



Northwood Ward Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Kinsmen Youth Centre

609 James Street N.

Pages

1. **Northwood Ward Meeting 01-2025**
Chair: Councillor Dominic Pasqualino
2. **Resource Persons**
John Collin, City Manager
Tina Larocque, Coordinator - Boards, Committees & Special Projects
3. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
The Chair to provide introductory comments.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
Minutes of the 02-2024 ward meeting held on October 10, 2024, for information. 2 - 6
5. **Growth Discussion with City Manager**
City Manager John Collin to provide an overview of City Growth.
6. **Ward & City Issues**
7. **Adjournment**



Ward Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 10, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Kinsmen Youth Centre
609 James Street N.

1. Northwood Ward Meeting 02-2024

Chair: Councillor Dominic Pasqualino

2. Resource Persons

Krista Power, Director of Legislative Services & City Clerk
Cory Halvorsen, Manager - Parks and Open Spaces
Doug Picard, Supervisor - Forestry and Horticulture
Tina Larocque, Coordinator - Boards, Committees & Special Projects
Crystal DePeuter, Council & Committee Clerk

3. Guests

Rebecca Johnson, Chair - Council Composition Review Committee
Wayne Bahlieda, Member - Council Composition Review Committee
Cody Fraser, Member - Council Composition Review Committee

4. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair provided introductory remarks and introduced Chair - Council Composition Review Committee Rebecca Johnson and Director - Legislative Services & City Clerk Krista Power.

There were approximately 22 people in attendance.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the 01-2024 ward meeting held on June 26, 2024, for information.

6. Presentation - Council Composition

Chair - Council Composition Review Committee Rebecca Johnson provided a presentation relative to Phase Two of the Council Composition Review. City Clerk, Krista Power was present to respond to questions from residents about the legislative process associated with making changes to City Council.

The presentation included an overview of the committee make up and process, and key findings from the consultations in Phase One.

Chair Johnson presented the two options that are being presented to the community for feedback during Phase Two:

Option 1 – 10 elected at-large, mayor

Option 2 – 4 wards (2 each) + 2 at-large, mayor

Wards will divide via main thoroughfares (Red River Road / Dawson Road; Oliver Road; Arthur Street) and will run east to west to include waterfront, urban, industrial, rural, potential growth areas in each ward

Names will be replaced with numbers

Wards will be balanced according to: population, income, education, number of households, and diversity.

Chair Johnson advised of public feedback opportunities including deputation opportunity on November 20, 2024 via special committee meeting.

Chair Johnson and Clerk Power fielded questions and comments from constituents:

- Why include at-large in the ward model - why not straight ward?
 - Inclusion of at-large reflects feedback at the Indigenous Circle focus group who discussed the increased chance for an Indigenous candidate to be elected during an at-large race.
 - The division into 4 wards (2 councillors) resulted in 8 councillors vs. the 10 councillors reflected in overall Phase 1 feedback.
 - Current system is hybrid and is unique to Thunder Bay. Committee wanted an option that maintained the hybrid model.
- Can a position on council be designated as Indigenous to ensure representation?
 - There is no mechanism to designate or guarantee representation.

- Is there research on what model would increase diversity?
 - Data shows that there is increased diversity with ward system related to the expense in running.
- Why 4 wards and not 3 wards with 3 at-large?
 - Committee is presenting these two recommendations based on feedback from Phase One as a start.
 - Committee needs public input on the recommendations to collect and quantify data.
- There was discussion that 2 councillors per ward Increases representation and allows residents to connect with one or the other or both.
 - Comparator cities have found that this model can help with representation and improves the democratic process.
- Is there anything that would prevent at-large councillors from holding ward or neighbourhood meetings if an all at-large council?
 - Not technically; however, at-large councillors do not have the same level of accountability to one area of the city or the other.
 - All councillors, ward and at-large have an obligation to make decisions in the best interest of the city as a whole.
- Is there a semi-at-large councillor option?
 - No - that would be considered a ward councillor.
- There was discussion that the majority of the decisions made by city council are city-wide matters, but a member can only vote for a fraction of the council with a ward system.
- There was discussion regarding at-large campaigns relying heavily on name recognition.
- Are there supports for people who want to run but might face barriers, in the interest of diversity?
 - There are sessions and workshops provided by the City of Thunder Bay on the process and specific organizations that can support
- Chair Johnson and Clerk Power emphasized the importance of formal feedback and encouraged all constituents to participate in the upcoming

survey and other public engagement opportunities designed to capture feedback.

7. Trees on City Property

The Chair introduced Manager - Parks and Open Spaces Cory Halvorsen and Supervisor - Forestry and Horticulture Doug Picard to answer questions from residents on tree maintenance.

Question raised about the viability of the train at Centennial Park as it breaks down frequently. It was advised that the train is part the committed service level.

Question raised about why Chippewa Park was kept open longer than Trowbridge Park. It was advised that there was an increase in demand for the facilities related to events.

Discussion on a tree trimming demand and scheduling including:

- A Tree Stewardship Program that would allow citizens to learn to trim and could leverage volunteers. It was advised that a similar program was discontinued due to the administrative burden and the need to reallocate resources.
- The need for trees to be trimmed more frequently. It was advised that there is a challenge with addressing individual calls that are not a safety or tree health priority. Resources are needed to work through areas systematically and to triage priority cases. The department is looking at ways to address individual calls to improve customer service.
- Complaint about the length of time to remove stumps. It was advised that stump removal is not the same crew or equipment as tree maintenance. It is recognized that there is a backlog on stumps and the department is looking at ways to improve.
- Question regarding a schedule for neighbourhoods. It was advised that calls are appreciated so that situations can be assessed and a conversation regarding realistic timelines can take place.
- Complaint from Humber Crescent about the large trees and excessive clean up needed for leaves. It was advised that leaf clean up is not a service level the city provides. A point was raised that leaves are not damaging and could be left, also that the trees themselves improve air quality and provides a cooling canopy in the summer.

- Complaint from Humber Crescent about the trees blocking the streetlights and creating a safety issue. Resident was advised to contact dispatch for an assessment.
- Question about root systems and damage to pipes. It was advised that root systems will not affect healthy pipes, root damage is a symptom of a failed service and indicate an existing issue with pipes.

8. Ward & City Issues

The Chair provided information related to the report on encampments and proposed temporary sites. He advised that council has received a first report with more information coming back to the October 21 meeting for discussion. The Chair acknowledged that the City cannot designate people to a specific location but can offer a place with access to facilities and that this is a difficult and complex issue that requires both an immediate and long-term solution.

Concerns were raised with respect to the restrictions found in the Boulevard Garden By-law. The resident indicated that the current proposed restrictions prohibit activity related to food security and provided examples of municipalities with similar conditions who have less restrictive parameters. The resident advised that they would be providing more detailed information to all members of council.

A discussion was held about complaint-based by-law enforcement, specifically related to the Boulevard Garden By-law and naturalization projects. It was raised that by-law enforcement can sometimes be used as a retaliatory measure for neighbours. There was a suggestion that the City educate residents through signage and promote naturalization projects.

A question was raised regarding astro-turf. The Chair advised that there is not a by-law prohibiting but there are some restrictions. It was also noted that it tends to be expensive and not offer good drainage.

A question was raised regarding the bear that was frequenting the area. The Chair advised that as far as he understood the bear has relocated and is no longer in the area.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.