



Ward Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Kinsmen Youth Centre

609 James Street N.

1. Northwood Ward Meeting 01-2024

Chair: Councillor Dominic Pasqualino

2. Resource Persons

Tina Larocque, Coordinator - Boards, Committees & Special Projects

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair provided introductory remarks and introduced the new City Manager John Collin.

City Manager John Collin introduced himself and provided remarks.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Northwood Ward meeting held on November 23, 2023, for information.

5. Unsheltered Homelessness

The Chair provided the following information relative to the unsheltered homelessness:

- The response to unsheltered homelessness task force, is comprised of the following: City parks, Municipal Enforcement, Fire, Community Strategies, Indigenous Relations, Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Thunder Bay Police, Elevate; PACE and LRCA. They continue to meet every 2 weeks to receive updates on and assist with coordinating response to encampments.

- Portable toilets have been installed across 4 locations, and the Task Force continues to monitor and add additional services as indicated by Public Health.

- Regular bi-weekly garbage collection is scheduled at two sites, and a weekly pick up is being scheduled at another site to start next week. Parks staff continue to support additional clean up/garbage collection as resources allow.

- At the June 24, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council approved the adopting of the distance guidelines, writing a letter of support for partners in search of funding for piloting a shelter village. They also approved the advocacy to both the provincial and federal governments for the following: that the Government of Ontario to fulfill the cost-matching requirement to secure 2024 federal budget funding to address the urgent issue of encampments and unsheltered homelessness and to improve the adequacy of social assistance by increasing social assistance rates so that recipients are better able to meet their basic needs, including the cost of living and housing. To fund low-barrier crisis stabilizations spaces for people with mental health and/or substance use related issues that operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week across the city as part of a full continuum of evidence-based services, treatment and wrap around supports. (The resolution still requires ratification by Council at the following meeting)

Questions were raised as to how other cities are handling the unsheltered homelessness and why the bylaw office is not able to relocate the unsheltered homelessness to a different location, perhaps where there are more resources available as they had done in the City of Toronto. Residents questioned if the Human Rights approach was the best way to resolve this issue.

Concerns were raised with unsheltered residents destroying city trees when setting up shelter on city property, and community safety, especially for the children that walk past these encampments. They also raised concerns with the garbage and the increase of rats and seagulls.

6. General Ward & City Issues

6.1 Roads and Potholes

Residents raised concerns with the poor conditions of the roads and the many potholes that have not been repaired. Concerns were raised with the money spent on patching machines, that are not operating as they are always in for repairs.

6.2 Parkettes - Surplus Properties

A discussion was held relative to the June 3, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting, with respect to the report presented recommending properties to be declared surplus. Residents thanked Councillor Pasqualino for not supporting the motion to have Thornloe property to be declared surplus.

7. Adjournment

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.