



**City of Kenora
Sustainability Advisory Committee**

Minutes

May 27, 2024

2:00p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Ashley Nordlund, Chair
Craig Debbo
Councillor Lisa Moncrief
Stephanie Charles
Rory McMillan
Peter Kirby
Brie McCardle
Kim Mowrey

Regrets: Lisa Devlin, Ethan Amyotte

Staff: Heather Pihulak, City Clerk
Bill Mundy, General Manager of Utilities

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment

Ashley Nordlund called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and delivered the land acknowledgment. Round Table introductions 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.

New member Kim Mowrey declared a pecuniary interest on the discussion regarding Harvest Kenora.

Confirmation of Previous Committee Minutes

Moved By R. McMillan, Seconded by C. Debbo and Carried:-

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

1. Previous Action Items

Communication and outreach

Peter Kirby sent out an email regarding contacts of other community members. He contacted Dean Woodbeck at TA and would get in touch with the outdoor teacher. This is not an easy job. You just have to get your foot in the door and then keep pursuing the follow up to the contacts. There are two parts, one is to recruit members for the holes we still need to fill and then explaining to the public that there is a plan and address that

there are priorities. We are responsible through appointment of Council. There is progress on the appointments and the committee is encouraged to promote membership to the committee.

Setting 2024 Priorities – Workshop Style

When we looked through the action items under the Sustainability Action plan, there are a number of items that are being worked on by other organizations. City staff came and presented on the energy plan and the work in city buildings for energy efficiencies. We were looking for areas where the committee can have an impact.

Peter has been following the energy file for a number of years. Went through the community energy plan and the city facility energy management plan. Request that someone from the committee stay on top of the file. The plan mentions having targets for energy reductions. We are moving in the right direction but feel that it is not enough and have to have a target. There are two places where the City has identified a target and don't know if we are meeting the targets. Didn't see anything that we are doing targets. One or two of us should be on the file and corresponding with the City staff. We previously asked for an update at every meeting and if they were already doing the work.

Bill will arrange for Shaun to come to the committee and give an update on the energy initiatives. Peter would like to see a measurement. Trying to modernize some stuff to measure is difficult in some areas where you have 50-year-old infrastructure. Would like to see targets identified, how we are progressing on the energy plan, it should be asked in advance of the meeting and prepare him for the questions

The sustainability action plan – 2024 priorities – 2021 would be the baseline and what have we done since 2021, what reduction have we seen, what key areas are focused on and we are planning now for 2025 capital plans. Would like to know what the City is doing about energy audits. Have any city facilities had an energy audit and are there any plans to audit any facilities. Would like to know what plans there are for doing audits. What is the City doing for energy conservation and applications to funding sources to conduct these audits. Peter will put a list of questions together and Ashley will send out the list of questions to the committee to gain consensus of the committee to proceed with this priority.

Moved By R. McMillan, Seconded by P. Kirby and Carried:-

That we identify the first step in the energy conservation plan 1.1, 1.2 and receive an update from City staff on the City's energy conservation plan.

We could also be looking at promoting community members undertaking conservation projects such as recycling boat wrap tarps.

Please send questions to Ashley by Monday June 3rd and Ashley will redistribute to committee.

Other priorities:

Would love to see bottle filling stations added in areas whenever possible. It was questioned what the City is doing to address shade and water. This could be a communication piece.

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Moved by S. Charles, Seconded by R. McMillan & Carried:-

That S. Charles will gather the information of where water stations are located and or agencies in the community as a first step in potential areas that we could look at in the future; and further

That the committee can then look at a communication that the City could put out with that information.

It was noted that setting priorities should come back to the next meeting.

Communication and outreach – there is to be a shared action plan and update on what the committee work has been done to date. Stephanie can put together a draft, and all the information is in the plan so she’s not rewriting anything – making it shorter and easier.

What is the role of the committee, where to view the plan, how to join us, how to be involved.

Stephanie will create a draft and send to Ashley in two weeks.

2. New Business

Ashley sent an email to the committee which identifies what St. Louis School used the \$500 donation for last year. The St. Louis Eco Action Team provided details and a video on the waste free Earth Day campaign they ran on April 22nd. Email from St Louis School:

We are excited to share that our Eco Action Team has raffled 20 stainless steel lunch kits to the student body at St. Louis Living Arts school. With the \$500 donation that you gave us we are supporting our students in reducing waste and single use plastic in their lunch kits. Along with this raffle we also launched a Waste Free campaign for Earth Day, inviting all students to participate in bringing waste free lunches on April 22nd.

We are grateful for your donation!

This link is a video that we made with the students to promote the campaign.

<https://fb.watch/ruisi0DqBi/>

Shoreline clean up dates with LOWDPOA

Brie invited members to pick up garbage with LOWDPOA. The dates are May 28th, June 11 at 11:00, July 12 at 12:00 and August 6 at 11:00 a.m. Heather will put it in the calendar for July 12th at 12:00 p.m. for those available with a location to be identified at a later date.

3. Current Action Items

Kim left for this discussion at 3:37 p.m.

Harvest Kenora Wish List – follow up

Heather shared an email received by Harvest Kenora regarding our donation to them with the conditions established by the Committee:

Thanks very much for taking the time to meet with me last Thursday and share the decisions made by the SAC surrounding their support of Harvest Kenora. As luck would have it, we had a meeting among our Board of Directors this past weekend, and I was

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able to share what you relayed to me at that time. While the Collective was happy to learn that \$3500 had been offered toward the purchase of select items, there was equal discomfort with the idea that the money came with conditions surrounding marketing/branding on behalf of the SAC. We have had a policy in place since our inception of recognizing donors/sponsors with a post on social media and a thank-you card. We also intend to have a sign made that will be affixed to our fence, visible to the public, that acknowledges all of the donors/sponsors that have supported our work historically. That should be in place early in the growing season this year, and should the SAC go forward with a donation, they would have a spot on it. Having individual items around the garden or park branded by our sponsors is not something we have historically felt comfortable with, and that notion was reaffirmed at our meeting over the weekend.

We are wondering if the SAC would be willing to go forward with the donation, accepting the above outlined policy of recognition? Also, as we discussed - the Rotary Club just recently offered us money towards an event tent (without the condition of their logo on it) - so, we intend to proceed with making that purchase with their funds. If there is still interest in supporting our work, are there different items on our Wishlist that the SAC would like to empower us to acquire? I will attach a link to an updated list here, as a number of the items on the initial list have now been sorted out.

We hope that we have successfully communicated how the work we undertake as an organization is directly working to achieve the goals of Kenora's Sustainability Action Plan, which the SAC is mandated to implement. In this spirit, we hope that we may be able to count on their support without the previously mentioned conditions of marketing/branding on their behalf.

Moved by C. Debbo, Seconded by A. Nordlund & Carried:-

That the SAC committee hereby approves the donation to Harvest Kenora in the amount of \$3,500 to support the operation of the garden; and further

That under the City of Kenora Sustainability Action Plan (2022-2031) Sustainability Projects, Sustainability Theme 3: Local Food Production & Waste Reduction, the mission is to expand community gardening; and further

That the funding supported by SAC should adhere to the mission of the plan and adhere to city policies for municipal business; and further

That the committee hereby requests Harvest Kenora to report back to the committee on what the funding was used for highlighting the positive results with the funding.

Heather will prepare a letter under Ashley's name as chair on behalf of committee with the cheque attached to the letter.

4. Next Meeting Date

July 3rd at 2:00 p.m. at the Operations Board room.

Note: Rory and Bill will not be there.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

