



Ward Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Vance Chapman Public School
1000 Huron Avenue

1. Current River Ward Meeting 02-2023

Chair: Councillor Andrew Foulds

2. Resource Persons

Police Chief Darcy Fleury
Deputy Police Chief Ryan Hughes
Tina Larocque, Coordinator - Boards, Committees & Special Projects
Lori Wiitala, Committee Clerk & Legislative Specialist

3. Attendance

There were approximately 22 individuals in attendance at the meeting.

4. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair provided introductory comments and introduced members of Administration and welcomed those in attendance.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of Meeting 01-2023 of the Current River ward meeting held on February 21, 2023, for information.

6. Crime and Community

Chief of Police Darcy Fleury and Deputy Police Chief Ryan Hughes provided an update relative to the above noted.

Chief of Police Darcy Fleury assumed the role as Chief designate in April 2023 and in May 2023 he became Chief of Police. He has over 36 years of experience with investigative, operational, administrative policing and leadership in both

senior and executive levels. He meets regularly with the senior staff team, attended ward meetings and has held two Town Hall meetings to gather feedback from the community. They also continue to work with several agencies including mental health and social services.

The current objectives are the Structure of the Agency, Community Engagement and Enforcement Strategy.

Chief of Police Darcy Fleury and Deputy Police Chief Ryan Hughes responded to questions relative to community safety and drug houses. They advised that there is a process to form grounds to obtain a warrant, and once the warrant is written and arrest has been made, drugs have been ceased. Unfortunately, many get released and continue with the crime again. Information from the public is very important in these cases. Important information shared with the Police can be the number of people or cars that stop at the residence, licence plates, the frequency of the people visiting a residence such as 40 people during 7-9 pm.

Deputy Police Chief Ryan Hughes responded to questions relative to the role of Police and protecting youth. He advised that there are variety of programs that they work with youth such as the crime prevention and awareness programs. They also visit high schools and have positive interactions with students and they continue to work on building relationships with our youth.

Chief of Police Darcy Fleury responded to questions regarding the role of the Thunder Bay Police Services Board. The Thunder Bay Police Services Board is tasked with providing adequate and effective police services within Thunder Bay. The board is accountable to the community and to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Determining objectives and priorities with respect to police services in Thunder Bay, following consultation with the Chief of Police
- Establish policies for the effective management of the Service
- Recruit and appoint the Chief of Police and any Deputy Chief of Police, and determine their remuneration and working conditions
- Direct the Chief of Police and monitor his or her performance.

The Thunder Bay Police Services Board is made up of five civilian members: two members of City Council, one community representative appointed by City Council, and two community representatives appointed by the Province.

7. Ward and City Issues

The following questions were received prior to the meeting and at the meeting:

7.1 Boulevard Lake Dam

The city has invested millions of dollars into the dam on Boulevard Lake, and it is a benefit to the city and neighbourhood. Part of this project was a lighting system on the dam visible from Cumberland Street. However, currently and frequently since the project's completion, several lights are non functional. This reflects badly on both the city and neighbourhood. How can it become a priority to ensure the ongoing maintenance of this dam and lighting?

Response received from Mike Vogrig, Project Engineer, Infrastructure and Operations Division.

The dam work is still under a warranty period to certify the work completed by the contractor. The non-functional lights and repairs are covered by this warranty and is the responsibility of the contractor to finish. The contractor has been notified of the deficiency and has until the end of the warranty period to repair the lights under the contract. Since the work is under the contract we cannot go in and make repairs to the work until the end of the period as we are bound by the contract.

7.2 Relocation of a Fire Hydrant

Part of the water feed system upgrade at the dead end of Dewe Avenue, has been the relocation of a fire hydrant from the dead end of Lillian Street to the dead end of Dewe Ave. Will it be possible to have access to this new location of the fire hydrant maintained and plowed during the winter to ensure, from a public safety perspective, that the fire department will be able to reach it in case of an emergency?

Response from Ian Spoljarich, Manager – Roads, Engineering & Operations.

The dead end of Dewe Ave will continue to be plowed through the winter during regular operations allowing access to this fire hydrant. It is a residential street and should be completed within 72 hours following a winter event after priority routes are done. Clearing of the fire hydrant itself is looked after by the Sewer and Water Division.

7.3 Trap House & Community Safety

There is a house located on Rita Street has been on an ongoing basis a trap house. Recently several overdoses/deaths (Wilfred James English reported in press) have been associated with that location. Are there any plans to increase policing in the neighbourhood of this house to ensure community safety?

The Police Chief, Darcy Fleury responded that this home was previously occupied by drug dealer, who no longer lives there. There is now a new owner of the home. The Police Chief noted that this information that was shared with them was very helpful and the residence will be now be monitored.

The Police Chief Darcy Fleury reminded residents to call Crime Stoppers or his office regarding suspected drug activity. The input from residents is very valuable, needed and appreciated.

7.4 Roads and Potholes

There are several locations throughout the neighbourhood where potholes have been reported, and repairs have still not been completed. Is there any way that the city prioritize these repairs?

Response from Ian Spoljarich, Manager – Roads, Engineering & Operations.

Pothole repairs are completed by operational crews or the Python 5000 and are identified through citizen reports and routine staff patrolling. Inspections are then completed and repairs are prioritized based on pothole severity, safety impacts and location.

According to our Roads Maintenance Objectives, priority for repair work carried out on Asphalt Surfaces will be in the order of: Arterial Roadways, Collector Roadways and Local Roadways.

7.5 Strathcona Avenue Overpass

I am not sure whether or not it is the City's responsibility to maintain this underpass or whether it is CP Rail, but something should be done about it as this problem has been left idle for much too long.

Many cross country travellers stay at the KOA RV Park on Spruce River Road and when they come into the City via Lakeshore Drive and Strathcona Avenue, and this is the first impression that they get of our beautiful City.

We own property in Current River and on Lakeshore Drive and use this underpass twice a day, and have done so for almost 15 years and every day it bothers me that the visitors to our City might think that this is representative of how things are run in general here in the City of Thunder Bay, which by the way, is “Superior by Nature”.

The following was the response that was provided by Kayla Dixon, Director of Engineering & Operations:

Kayla Dixon confirmed that the City is not responsible for the overpass structure on Strathcona/Lakeshore Dr. A request will be sent to CP to take care of the graffiti, but it is not something we have authority over.

7.6 Update on Victoriaville Centre

Can you provide an update on Victoriaville Centre?

The Chair provided an update relative to the Victoriaville Centre Demolition and Victoria Avenue Reconstruction and the following information was provided:

- Extensive public consultation process had taken place which included stakeholder groups, public open houses and City of Thunder Bay's Get Involved website.
- Construction Project should be completed over 3 phases, 2023 (Renovation), 2024 (Demolition) and 2025 (Redevelopment).
- Preferred Design and Project Update is being presented to the June 19 Committee of the Whole meeting and can be found on the City of Thunder Bay website.

The Chair responded to questions.

7.7 Proposed Indoor Turf Facility

Can you provide an update on the Multi-Use Indoor Turf Facility?

The Chair provided an update relative to the Multi-Use Indoor Turf Facility and provided the following information:

In March 2021, Council decided not to proceed with the award of contract for construction of a proposed multi-use indoor turf facility to be located at Chapples Park. At the meeting held in December 2022, Council received a deputation from Soccer Northwest Ontario (SNO) on a proposed alternate facility concept to be located on the City lands adjacent to the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

In December 2022, Council resolved to defer a report to advance a long term solution expected January 2023 based on proposals received through the EOI process to allow Administration to proceed to explore the implications of the new, alternate SNO facility/concept.

At the April 3, 2023 Council resolved that Administration report back on the costing of 2 versions of the Soccer Northwest Ontario (SNO) facility concept: 1. one that meets minimum legislated requirements (but not the City's Facility Design Guidelines or Net Zero requirements) and 2. one that meets the City's Facility Design Guidelines. This would be reported back to the September 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Chair responded to questions.

The Chair advised that Administration will be reporting back in September and will have more information at that time.

7.8 Water Street Traffic Lights

Residents raised concerns with the Water Street traffic lights north and south of Marina Park. On the north side, you are required to stop on the road prior to travelling over the tracks into the park. At the south side of the park, you require to stop you car on the road before you make a left into the park. Both are dangerous situations when you have vehicles approaching you from behind.

The Chair responded to questions.

7.9 Parkland grass being damaged

A resident raised concern with the summer parks staff damaging grass by driving on the lawn at the corner of Lyon Boulevard and Arundel to service the washroom.

The Chair advised that he would forward the concern to Administration.

7.10 River Street Construction

A discussion had taken place relative to the construction of River Street that had started in May 2022 as a result of a culvert failure.

The Chair responded to questions.

7.11 North Core Streetscaping

A discussion was held relative to the North Core Streetscaping project. The watermain and sanitary sewer on Red River Road between Court Street and Cumberland Street needed to be replaced and became an opportunity to re-imagine the downtown area. There were several rounds of consultations with stakeholders groups and the public. Administration had been meeting with the Waterfront BIA to discuss mitigation measures and as a result they were very supportive of the final project plan.

The Chair responded to questions.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.