-**

As required under Notice By-law #144 -2007, Council hereby advises the public of its intention to adopt the following at today's meeting:-

N/A

## **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof**

Mayor Poirier then asked if any Member of Council had any Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof pertaining to any items as follows:-

- i) On Today's Agenda or from a previous Meeting
  - ii) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance
- There were none declared.

## **Coney Island Foot Bridge Replacement**

### **1. Moved by L. Moncrief, Seconded by G. Chaze & Carried:-**

That Council hereby provides direction to Administration to install the new Coney Island Foot Bridge structure with temporary construction railings immediately.

**Discussion:** In keeping with the processes established by the City's Emergency Operations Control Group, a framework was developed to support decision making. This process was used when flood-affected infrastructure failures resulted in the evacuation of residents who were unable to access their properties safely. Council was regularly informed of operational decisions concerning repairs to infrastructure to restore safe access to residents. In situations where multiple options were identified as viable, Administration actively sought direction from Council.

The Coney Island Footbridge is a floating dock structure that connects mainland Kenora to Coney Island in the winter months. The Footbridge spans approximately 296 feet in length and is installed in November of each year to provide Coney Island residents with access to their properties during freeze up. This level of service has been provided since the 1960s based on Administration's historical information.

The Footbridge is removed annually in April or May. The timing of the installation and removal is weather dependent; the Footbridge must be installed prior to the lake freezing.

In May 2022, the City of Kenora experienced a significant flood event resulting in the Coney Island floating footbridge experiencing irreparable damage on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The damaged Footbridge, along with many other assets, was included in the flood claims filed with our insurer and the Province of Ontario through the Disaster Relief Program.

In July 2022 Stantec Engineering, a firm under contract by the City to provide general engineering consultation and design services, declared the Footbridge to be damaged irreparably after a thorough review.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Council approved a budget amendment to replace the Coney Island Footbridge. Administration further engaged Stantec Engineering to assist with the design of a new Footbridge. Administration subsequently hired Docks and Lifts Unlimited after a thorough procurement process to build and install a new Footbridge.

As of the time of this writing, the new Footbridge is incomplete. The main floating platform, aluminum ramps to be installed at the shore to walkway connection points, and steel cable elements are ready for installation. However, while the permanent railings have been designed and approved, they have not arrived to complete the installation in time for our typical installation schedule. Delivery on the side railings is not anticipated until late December at the earliest with further delays possible.

Railings are critical to ensure safe passage for residents using the Footbridge to access their properties on the island and are also critical from an insurance perspective. Railings are also required to ensure the safety of City staff responsible for the snow clearing and maintenance of this structure. Installation without the approved railings is not a viable option as frigid waters are present and present too significant of a risk.

Through consultation with Stantec, Docks and Lifts, and the City's insurer, Administration has identified a temporary option to support the installation of the Footbridge within our traditional timeline for installation. This temporary measure would result in the installation of construction railing to the bridge. Construction railing would be rented from an external provider, subject to rental fees that are within project budget, and Stantec has approved this temporary measure from an engineering perspective.

With key parts of Lake of the Woods starting to freeze, it is paramount that Administration receive Council's direction to execute the chosen direction swiftly.

Administration is proposing the following three options for Council consideration and is seeking direction:

**Option 1 – Do not install Footbridge this year**

- The City has received several key elements of the new Footbridge, but has not received the permanent railings. Administration has been working with Docks and Lifts to put these elements together that we do have to float and secure the platform between Coney Island and Bush Island. The Footbridge would freeze in place for the winter. The City typically floats the Footbridge in this location during the summer months.
- This option would leave residents with no access to their properties throughout the shoulder seasons of freeze and thaw when passage by boat is not possible. As a result, residents would only be able to access the island when the ice road is open.
- Evacuation of permanent residents may be necessary as they will have limited ability to access the island during freeze up and thaw.
- This would be a full reduction in the level of service for the 2022-23 season.

**Option 2 – Delay the opening of the Footbridge until permanent railings arrive**

- While incomplete, the floating structure can be installed in preparation for the arrival of the permanent railings.
- The Footbridge would remain closed to the public until permanent railings are received and installed by the contractor.
- The aluminum ramps would be hoisted up to minimize the risk of the public using the Footbridge.
- Installation of the permanent railings is covered in the existing project budget.
- This option would result in residents not having a reduced level of service in accessing their properties until the installation of the permanent railings is completed.
- Evacuation of permanent residents may be necessary as they will have limited ability to get on or off the island during freeze up and thaw.
- This would be a temporary reduction in the level of service for the 2022-23 season.

**Option 3 – Install the Footbridge structure with temporary construction railings immediately**

- Construction railings can be rented from a local supplier and secured to the platform promptly.
- Docks and Lifts Unlimited is available to perform the installation in accordance with Stantec's approved guidelines.
- The Footbridge can be installed by Docks and Lifts Unlimited promptly, weather permitting.

- Once installed, the bridge will be open for the safe passage of residents and will be covered under the City's Comprehensive General Liability Insurance Policy.
- The rental of temporary railings can be accommodated within the existing project budget.
- This option allows the City to install the bridge within our traditional timeline and maintain our historical level of service.

**Close of Meeting**

**2. Moved by B. Manson, Seconded L. Koch & Carried:-**

That this meeting be now declared closed at 8:52 a.m.

**The Corporation of the City of Kenora**

**Confirmed As Written This .....Day**

**Of.....2022**

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**Mayor**

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**City Clerk**