

Harbourtown Centre Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 6, 2011
7:30 a.m.
Kenora Recreation Centre

Record of Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Bill Richards
Janet Alcock
Ralph Page
Gayle Spicer
Keric Funk
Tara Rickaby
Sharon Smith
Karen Brown
Jim Parson

Andy Scribilo
Mort Goss
Heather Paterson
Buck Matiowski
Jennifer Findlay
P/C Bob Bernie
Ron Lunny
Dave Canfield

Press: Reg Clayton, Daily Miner & News

Regrets: Mike Imbeault, P/C Dave Cain, Insp. D. Lucas, John Berringer

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chairman Bill Richards called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

2. Election of Chair

Bill Richards turned the meeting over to Tara Rickaby. There was a call for nominations:

Ralph Page nominated Bill Richards. Seconded by Janet Alcock.

There was a second call for nominations:

Sharon Smith nominated Mort Goss. Seconded by Keric Funk.

There was no response to the third call for nominations. Both nominees accepted nomination.

Ballots were distributed to voting members. Bill Richards was elected Chair for 2011.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the December 2, 2010 regular meeting were approved.

4. Declaration of pecuniary interest at a the last meeting, or at a meeting at which a member was not in attendance: None

5. Business arising - Appointment of Committee Members

The current terms of reference was reviewed and the appropriate committee member named. Tara Rickaby read a letter, from Making Kenora Home, nominating Ralph Page as its member on the Harbourtown Centre Committee. All positions are filled, with some changes possible throughout the year, depending on whether or not membership on separate participating agencies/committees changes.

Harbourtown Centre Committee Minutes – January 6, 2011

6. Council report

Sharon Smith explained she and Councillor Lunny and Karen Brown are a committee which has been struck to review the roles and responsibilities of Buck, and his team, which are separate and apart from events. Council wants to ensure that there is continuity on the Harbourfront and downtown with respect to the programs which Buck currently facilitates and which are a positive contribution to the cleanliness and presentation of the downtown and Harbourfront area.

Members of the Harbourtown Centre will be contacted individually for input, or can contact any of Sharon Smith, Ron Lunny or Karen Brown directly at ssmith@kenora.ca, rlunny@kenora.ca, kbrown@kenora.ca or Sharon, 407-2007, Ron – 407-2003 or Karen 467-2028.

7. Downtown Homelessness

Ralph Page reported that:

- The Gingerbread Lane event, hosted by the Jubilee Church in December was a success with 40 gingerbread homes entered
- The Sharing Circle, which included a drumming ceremony was held December 16th and was also successful
- The Christmas dinner served over 100 people, which is almost an overflow situation
- Morning Star has received funding to provide a subsidy for 8 additional transitional housing units
- The University of Winnipeg has incorporated stories from books, published by Making Kenora Home, which are told by homeless people in the area into a course offering. As a result of the stories being told, there have been some families reunited.
- Habitat for Humanity committee is coming together; there will be strength in the four volunteers who have come forward as the fundraising team. The first build will take approximately 1 year to organize and will cost in the neighbourhood of \$80-\$100 dollars. Ralph can report on the project as a member of that committee.

Discussion took place with respect to the lack of affordable housing in Kenora and the use of the Morning Star centre for overnight shelter rather than the mandated detoxification program.

7. BIZ

Keric Funk introduced and welcomed Ron Lunny as the Council liaison for BIZ and reported that:

- The next BIZ board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 11th at 7:30 at the Southview on Second. This meeting will be a brainstorming session to develop a work plan for 2011.

8 Chamber of Commerce Update

Andy Scribilo reported that:

- The Chamber is re-locating to the AK building on the corner of Chipman and Second Streets. The offices are larger and will permit board meetings etc.
- Diane Buckner, of the Dragon's Den, has been engaged as the keynote speaker at the Chamber's AGM and awards banquet on February 9th. There will be a brunch at which Diane will also speak, on February 10th at the Super 8.

Harbourtown Centre Committee Minutes – January 6, 2011

- The home show is scheduled for the weekend before the long weekend, in May. There is a lot of interest from out of town and the Chamber is actively encouraging local participation. The goal is to present a true home and leisure show with interactive displays, retail sales etc.
- NOAAC AGM will be held in Kenora in April 2011
- The Winnipeg Blue Bombers will be coming on board as a member of the Chamber. This will be beneficial to both organizations and possibly to local non-profit groups who may be able to access players for participation in events. This move indicates that Kenora is being viewed by the Winnipeg business community as a destination
- The Chamber will be hiring an intern to provide marketing strategies and implementation of those strategies. This is a one year term, funded by FedNor.

9. Police Update

Cst. Bob Bernie reported that:

- The Festive RIDE program was successful provincially; local stats will soon be available
- DARE program will begin in schools again with the new semester. Bob explained the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program
- Bob explained the mandate of the new street crime unit, and its relationship with the joint forces drug unit
- The substance abuse and mental health task force has been organized and incorporates approximately 50 organizations. Its mandate is based on four pillars: prevention, treatment, enforcement and harm reduction. The terms of reference has been drafted and Inspector Lucas will be presenting it to Council for adoption. Jim Carambetsos has designed a website which will be linked through the City's portal.
- Strengthening Families for the Future is a program which Bob is involved in. The information is included with these minutes. The aim is to reduce, through education, factors which put the family unit at risk which can lead to drug abuse/alcohol addiction and criminal activity. The program includes problem solving strategies and anger management counseling. Fundraising at a rate of \$550 per family (for provision of food for dinners) is required. Beaver Brae Secondary School is the host venue.

Discussion of the abuse of prescription drugs took place. Bob will arrange, with Bill Richards, for a presentation on the issue.

Bill Richards reported on the new look of the Kenora OPP Community Policing Committee. Members can act as a liaison between community members and the police. Several members, as well as Janet Alcock, from this committee, took part in the "Stuff a Cruiser" initiative at Christmas.

10. KAR Update

Buck Matiowski reported that:

- The KAR contract, with the City, for his services is extended until April 30th
- He and his family will remain in Kenora where he will find opportunities to offer his services as a volunteer

Harbourtown Centre Committee Minutes – January 6, 2011

Discussion of the North American First Nations Hockey Tournament no longer being held in Kenora and the possible impact to the local economy. Buck indicated that the issue was one of not having an organizer being willing to take on the event.

Bill Richards clarified that although Buck will no longer be organizing special events, dropping some tasks will be in accordance with medical advice Buck has received. He indicated further that the programs which are the social component to Buck's work on the Harbourfront are those which KAR will still be interested in seeing continue.

11. Tourism Update

Heather Paterson reported that:

- The last month has been very busy
- The next meeting of the Tourism Committee will be on January 26th
- Tourism Kenora received \$160,000 to run a regional advertising campaigns this winter. It mirrors the "Escape to Ontario" campaign which Tourism Kenora coordinated this summer. In addition, the "S'now Excuse" campaign, will run during January and February and is a partnership with KHA.
- The KHA calendars turned out very well this year and are available at the tourism centre or any hotel.
- The Winter Carnival 2011 will run from March 4th-6th, on the Harbourfront. Instead of the "Carnival Princess", there will be a community charity challenge, with the charity selling the most buttons receiving 50% of the proceeds and a \$1000 bonus; the other 50% will go into reserve funding for future winter carnival events.

12. CPR Update

Not in attendance.

13. Downtown Revitalization Phase II

Nothing to report

14. Stray dogs & other things

Bill Richards provided an outline of suggested tasks for the 2011 workplan: Docking, parking on the north side of Lakeview Drive, shuttle services, signage from the by-pass to downtown, additional lighting on Main Street, additional public washrooms, and "Welcome Back Summer Residents" banner. The 2010 work plan will be distributed with the minutes for review and discussion.

Ralph Page suggested that, in order to reduce confusion, the Winkler Park sign on the Harbourfront be changed to "Kelvin Winkler Park". Many visitors wonder about the name as Kenora is geographically close to Winkler MB.

Sharon Smith commented on the signage which indicates that there is a casino at the Golden Eagle location at Wauzhusk Onigum (Rat Portage); the signage is erroneous as there is no actual casino facility.

- 15. Next meeting: Thursday, February 3, 2011 7:30 am. Please forward suggested changes to the terms of reference to Tara at trickaby@kenora.ca**