



Kenora Event Centre Committee Minutes

Tuesday April 8, 2014
5:30 p.m.

Kenora Recreation Centre Upstairs Meeting Room

ACTION

PRESENT: Mike Dietsch, Co-Chair
Chris Van Walleghem, Co-Chair
Judy Bain
Laci Dingwall
Rory McMillan, Councillor
Colleen Neil, Recreation Manager
Megan Derouard, Recreation Programmer
Kerri Holder, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Ron Lunny, Councillor
Ruth Illman

Mike Dietsch called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

A. 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 were none declared.

B. Confirmation of Minutes:

Moved by R. McMillan, Seconded by L. Dingwall & Carried:-

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Kenora Event Centre Committee meeting held March 18, 2014.

C. Items:

4. Tourism Committee Meeting

This meeting has been set for Monday April 14 at noon and an agenda had been sent out earlier this week. It was suggested to send background reports for the members of the Tourism Committee to review. Kerri to send the information. It was hoped that this meeting will help to answer some questions that came from Council and to find out how the strategies of each committee fit together.

There are four main areas to lead discussion: an introduction of this Committee and its mandate, where this Committee is at now, what the tourism strategy is and the alignment of both strategies.

K. Holder

All agreed both committees are interested in promoting sport tourism and this project is a good fit. Having two volunteer committees supporting this project relays a positive message.

5. Council & Senior Managers Meeting

Colleen indicated that the date for this meeting is unconfirmed but has been received with positive results from both Council and managers. There was discussion around a suitable date for all to attend and there was a suggestion of May 13th right after the Committee of the Whole meeting. Colleen will check with Heather Kasprick and senior managers to finalize the time and date. The meeting will be open to the public which was noted as positive.

C. Neil

It was decided that at the next regular meeting, the Committee will look at the framework for the presentation to Council. The presentations will include information on the need/demand as well as the straw dog business case report outlining the key components required to provide the level of detail required to make an informed decision. It was explained that it is important to meet with staff to know what issues may come up if the project moves along from a volunteer committee project to a City project. Staff need to be involved now to make sure the City has what is needed to continue with the next steps. The goal is to provide a business case with all the answers to move forward, to have it accepted by Council.

To date, Colleen has sent extensive background information on demographics and need/demand data to Council. It was requested that the same information be sent to the Committee for their review for the upcoming meeting. There was discussion about the importance of the Committee leadership at the meeting.

C. Neil

There was discussion about what the steps would be if the business case goes to the next council. There were concerns that presentations would have to be done all over again with a new council. Councillor McMillan advised that this project could be part of a package of issues for new council to review.

There was discussion about putting this project to a referendum and it was decided that there is no time to go that route now. It was noted that this Committee has gathered public input through public consultations and the on-line survey.

There was discussion about the term of the Committee. It was confirmed that its term ends with this Council. All indicated they are interested in continuing with the project if given the opportunity but many expressed concern about having to start from scratch again.

6. Thunder Bay Event Centre Teleconference

Councillor McMillan has been in touch with City of Thunder Bay Mayor Hobbs, the Clerk and CAO. It was suggested to delay the teleconference given the new developments in Thunder Bay where a community survey is now planned to collect public opinion. It was noted that in comparison, this Committee has already gathered public input and are moving along with their plan. There was discussion about the cost differences between the two event centres also, noting Kenora's concept is smaller in size and cost. All remained in favour of scheduling the teleconference. It was mentioned that the call be arranged for after the meeting with Council and senior managers as they will have a better idea of what additional information will be needed for this business case. The

Committee would like to learn more from City of Thunder Bay, specifically how they secured funding to get to this stage of their plan.

7. Work Plan Review

The work plan created in April 2013 was reviewed and it was noted that most of the tasks have been achieved within the estimated time lines. The work plan will now need to include the steps to complete the business case. It was suggested to finalize the steps required for the business case with Council and senior managers.

Colleen asked the group if they are willing to consider downsizing the project to the addition of an ice surface only. There was discussion about the funding options and the total cost of this project. Colleen asked if this group is ready to approach arts clubs, community partners etc. about fundraising. Although the project has not been approved, Colleen indicated that Karen Brown gave approval to pursue fundraising partners. It was mentioned that community partners do have more access to funding and that funding is available for more than just an additional ice surface. It was suggested that fundraising models be investigated as a next step for the Committee.

There were concerns noted regarding shrinking the project. The economic impact of the event centre will be significantly more as proposed than with just a second ice surface. There was discussion about the history of twinning ice surface proposals in Kenora and that at the time it was first proposed over 20 years ago, it was all the community needed and wanted. Now various components of an event centre have been requested by the public which has been revealed through the surveys and consultations. The event centre concept fits in with the tourism strategy and sport tourism concept.

Mike offered that the project is not at a place to start shrinking, but needs to get to next stage with business case to show the community where the funding will come from, through fundraising and other provincial funding. Once that is fully reviewed then considerations on size and scope will be more applicable.

Developing the project by staging in pieces was mentioned and it was thought that this may be the way this project has to happen. Councillor McMillan shared that he had received comments of this nature also. There was consensus that in order to generate the level of revenue needed, the project has to be developed as one parcel.

All agreed to continue with the full conceptual plan, until absolutely necessary to shrink or stage/phase in.

There was an inquiry about the status of the website, the monkey survey and e-mail address. It was noted that the e-mail address has been inactive and the monkey survey was closed. It was suggested that there may be new questions and answers to post on the website after the upcoming meeting with Council and senior management.

8. Next Steps

- 1) attend various meetings
- 2) prepare documents for Council and senior management meeting
- 3) engage fundraising and marketing leads

9. New Business

Laci brought forward a letter and information she had received regarding a request to include a play structure in this project. The letter was accompanied by a petition signed with 200 names and an indication that the parents could head up fundraising if needed. There was discussion around liability and private versus public ownership, also hygiene concerns were mentioned. All agreed that this was a great idea to keep on file.

Councillor McMillan asked if the group was feeling good about the project and all indicated they are willing to continue on.

10. Communications and/or Announcements

None

11. Next Meeting Dates

- Monday, April 14th at noon - with Tourism Committee
- Tuesday, May 6th at 5:30 pm - regular committee meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

L. Dingwall