



## **Ward Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 27, 2025, 6:59 p.m.**  
**Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre**  
**700 River Street**

**1. Red River Ward Meeting 01-2025**

Chair: Councillor Michael Zussino

**2. Resource Persons**

Krista Power, Director-Legislative Services & City Clerk  
Crystal DePeuter, Council & Committee Clerk

**3. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chair provided a land acknowledgement and introductory comments.  
There were approximately 19 people in attendance.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the Red River Ward meeting held on December 11, 2025, for information.

The Chair provided responses to questions raised at the December 11, 2024 ward meeting.

**5. City Council Composition Review**

Director - Legislative Services & City Clerk Krista Power provided an overview of the changes to council composition proposed by the Council Composition Review Committee through their final report and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the process itself, why this process was initiated and how the change would impact the budget. Clerk Power emphasized that there is no significant cost saving anticipated.

Discussion was held relative to appointing an Indigenous representative from Fort William First Nation as an option. Clerk Power advised that as per legislation a member of council must be elected and must reside in the city of Thunder Bay. It was shared that diversity of council and barriers for minority candidates was discussed and considered by the committee in their final recommendation.

Discussion was held relative to the number of people a resident will elect to represent them. Clerk Power provided information on voter turnout and comparators with other municipalities.

Discussion was held relative to the proposed ward boundaries, the geographic and community considerations, the intent to balance population, demographics, and have each ward include waterfront, industrial, residential, and rural areas. A question was raised regarding future development and the potential for the wards to become imbalanced over time. Clerk Power advised that a future review could be initiated should the situation warrant it.

Discussion was held relative to the decision-making power of council and whether they would accept or reject the committee's recommendation in their own interest. Clerk Power advised that council members are elected as decision makers, all have an interest in common and it would not be considered a conflict under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. Councillors and the committee have engaged the community to encourage feedback.

A question was raised regarding youth feedback. Clerk Power advised that many of the youth questioned a reduction in council members as they saw it as lessening representation.

Discussion was held relative to a possible plebiscite on the matter. Clerk Power provided information on the legislative process including that it must be directed by Council, it must be a yes or no question, the City must provide education on the choices and outcomes, and the question must be approved by the minister of Municipal Affairs.

Discussion was held relative to maintaining the hybrid model and the change to 2

councillor per ward.

Director - Legislative Services & City Clerk Krista Power provided an overview of the proposed governance restructuring which is separate from the current council composition work. This will come before City Council before the end of June 2025.

## **6. Ward and City Issues**

The Chair provided an overview of the following 2025 Infrastructure Projects:

- Pavement Rehabilitation
  - Theresa Street - Madeline Street to Bruce Street
  - High Street - River Street to Van Norman Street
  
- Midblock Pedestrian Signal
  - Red River Road at McDonald's restaurant
  - Golf Links Road near the Country Club
  - Golf Links Road near the Clinic
  
- Multi Use Trail
  - Thunder Bay Regional Hospital to St. Andrews Cemetery with bridge over the river
  
- Light synchronization work is on track after a delay.
  
- Thunder Bay's Interocean Development Servicing Program will have sewer and water lines installed in the Central Avenue area by 2027 to unlock development potential.
  
- Traffic Lights
  - Burwood Road at Oliver Road

- Sidewalk Replacement on Marlborough Street and Clarkson Street

The Chair provided an update that the issue affecting the usability of the pedestrian crosswalk at Melon Street has been addressed.

Discussion was held relative to timed red lights at several 3-street intersections and a suggestion to replace lights with crosswalks. The Chair requested more specific information to be sent to him for follow up with Engineering.

Discussion was held relative to the rough road and potholes on the section of Theresa Street after Bruce Street where the pavement rehabilitation ends. The Chair advised that there may not be capacity to extend the pavement rehabilitation.

Discussion was held relative to the lack of sidewalk on Theresa Street from Bruce Street to Balsam Street with concern that children use that street to walk to Bishop Gallagher Elementary School.

Discussion was held relative to the proposed roundabout on Cumberland Street and concern about how it will affect traffic at the River Street intersection.

Discussion was held relative to the number of potholes in one of the Marina Park parking lots and concern about paid parking at Marina Park. The Chair advised that Council will receive a report in January 2026 with a review of the parking changes and that improvements to the park such as redoing the parking lot and redesigning the space are on track.

Discussion was held relative to enforcement concerns with school pick up / drop off at St. Bernard Elementary School on River Street and with illegal parking in the newly designed Waterfront District.

Discussion was held relative to adjusting school speed zones to specific times of the day. The Chair advised that he will raise this with Administration.

Discussion was held relative to truck traffic and the designated truck route.

Discussion was held relative to the potential impact of large-scale projects on future City budgets should user fees not cover operating costs and the potential improvements to quality of life. The projects highlighted include:

1. Thunder Bay Art Gallery
2. Thunder Bay Conservatory
3. Tennis Courts
4. Indoor Turf Facility
5. Event Centre
6. Science North Centre

Discussion was held relative to whether the City of Thunder Bay would be participating in a boycott of US products. The Chair advised that current procurement practices are being reviewed considering the current circumstances.

Discussion was held relative to enforcement issues related to the fence by-law. The Chair requested more specific information to be sent to him for follow up.

Discussion was held relative to the Woodside Parquette and whether anything can be done with the space to make it more usable while the item is deferred. The Chair advised that he will bring this back to Administration.

Discussion was held relative to garbage collection around tents in the city. The Chair shared that contractors are going in but are challenged in the cold weather with a frozen ground.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.