



Waterfront Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 4:02 p.m.

McNaughton Room - 3rd Floor, City Hall

1. Waterfront Development Committee Meeting 05-2025

Chair: Timothy Hardie

Chair Timothy Hardie welcomed those in attendance and advised, that due to lack of quorum, the meeting would proceed as an information session.

2. Members

Brad DesRochers

Timothy Hardie

Warren Philp

Sean Spenrath

3. Officials

Kayla Dixon, Commissioner - Infrastructure & Operations

Guy Walter, Landscape Architect

Flo-Ann Track, Council & Committee Clerk

4. Guests

Amanda Nason, Communications Officer

5. Disclosures

None.

6. Presentations

6.1 Work Plan Update Presentation

At the February 18, 2025 meeting of the WDC discussion was held relative to WDC Action Timeline Pillar "Champion Superior Thunder Bay - Improvements to Communication and Promotion Plan".

Some of the items discussed as follows:

- International Trails Day Native Species Planting - June 7, 2025
- Representative from Trans Canada Trail attending
- Planting event - Pool 6 and Fisherman's Park locations

At the March 18, 2025 meeting of the WDC Member Warren Philp provided the following update:

Some of the Partners involved:

- Lake Superior Remedial Action Plan
- Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
- WRTCAT
- City of Thunder Bay
- 50+ volunteers

Landscape Architect Guy Walter provided the following, for information.

Public Consultation

- Festival Area
- Space has been reserved for the June 7, 2025 Event
- Administration will work with Corporate Communications to develop a communications plan: messaging, event poster, Get Involved webpage development

Communications Officer Amanda Nason appeared before the Committee, provided a Presentation relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

Document entitled "Waterfront Trail Communications Plan" was distributed separately to Members on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, for information.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some of the items discussed as follows:

- Objective
- Event Names
- Key Messages

- Tactics
- Social Media Campaign
 - copies of the poster/Social Ads to be circulated amongst the Members for comment and revisions prior to publication
- City Website/Event Calendar
 - Get Involved/City Events Calendar could be used
- Media Relations
- Timeline
 - Planting Event from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - 60-80 volunteers
 - Baggage Arts Building has been reserved from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. for story board display and engagement session
- Monitoring and Evaluation

During the discussion of the above noted item quorum was achieved.

7. Agenda Approval

Chair Timothy Hardie requested that a Motion to use the City of Thunder Bay's Get Involved webpage to promote International Trail Days Native Species Planting Event and The Waterfront Festival Area Redesign Project be added to agenda as new business.

MOVED BY: Warren Philp

SECONDED BY: Sean Spenrath

WITH RESPECT to the May 20, 2025 meeting of the Waterfront Development Committee, we recommend that the Agenda as printed, including any additional information and new business be confirmed, as amended.

CARRIED

8. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of Meeting 04-2025 Waterfront Development Committee, held on April 15, 2025 to be confirmed.

MOVED BY: Sean Spenrath
SECONDED BY: Brad DesRochers

THAT the Minutes of Meeting 04-2025 Waterfront Development Committee, held on April 15, 2025 be confirmed.

CARRIED

9. Waterfront Master Plan Update

9.1 Highest & Best Use Study

Commissioner, Infrastructure & Operations Kayla Dixon provided the following update relative to the Highest and Best Use Study, for information:

- The Highest and Best Use Study is now available on the City's Get Involved webpage, [Waterfront Master Plan Update - Pool 6 Lands | Get Involved Thunder Bay](#)
- Next Steps - conceptual plans to Committees for feedback
- First Survey Summer/Fall 2025

10. Infrastructure Project Update

10.1 Festival Area, Cumberland Street Roundabout & Reconstruction

Commissioner, Infrastructure & Operations Kayla Dixon provided an update relative to the Festival Area Redesign, Cumberland Street Roundabout, and Transit Terminal Reconstruction projects and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some of the items discussed as follows:

- Public service messaging will be provided to inform the public of any service disruptions and timelines relating to the following:
 - Festival Area Project to be completed in phases over 3 years outside of the event season, starting September 2025
 - Cumberland Street Roundabout construction will limit access except for construction and emergency vehicles
 - Transit Terminal construction will also impact traffic and Transit Services

11. Work Plan Update

Document entitled WDC Action Timeline - WDC Focused 20242026 Action Plan, for information.

At the April 15, 2025 WDC meeting Chair Timothy Hardie provided an overview of his Memorandum dated April 8, 2025, and attached as document entitled "WDC Action Plan Alignment with City Mgr Work Plan draft 1 v4" and requested that it be re-presented at the May 20, 2025 WDC meeting.

Memorandum dated April 8, 2025 from Timothy Hardie, Chair - Waterfront Development Committee providing information relative to potential alignment of the WDC Action Plan and the City Manager's Work Plan, re-presented.

At the April 15, 2025 WDC meeting, the Chair requested that the City's Engagement Strategy document be included for discussion at the May 20, 2025 meeting.

Document entitled 3294 Engagement Strategy Framework - FINAL FRAMEWORK" attached.

Document entitled "WDC Action Plan - May 2025_draft_v2" distributed separately to Members on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Chair Timothy Hardie provided an overview of the document entitled "WDC Action Plan - 2025_draft_v2" relative to proposed changes and the alignment of the WDC Action Plan with the City Manager's Work Plan.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some of the items discussed as follows:

- current geographical scope
 - is there potential to expand
- potential memo from WDC or others re: Waterfront Trail expansion on private lands
 - Administration to follow up at future meeting
- Invite City Manager to future meeting

12. New Business

12.1 International Trail Days Native Species Planting Event and The Waterfront Festival Area Redesign Project Motion

MOVED BY: Sean Spenrath

SECONDED BY: Brad DesRochers

WITH RESPECT to the upcoming Waterfront Trail Days Event, to be held on June 7, 2025, we recommend that the event be promoted on the City's Get Involved webpage.

CARRIED

2025 Meeting Schedule

Meetings of the Waterfront Development Committee will be scheduled from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.