



EarthCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 4:30 p.m.
McNaughton Room - 3rd Floor, City Hall**

1. EarthCare Advisory Committee Meeting 02-2025

Chair: Keira Essex

2. Members

Shannon Costigan
Kiera Essex
Councillor Andrew Foulds
Taylor Munro

3. Officials

Michelle Warywoda, Director - Environment Division
Louisa Costanzo, Manager - Community Safety & Well-Being
Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist
Lori Wiitala, Committee Clerk/Legislative Specialist

4. Guests

Matthew Pearson, Senior Advisor - Growth
Peter Globensky, Vice President and Managing Partner - Beverly Anne Sabourin
& Associates
Beverly Sabourin, former Vice-Provost of Aboriginal Initiatives and a Fellow at
Lakehead University, a Deer Clan Elder of the Netmizaaggamig
Nishnaabeg

5. Land Acknowledgement

Taylor Munro provided the Land Acknowledgement.

6. The Champions Project

The meeting started as an information session; quorum was achieved at 4:47 p.m.

Beverly Sabourin, former Vice-Provost of Aboriginal Initiatives and a Fellow at Lakehead University, a Deer Clan Elder of the Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg and Peter Globensky, Vice President and Managing Partner - Beverly Anne Sabourin & Associates, provided a presentation on The Champions Project.

The goal of the Champions Project is to prepare and publish an anthology called Canadian Human Rights Champions: The Arduous Journey, which will be released by the University of Toronto Press in 2025. The anthology explains the human rights campaigners examining their inspirations, possibilities and difficulties faced while fighting to ensure access to the Charter rights for Canadians. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights will commemorate its 75th anniversary this year in Canada and around the world. Three of the 38 champions in the book are from Thunder Bay.

The request from the presentation is for partnership, sponsorship or endorsement in the final phase of the book, to assist with publication and the Community Forum event to be held at Lakehead University. The book is scheduled to be published at the end of April 2025, with a national launch in October 2025 at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. The book launch is open to the public and free to attend; registration will be required. Dates for the event are still in discussion.

The committee agreed that funding from the committee was not an option; the following recommendations were provided:

- reach out to Coordinator - Planning, Projects & Development Callie Hemsworth regarding the Community, Youth and Cultural Funding grant program; the program closes on March 25, 2025 for the year
- request Corporate Communications look at social media posting to raise awareness

7. Disclosures of Interest

8. Agenda Approval

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

SECONDED BY: Taylor Munro

WITH RESPECT to the February 19, 2025, meeting of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, we recommend that the agenda as amended, including any additional information and new business, be confirmed.

CARRIED

9. Smart Growth Plan Update

Matthew Pearson, Senior Advisor - Growth, provided an update on the development of the City's first Growth Plan.

- The City of Thunder Bay has had a growth rate of 1.3% since 2016. This is significantly lower than the provincial average of 5.8% and the national average of 5.2%.
- The Growth Task Force was formed in January to inform the Growth Plan by sharing information and research on growth options for the City.
- The Growth Task Force is made up of 25 community members who represent City departments and outside organizations.
- A significant portion of these members are concerned about the environment and advocate for environmental protection.
- The Growth Task Force is seeking 'smart growth' and wanted to stress the intention is not 'growth at all costs'.
- The Growth Task Force will meet monthly until June. A report with a recommendation on the findings will be presented to City Council for consideration in June.

10. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

10.1 Updates to the Memo of Support for the Thunder Bay Climate Transition Collaborative

The committee discussed updates to the memo of support for the Thunder Bay Climate Transition Collaborative.

The following motion was presented for consideration.

MOVED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

SECONDED BY: Taylor Munro

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum of Support for the Thunder Bay Climate Transition Collaborative regarding Green Development Standards, we recommend that the Memorandum, as written, be approved.

CARRIED

11. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting 01-2025 of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, held on January 22, 2025, be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Taylor Munro
SECONDED BY: Councillor Andrew Foulds

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 01-2025 of the EarthCare Advisory Committee, held on January 22, 2025, be confirmed.

CARRIED

12. Committee Membership and Recruitment

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

13. Net-Zero Strategy and Sustainability Update

Danielle Thom, Climate Action Specialist provided an update on Net-Zero Strategy and Sustainability.

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

Planning for Earth Day 2025

- Partnering with Indigenous Relations for a Sunrise Ceremony in the Marina Park Spirit Garden
- Launch the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law Education Campaign
- Possible partnership with Enbridge for ICI event
- Support Northwest Climate Gathering Stone Soup Potluck

CityStudio Projects for Winter 2025

- Boulevard Garden Education Campaign
- Internal Anti-Idling Campaign
- Voluntary Review of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

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

FCM Sustainable Communities Conference 2025

- CEF Learning Forum took place from February 10 to 11
- Sustainable Communities Conference took place from February 11 to 13

Research and Innovation Week Event, “Electrify Your Future”

- February 26, 2025 (6:30 to 8:00 pm) at the Italian Cultural Centre
- Free public event will teach residents about heat pump technology, and financing options that are available today

Confederation College Energy Summit, “Building and Maintaining for a Resilient Future”

- February 27, 2025 (8:00 am to 4:00 pm) at Confederation College
- Free private event will bring together facilities managers from across the City to learn more about maintaining ICI infrastructure and planning energy retrofits

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

Phase 2: Home Energy Improvement Loan Program Design

- Goal Setting Workshop was conducted on February 7, 2025
- Public engagement is finished
- Planning a media event to inform the public about survey results
- Dunsky has provided the first chapter of the Design Study for review

EAC Membership Application

Membership applications are open from March 26 - April 14

Sustainability. We advance a thriving economy and environment.

Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law

- January 13, 2025 Committee of the Whole Minutes were ratified on February 10, 2025
- Next Steps:
 - Acceptance of the Boulevard Garden and Maintenance By-law on February 24, 2025;
 - Complete PIA process by end of March;
 - Launch the Garden Deceleration & Acknowledgement Tool by the end of March; and,
 - Launch the Education Campaign on April 22.

14. Climate Adaptation Update

This item is deferred to the March meeting.

15. Gratitude

The Committee Members and Administration provided a roundtable of gratitude.

16. 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. as follows:

- Wednesday, March 19, 2025
- Wednesday, April 16, 2025
- Wednesday, May 21, 2025
- Wednesday, June 18, 2025
- Wednesday, September 17, 2025
- Wednesday, October 15, 2025
- Wednesday, November 19, 2025
- Wednesday, December 17, 2025

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.