



**City of Kenora  
Sustainability Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 3, 2024**

**2:00p.m.**

**Operations Board Room**

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**Members**

**Present:**

Ashley Nordlund, Chair  
Councillor Lisa Moncrief  
Stephanie Charles  
Lisa Devlin  
Peter Kirby  
Brie McCardle  
Kim Mowrey  
Ethan Amyotte

**Regrets:**

Rory McMillan, Craig Debbo

**Staff:**

Heather Pihulak, Director of Corporate Services

**Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment**

Ashley Nordlund called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and delivered the land acknowledgment. Round Table introductions with new members.

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

- 1) On Today's Agenda
- 2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance.  
There are none declared.

**Confirmation of Previous Committee Minutes**

**Moved by S. Charles, Seconded by P. Kirby and Carried:-**

That the Minutes of the Sustainability Advisory Committee meetings held May 27, 2024 be confirmed as amended and filed.

**1. Previous Action Items**

**Communication and Outreach**

Stephanie Charles provided a draft to the committee and feedback was received that it was better as an editorial style. Stephanie circulated a second draft which was more of a narrative. The content is great, can be tweaked for the different organizations. Kim and Peter will work on the various content.

A mixture of both is great for the Area News. The committee loves the idea of a QR code which directs them to the plan. 87% of the members receive the actual magazine. In terms of graphics, the Committee likes the tree graphic.

Stephanie will send an additional draft out to the committee for review by the end of the week.

### **Setting 2024 Priorities**

The committee asked about the new transit service and Heather explained the service to the group. The committee discussed some kinds of estimates from other communities on GHD reduction. Research alternatives for public transportation, environmental friendly, and if the City will consider electric vehicles in the future, or hybrid vehicles, at the minimum, fuel efficient vehicles. The committee is seeking information once it is launched on the percentage of car pooling and any stats that support a reduction in emissions from the current bus. Via will be here in a few weeks for public open houses and the committee could meet with them to discuss the operation and possible for GHD.

Community Composting Program – committee talked to Mukesh about this, but once they get another landfill we could consider it then.

It was questioned if there is there any room for this committee to promote commercial kitchens to use their waste differently. The waste veggies from No Frills or Wholesale go to Bed and Bale and would be nice to see other kitchens composting their waste to other locations. There is a program at the location on Railway Street that takes food close to expiration. If the city was serious about it, you buy a huge drum, and rely on 3 or 4 restaurants to fill it and it would demonstrate how much that would save. They come in 14, 16, 20 and would need City staff dedicated to managing it. We wouldn't have an issue with restaurants jumping on board.

Stephanie has a flashfood app and you put your location, and these places make boxes that are for close to end of life food. They are usually \$5. Currently in Kenora it is only Wholesale and No Frills. We could look at a one page promotion regarding the average person can contribute to reducing waste. There is a lot of food waste and would be good to try to leverage ways for them to reduce commercial waste.

Compost buckets – the committee could decide to host another round of the FoodCycler program and offer to the community but would like to look at other options.

Compost bin – consider a compost bin instead of a FoodCycler. There is another product called Bokashi – you use a grain and put your organics and meat into it or whatever, put a layer of the grain on top and you put a layer on it and keep it sealed. This is a whole other piece of article – we are not waiting to hear back and are tangible items the committee can move forward with. Would prefer to see curbside composting but is not an option at this time.

Pushing compost bins is a good thing too. Give them an alternative. They used to do that years ago, and they subsidized them.

Heather will ask Kerri if we can add information to the recycle app and add other features to promote food recycle. Kim will reach out to Ecosystem in Thunder Bay for the pricing.

Stephanie has to look into the water filling stations still. There has been a lot of information about the health impacts specific to the heat dome in BC. She can bring a briefing note to next

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meeting, about the risk factors and factors that helped folks. We want to try and see what we have or could look at expanding in our community. We can then look at our vulnerabilities.

Water filling station is progressing – but supportive of adding additional stations. There should be an app or a google where to find water stations. The hydrants are not an option as the water would need to be bled.

Healthy Shorelines – Discovery Centre was supposed to be a model shoreline for protecting our shorelines. The committee talked about the greenbelt and how the grass goes right up to the shore – that is not a model shoreline. There is a resource kit – which covers information about healthy shorelines and other water sustainability initiatives including cleanups.

Communications will link the kit information to our page.

### **Questions for City staff**

Peter is concerned about the reporting and mandatory reporting. We are supposed to be setting targets but we can't set the targets and we can work to ask the questions about what we are doing. Hoping we can get some answers from someone on City staff about what we are doing.

Peter raises a lot of valid points of concern. The City is reporting on City buildings, they are not reporting on other initiatives. There were incentives to get homeowners to improve their efficiencies, so other organizations were looking after some of that. There needs to be incentives by individual home owners to improve their emissions.

## **2. New Business**

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) funding Adaptation – types of projects include:

- Installing, retrofitting or upgrading public cooling/warming infrastructure (including natural infrastructure) to reduce community vulnerability to extreme temperatures (e.g., designated cooling/warming centres, cooling corridors, naturalized areas)
- Incremental operations to use existing assets to reduce hazard exposure during severe events (e.g., running heating/cooling centres) over a period of up to 18 months)
- Incremental costs associated with improving the design of a capital project to incorporate climate-resilient elements
- Enhancing municipal service levels to respond to climate risks
- Installing back-up power on critical infrastructure/facilities
- Relocating municipal infrastructure
- Installing, retrofitting or upgrading public structures or critical infrastructure for municipal service provision to reduce the risks associated with climate hazards
- FireSmart-aligned vegetative management or vegetation-based wildfire risk mitigation activities
- Installing, retrofitting or upgrading structural flood protection or stormwater collection works (e.g., sponge parks, flood conveyance works, pump stations, flood walls, flood boxes, debris catchment structures, jetties, detention ponds)
- Dam, dike or channel decommissioning and floodplain restoration
- Wetland restoration or construction
- Rehabilitating important aquifer recharge areas
- Installing, retrofitting or upgrading green infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs and/or permeable pavement)

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- Shoreline rehabilitation, including restoring natural shoreline protection through natural infrastructure, beach nourishment and/or bank stabilization
- Slope stabilization projects that reduce the risk of debris flow, particularly in fire-impacted areas

Anyone has any ideas for the funding application can email Heather and she will bring up to SLT. It will be discussed at the SLT meeting and the committee asked that whatever we apply for if we can let them know. They would also like to remind them to keep the deliverables in the plan at the forefront when considering the application.

### **Area News Contribution**

Stephanie will be the key point for finalizing the article with Area News.

### **Reporting Obligations to the City**

Deferred

Craig was going to reach out to some Indigenous communities to gain participation in our committee.

### **3. Next Meeting Date**

Wednesday, September 4 @ 2:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.