



KENORA URBAN TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2015
8:00 a.m. – Operations Board Room

Attendance:

Penny Beal
Sharon Smith
James Williams
Melissa Shaw (Minute Taker)

Michelle Queen
Heather Gropp

Regrets:

Dave Schwartz
Diane Pelletier
Paloma Corrin
Steve Mastromatteo
Ren Amell

Call to Order

8:05 a.m.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

None declared

Adoption of Minutes

Business arising from minutes:

Discussion / Correction(s):

Accepted for information purposes only

Administration

Adopt Five Year Plan 2015-2019

The five-year plan was adopted at the June 2015 meeting. The 5- year trails plan will form part of the Beaches Parks and Trails document which is being reexamined by Scatliff + Miller + Murray, the current five year plan is within an excel format, the committee may be required to create a write-up.

Action:

Send Five -Year Plan to Members

Melissa Shaw

Trail Development/ Maintenance:

1. Rabbit Lake Clean-up:

Request update from Steve Mastromatteo, and conversations with MNR on clean-up opportunity.

Background:

In collaboration with the MNR A crew of fire fighters has offered to spearhead the cutting of hazardous trees, widening and formalizing existing paths within the Rabbit Lake Trails Area. The work crew would consist of 8-15 personnel and supervisors. Their work will result in a straighter trail that will run North and South from the St. Thomas Aquinas High school (TA) soccer field to Rabbit Lake. Access to Municipal land would be via TA property. See the images below.

This finger trail would allow easier and increased public access and will assist in emergency responses or other unforeseen circumstances.

The MNR is conducting this work as a training activity at no cost to the City.

Once the trail has been developed the Trail Committee can discuss the formal approval of the trail as an addition to the Urban Trails Inventory.

2. Beaver Brae Trail:

Send the Friends of the Trails Brochure to committee members for review. Suggested changes should be emailed to Melissa Shaw.

Ask Chris Penner for an update on the Beaver Brae Trail, development not only imperative to students, but also will play a key role in access to and from the Rowing Club for the 2017 Canada Games.

The idea of organizing a *Friend of the Trails Meet and Greet* was tabled to a later date.

Action:

Send Friend of Trails Maintenance Guide to Committee Members	Melissa Shaw
Approach the School board about placing the trail head on school property	Chris Penner
Naming rights of the trail	Chris Penner

3. Trail Infrastructure:

Request update and information from Ren Amell, will be good to inform Steve on the status of the trails in future conversations with MNR on clean-up opportunity.

4. Rabbit Lake Trail Expansion:

In discussion with the Kenova Rowing Club, the Rabbit Lake trail expansion is not imperative to the functionality of the 2017 Canada Summer Games; however an extension to Houghton Beach would provide superior spectator locations. Correlation with the games might

open up opportunity for funding, as a dream is to loop this trail completely around the lake. Although this may be accomplished one day in a phased approach, the forefront of our 2016/2017 goal should be to imitate the expansion of an accessible trail to Houghton Beach. Map provided below. Steve Mastromatteo and James William to walk the Trail with City of Kenora Staff to map the locations, and to flag for future clean-up opportunities potentially from Volunteers, students and or the MNR.

James William will look into funding possibilities within the MNR and possible ways to incorporate fishing opportunities and marshland viewing platforms.

Action:

Introduce James and Steve to City of Kenora Engineering to initiate walk-about on Rabbit Lake to GPS and Flag	Melissa Shaw
Funding Opportunities MNR	James Williams

2. Great Lake of the Woods Trail and Trans Canada Trail

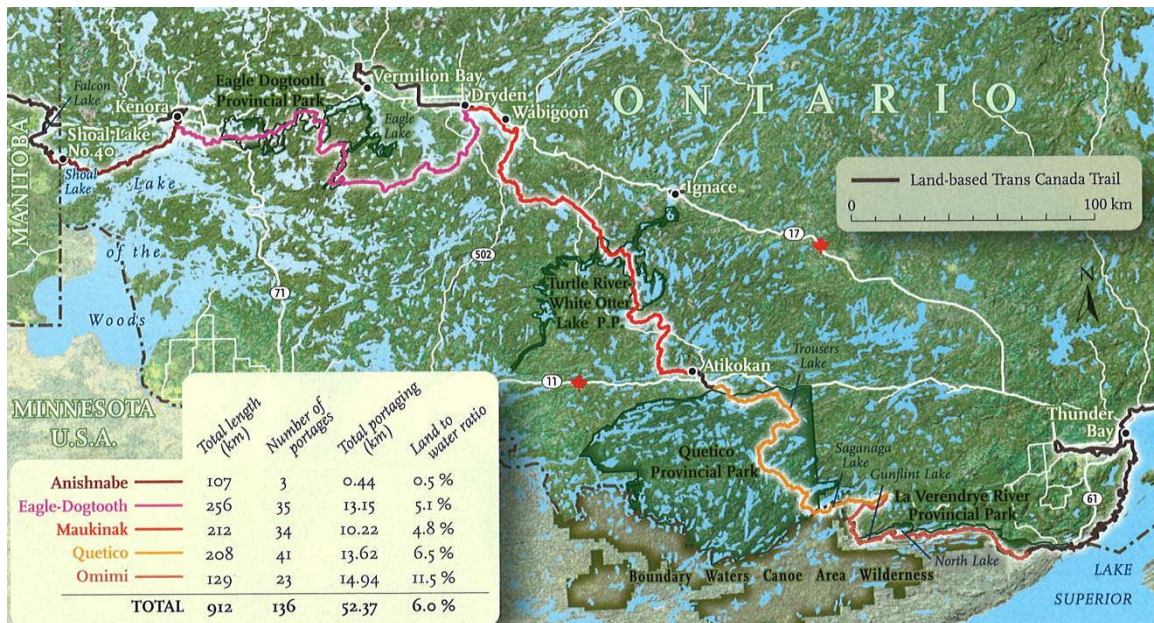
Action:

Committee members discussed the route of the great Lakes of the Woods Trail; Chair spoke to members about the request from Trans Canada Trail to co-brand the Great Lakes of the Woods Trail alongside the TCT. As many are aware, the existing land trail of the TCT will be decommissioned in Kenora, the TCT will be registered as a water based route through the northwest, Linking Thunder Bay to the Ontario-Manitoba Boarder, passing through Kenora. The trial will include two land based touch points within our community, these locations have been identified at Anicinabe Park and Norma Beach. TCT users will portage along the Great Lakes of the Woods trail to the old Keewatin Boat Launch where the TC Trail will continue on its designated water route to Manitoba. Visit www.tctrail.ca for more information.

The Trails Committee is asked to agree with the co-branding of the Trans Canada Trail and the Great Lakes of the Woods Trail. This co-branding will bring further awareness to Kenora, and our trail systems and it will also open the door for funding opportunity for the Great Lakes of the woods Trail development and signage.

Committee members should also agree that the Great Lakes of the Woods trail, travel up Highway 17 along the Rat Portage Trail, continuing on this route to Norman Beach, where it will re-route through Norman Beach via an accessible trail, along the Pearson accessible walkway (in development) and up through the Discovery Centre where it will once again connect with Highway 17 to the Mink Bay Trail.

Diane and Melissa will be meeting with a TCT consultant, Path of the Paddle representative on Friday September 25th, 2015, and will bring further communication to the Committee at the next scheduled meeting.



ACTION

Consider Great Lake of the Woods Trail development, route development and co-branding with TCT,	Committee
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New Business:

2017 Canada Summer Games

City of Kenora is one of only two communities outside of Winnipeg to host an event in 2017 for the Canada Summer Games. The sport of rowing will take place at the Kenora Rowing Club on Rabbit Lake. City Staff and Kenora Rowing Club Executive together with Sport Manitoba have already begun planning and working to prepare the venue for summer 2017.

The Rowing event would include 260 rowing athletes and mission staff. In addition, there will be major officials participating in the event as well as attendance of VIPs and government representatives. Having the Canada Games - Rowing Event on Rabbit Lake will have a major economic impact for the City of Kenora.

There is potential for available funding dollars to continue the development of trails, Rabbit Lake, Beaver Brae, and Thomas Aquinas School. Committee members should develop a strategic plan for 2016/2017 development in preparation for the 2017 Games. Note: Beaver Brae and T.A will host the nearly 300 athletes from across Canada. The trails from these schools to the Rowing club may be used as alternative access to the venue for athletes, coaches, volunteers and spectators.

ACTION

Consider Trail development and funding opportunities in collaboration with Canada Games.	Committee
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Provincial Government Cycling Investment:

The Cycling Committee met with City officials to prepare an Expression of Interest towards the Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program (OMCIP). The proposed project will ensure that cyclists can ride on a paved shoulder along two (2) of the six (6) recreational routes, and two (2) of the five (5) commuter routes which form the City of Kenora's Share the Road Bicycle Routes. There are sections of the paved shoulder on these existing routes that end without warning (i.e. uneven surface, or turn to gravel surface) and then revert to paved once more, forcing cyclists have to join traffic unexpectedly, or have to tackle a surface change at speed.

The Kenora Active Connections project would introduce a continuous paved shoulder on a commuter and popular triathlon training route that currently require sharing the road with traffic thereby improving safety and the rider experience. The Kenora Urban Trails Committee's Bicycle Sub-Committee has identified the Active Connections project areas as safety priorities.

Successful Applicants should be contacted within the next few months.

Norman Park Concept Plan:

Scatliff Miller Murray a landscape Architect out of Winnipeg was hired by the City of Kenora to update the Kenora Beaches Parks & Trails Concept Plan (2010) to include Norman Park and Keewatin Beach.

The concept plans for Norman Park and Keewatin Beach will be developed through stakeholder interviews and public meetings. The Kenora Urban trails Committee was identified as a stakeholder. Focus groups were scheduled on Wednesday September 9th, 2015, whereby Penny Beal was in attendance on behalf of the Committee.

A link to the current Beaches Parks & Trails Concept Plan (2010) will provide you with some background to the project:

<http://listview.kenora.ca/Files/LOWDC/Shared%20Documents/Reports%20and%20Plans/2010%20Beaches%20Parks%20Trails%20Report.pdf>

Other stakeholders include trails groups, Kinsmen, Kenora Rotary, Lion's Club, DQ, Railway museum and area businesses as well as Norman area residents and Tourism Kenora.

Once the draft plans have been prepared, public consultation will be advertised within the community.

Take a Hike Campaign

Heather Gropp presented the most recent Tourism Campaign "Take a Hike" The landing page for the site is www.stayinkenora.com.

The site has 2,529 visitors in the month of September, and an additional 600 users in August. Of the 2529 visitors in September, 500 of them were unique (new) to the site. The campaign is advertised in Winnipeg via Billboards, as well, within Lifestyle 55 magazine, the Winnipeg Sun and Winnipeg Free Press, via social media and on Kenora Online. The target market extends all the way to Southern Winnipeg and Grand Forks.

Time and Day of Trails Meeting

Tabled for voting on until next meeting, request was made a few members to discuss start time, and the day of the month when meetings take place.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 13th – Operations Boardroom 8:00 am.

Meeting Closed – 9:30 am