



EarthCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Martin Room - 3rd Floor, City Hall**

1. EarthCare Advisory Committee Meeting 04-2024

Chair: Councillor Andrew Foulds

2. Members

Kiera Essex
Councillor Andrew Foulds
Sandra Stiles
Jane Todd

3. Officials

Cynthia Olsen, Director - Strategy & Engagement
Jacob Porter, Climate Adaptation Coordinator
Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist
Lori Wiitala, Committee Clerk/Legislative Specialist

4. Land Acknowledgement

EarthCare Advisory Committee Member Kiera Essex provided a Land Acknowledgement.

5. Welcome and Disclosures of Interest

At 4:06 p.m. quorum was not achieved; the Chair called the Information Session to order.

At 4:10 p.m. the Committee achieved quorum.

6. Agenda Approval

MOVED BY: Keira Essex
SECONDED BY: Jane Todd

WITH RESPECT to the October 9, 2024, meeting of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, we recommend that the agenda as amended, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

7. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting 03-2024 of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, held on September 18, 2024, be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Keira Essex
SECONDED BY: Jane Todd

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 03-2024 of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, held on September 18, 2024, be confirmed.

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

8.1 Terms of Reference (TOR) Review

Discussion was held regarding the EarthCare Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) review.

The following motion was presented for consideration:

WITH RESPECT to the EarthCare Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) we recommend that the changes outlined below be approved:

Land Acknowledgement

Paragraph 1: remove the word peoples:

'We acknowledge the land this Advisory Committee gathers on. The members of our committee are honoured to live, work, and play in Thunder Bay, on Anishinaabe lands within the Robinson-Superior Treaty

of 1850 and on the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation. We also acknowledge the contribution of the Metis and Inuit to our community.'

Paragraph 2: remove the words - 'and stewards that have left the gift of
'These lands and waters provide for our community we are grateful to the original caretakers that have continuously worked to nourish and protect the gifts of healthy soil, air, and water so that we can live good lives. However, we have been quick to justify the erosion of these gifts in pursuit of other goals.'

Paragraph 3: remove the words: 'restore the gifts left to us'

'The climate crisis is a symptom of our fractured relationship with the land and its gifts. Our Advisory Committee believes that it is through advocacy and action that we can reconcile with the land and with each other, not only to ensure the health and prosperity of these lands for future generations, but to repair and strengthen our relationship with all our relations.'

Deliverables:

Option b) add the word 'proactive'

b) Record of proactive advice on strategic direction and advocacy provided to City Council and Administration;

Composition:

Remove numbers of each member demographic.

Add statement on seeking representation from all of the identified groups in committee.

8.2 Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law

Discussion was held regarding the proposed Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law. Draft Memorandum from Climate Action Specialist Danielle Thom was provided for discussion.

Director - Strategy & Engagement Cynthia Olsen advised that a Memorandum will be presented to Council at the October 21, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting to request deferral of the report back date to November 25, 2024.

Public expressed concern with plant height restrictions, herbicides, plants with medicinal uses, and the use of planter boxes and snow removal. It was advised that other municipalities have adopted a 1-meter height restriction and allow the use of planter boxes.

Citizens are encouraged to complete the survey on the Get Involved website: <https://getinvolvedthunderbay.ca/boulevard-garden-and-maintenance-by-law>

The Memorandum in support of the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law will be prepared in consideration of the public consultation feedback.

MOVED BY: Keira Essex
SECONDED BY: Sandra Stiles

WITH RESPECT to the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law, we recommend that the Memorandum in support be deferred to the November committee meeting to include feedback from the public consultation survey.

CARRIED

8.3 Request for Presentations

Discussion will be held regarding request for presentations at upcoming meetings.

The Committee agreed to request presentations at upcoming meetings from the following:

- November 20, 2024: Green Development Standards with the Thunder Bay Climate Transition Cohort
- January 2025: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Roadmap with Vanessa DiGiacomo Zwaresh
- February 2025: The Champions Project Anthology Launch with the Champions Writers Collective
- March 2025: District Energy Project Overview with Biothermic

9. Net-Zero Strategy, Sustainability and Working Group Update

Climate Action Specialist Danielle Thom provided a thorough overview of the Net-Zero Strategy, Sustainability and Working Group(s) included in the agenda. The following additional information was provided.

- Green Development Standard Roundtable #2 will be held on November 1
- Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-Law Get Involved Survey will be available from October 3 to October 18
- The Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-Law Report Back has been pushed to November 25 to allow appropriate time for public consultation review.

10. Climate Adaptation Update

Climate Adaptation Coordinator Jacob Porter provided an update on Climate Adaptation.

Maamawe – All together. We honour the truth and reconcile for the future.

- Presenting on climate risks to northwest planning meeting

Safety and well-being. Our community is healthy, safe, and strong.

- Climate risk vulnerability assessment with Thunder Bay District Health Unit still underway; information will be used in renewal of Climate Adaptation Strategy and future TBDHU climate action plan and will be pursuing follow up with various organizations based on results.
- Piloted a vulnerability workshop with Confederation College students
- Providing in-kind support to Emergency Food Plan's emergency exercise in December
- Heat mapping undertaken with CityStudio and Confederation College, to inform what interventions may be most effective

Growth. We attract and retain new and diverse businesses and community members.

- Annual report to council planned for November 4

Sustainability. We advance a thriving economy and environment.

- Risk assessment for all asset classes is underway as part of the asset management plan

- Climate lens guidance for Thunder Bay focused on climate adaptation and equity is being developed in partnership with the Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation

11. Upcoming Events and Announcements

North West Climate Gathering 2024
Saturday, October 19, 2024
Lakehead University

12. Gratitude

Committee Members and Administration to provide a roundtable of gratitude.

13. Next Meeting

The EarthCare Advisory Committee Meetings will be held the 3rd Wednesday of each month with the exception of July and August, in the McNaughton Room, at 4:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted, as follows:

- Wednesday, November 20, 2024
- Wednesday, December 18, 2024

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.