



Ward Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre
700 River Street

1. Red River Ward Meeting 02-2024

Chair: Councillor Michael Zussino

2. Resource Persons

John Collin, City Manager

Summer Stevenson, Housing Accelerator - Project Manager

Darrik Smith, Housing Accelerator Coordinator

Gordon Stover, Committee & Meeting Management System Coordinator

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and provided introductory comments. There were approximately 20 people in attendance.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Red River Ward meeting held on January 24, 2024, for information.

5. City Manager Introduction

City Manager John Collin was introduced and provided an overview and responded to questions related to his first impressions of the City, services that are available and areas for improvement.

Successes of the City include the urban core improvement projects and the continuous community events and recreation and culture programs available to residents.

Discussion was held relative to the following:

Need to focus on growth. Population needs to increase at 3% per year in order for the tax base to support our purchasing power and sustain what we already have.

Government funding not accurately reflecting the population.

Infrastructure Gap - fixing and maintaining our current assets while still needing to grow.

Indoor Turf Facility is still needed for Thunder Bay.

6. Housing Accelerator Fund Overview

Housing Accelerator - Project Manager Summer Stevenson and Housing Accelerator Coordinator Darrik Smith provided a presentation and overview of the Housing Accelerator Fund.

Handouts of the PowerPoint presentation as well as postcard advertisements were provided for information.

Housing Accelerator Fund Basics:

The program supports affordable housing, multi-unit housing, and "missing middle" housing by encouraging intensification on existing municipal servicing which supports the City of Thunder Bay's strategic goals. Projects must result in targeted new homes. The overall goal of the grants is to support the creation of three types of new residential units: (1) interior apartments, (2) additions, or (3) backyard homes.

Financial incentives are provided through two Community Improvement Plans:

The Housing Community Improvement Plan which applies to most of the urban boundary of Thunder Bay with full urban services (water and sanitary sewer) and

the Strategic Core Areas Community Improvement Plan which applies to the North Core, South Core, and Westfort Business Area.

Discussion was held relative to the grants available for both Community Improvements Plans and how property owners can apply. Construction must start by end of 2026 to be eligible.

Residents were advised to forward any questions regarding the program to Summer Stevenson or Darrik Smith and all information can be found at www.buildthunderbay.ca

7. Woodside Parkette

The Chair provided an overview of potential plans for Woodside Parkette.

Woodside Parkette was originally included on the City's Surplus list for potential sale but was removed in June 2024 to allow for additional review of the land.

Proposed plan developed by neighbourhood group was distributed for information. Drawing included half basketball court/pickelball area, small stage, bbq area, benches, raised garden beds and picnic tables.

The neighbourhood group is currently working to find a solution to avoid sale and will continue to meet throughout the winter months to develop possible options for the park to present to City Administration in January 2025.

8. Ward and City Issues

8.1 Carrick Park Walking Path

It was suggested that the walkway path between the Carrick Park Skating Rink and Corpus Christi Elementary School be plowed by the City during the winter months.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.