



Minutes

City of Kenora

Lake of the Woods Development Commission
Annual General Meeting

Thursday, July 21, 2011

5:00 p.m.

Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre

Commission Board Members Present:

Dennis Wallace, Chair; Geordie McEwen, Vice Chair; Randy Nickle, Secretary; Don Denver, Treasurer; Thelma Wilkins-Page, Mort Goss, Allan Luby, Councillor Sharon Smith, Mayor David Canfield, Ex Officio; Andy Scribilo, Kenora & District Chamber of Commerce

Staff Resource:

Jennifer Findlay, EDO, Karen Brown, CAO, Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk, Heather Paterson, Tourism Development Officer, Josh Nelson, Tourism Services

Government Resource

Nancy Tulloch, Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Recreation, Pamela Bryson, FedNor

Additional Council Members Present:

Rory McMillan, Charito Drinkwalter, Ron Lunny, Rod McKay

Chair Dennis Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

A. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof:

- a) On today's agenda
- b) From a meeting at which a Member was not in attendance

None Declared.

B. Reports:

1. Annual Report of the Directors

Dennis Wallace, Chair

Dennis highlighted the improved economic and social circumstance over the past year. Good planning with excellent outcomes has yielded much economic infrastructure that is attracting private sector investment. Increased cultural and arts activities are beginning to register in the community and beyond. The conditions are right for more inward movement of people.

With the Tourism Plan, Economic Development plan, Strategies for Beaches, Docks and Trails reports all completed and released, Kenora has a bright path for development and prosperity. These strategies provide opportunities for Kenora for a wide variety of funding prospects and have laid the ground work for the private sector to invest in Kenora. Every event in Kenora is what makes this community rich but not just to visit Kenora, but to decide to move here. Kenora has one of the most beautiful lakes in the world but once visitors have explored the lake, then we need to give them what follows. This is what the Commission continues to campaign. Dennis is expecting that because the economic infrastructure is in place now, the private sector will pick it up. Once the base is in place, the private sector must seize it. Other infrastructure that has been put in place allows for housing developments. With the presence of First Nations partnerships we are ahead of the whole province and we have so much to look forward to over the next year.

Thelma Wilkins-Page, Business Development & Attraction Chair

Business Development and Attraction works directly with new and existing businesses to create jobs and increase assessment. In addition, this committee works on the development of infrastructure and marketing projects which will bring new residents to Kenora and Lake of the Woods.

Thelma reported that the Committee has met with the owners of the former Abitibi property and discussed their plans for the property which directly met the Commission's vision for economic growth and development. They have worked in close partnership with the City on the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) for the former mill site. The CIP will provide tax incentives and other programs to businesses interested in locating on the former mill site. Wincrief's Ready to Move housing business has already located on the site with plans for another business on the site and discussions are currently underway with three other businesses potentially interested in the site. The vision for the site is to create a business park with small and medium sized value added forestry businesses co-located on the site to facilitate resource sharing and highest and best use of the resource.

Thelma expressed how encouraged the committee is with the trend of new small businesses opening and a lot of businesses coming from outside the area. The Committee talks with these business owners to find out what brought them here. The committee also works closely with the Kenora District Chamber of Commerce, the downtown BIZ group and the Northwest Business Centre to provide local business with workshops, seminars and support which assists new, existing and expanding businesses.

The Kenora.ca website is being re-launched with a new look and feel. Retailers are indicating that we are having a banner year and it is great to hear.

Randy Nickle, Tourism & Special Events Chair

Tourism and Special Events Chair, Randy Nickle noted that the Tourism committee represents the key tourism partners and includes representatives of the tourism industry. Through the Tourism Strategy adopted in 2008, the focus is a comprehensive four season document that focuses on four key areas: Four Season Marketing Plan, Product Development, Training and Hospitality and Special Events, with a further strand which is staffing.

The committee leveraged \$181,500 in additional marketing dollars and led seven municipalities in the joint spring and winter "Escape to Ontario" marketing campaigns. Three other very successful campaigns as well as the addition of social media to the Tourism area has proved great success.

The Thistle Pavillion has been completely refurbished with the expanded washrooms including accessible and family public washrooms. As of today, Tourism services has been relocated to the new Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre. This visitor information service will be both educational about Kenora's rich history, culture and ecology as well as attractive for all visitors. The new Harbourfront tent will provide key special events infrastructure starting this fall. The Roger Brooks presentation provided great ideas and the committee will be looking to bring him back in the fall.

Geordie McEwen, Education & Training Chair

Geordie McEwen, Education & Training Chair reported that the Strategic plan is completed. Their focus is on increased post-secondary opportunities that will provide benefits to the retention of local youth, attraction of youth from the region and other areas of Canada and attract businesses to our community. The focus for the committee is on partnership development with training and education providers such as the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg, Confederation College, 7 Generations, Keewatin-Patricia and Kenora Catholic School Boards, First Nations Education and other potential partners.

Moved by M. Goss, Seconded by R. Nickle & Carried:-

That the Lake of the Woods Development Commission accepts the 2011 Annual Report as presented.

2. Financial Report

Don Denver, Commission Treasurer presented the financial report of the Commission and reported that under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and the City the audit is contained within the City of Kenora's. The financial summaries were prepared by the City Treasurer. It was noted that the Commission had expenditures of just over \$821,000 last year. Approximately 2/3 of those operating dollars came from the City, with the remainder from external funding sources. The Commission completed the year with a very small variance of \$980 which was amortization for which there had not been a budget allocated. It was noted that the departments generated higher than anticipated revenues which were used for projects and programs.

Moved by G. McEwen, Seconded by M. Goss & Carried:-

That the Lake of the Woods Development Commission accepts the Financials 2010 report as presented.

3. Board of Directors – 2011

The following will comprise the 2011 Board of Directors for the Lake of the Woods Development Commission:

Dennis Wallace	Commission Chair
Geordie McEwen	Vice Chair / Education & Training Chair
Randy Nickle	Secretary / Tourism & Special Events Chair
Don Denver	Treasurer
Thelma Wilkins-Page	Business Development & Attraction Chair
Mort Goss	Director
Adolphus Cameron	Director
Sharon Smith	Director and City of Kenora Council
Andrew Scribilo	Director and Kenora District Chamber of Commerce Rep
Allan Luby	Director
Darlene Literovich	Director and Kenora & District Labour Council Rep
Mayor David Canfield	City of Kenora – Ex Officio

Moved by G. McEwen, Seconded by T. Wilkins-Page & Carried:-

That the Lake of the Woods Development Commission accepts the Board of Directors for the 2011 year as presented.

4. Appointment of the Auditor

Moved by D. Denver, Seconded by R. Nickle & Carried:-

Whereas the City of Kenora appointed BDO Dunwoody, LLP as the City's auditor from 2008 through 2012; and

Whereas the City of Kenora provides certain services to the Lake of the Woods Development Commission;

Now Therefore be it resolved that the financial statements of the Lake of the Woods Development Commission will be audited by BDO Dunwoody, LLP, Auditor for the City of Kenora.

Moved by G. McEwen, Seconded by T. Wilkins-Page & Carried:-

That this Annual General Meeting is now declared closed at 6:00 p.m.