



Ward Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Current River Community Centre, 450 Dewe Avenue

1. Current River Ward Meeting 02-2025

Chair: Councillor Andrew Foulds

2. Resource Persons

Guy Walter, Supervisor - Landscape Architecture & Horticulture

Tina Larocque, Coordinator - Boards, Committees & Special Projects

3. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed those in attendance, introduced Administration and provided introductory remarks.

There were approximately 15 people in attendance.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Current River Ward meeting held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, were provided for information.

5. Waterfront Development Update

Guy Walter, Supervisor - Landscape Architecture & Horticulture provided an overview of the development plan for the Waterfront, including the following information:

The main stage will be moving to the north side of site, facing inward, with sound being directed towards the lake. This area will be called the North Performance Plaza and Waterfront Hub. There will also be another stage area that can accommodate a smaller event.

Spectator Hill will have an elevated view and increases capacity at events. It

also has a gradual slope designed for sledding in the winter.

At the current events area there is very limited storage space which has been a concern for performers as they require space for their equipment. Storage buildings will be included in the design, will be winterized and available to store all year long. The staff are also required to move items from one site to the events site and to bring it all back when the event season is over, however with the new on-site storage areas, it will require less staff time as the events equipment will be on-site.

Vendors are currently located on Bobby Curtola Way during events but have limited services and spaces. In the new waterfront development plan, during major events the Waterfront Trail is converted to Vendor Way. Vendor Way will be able to accommodate a larger number of food trucks and vendors. Access to power and water will be available.

Washrooms are currently available for day use only, however with the new waterfront development, washrooms are being added to the north and south end of the grounds and will be available all year long.

Play area and Picnic Grove will be developed. The play area will be accessible and will be located near the Tai-Chi area and includes nature based play elements for youth aged 2-12. The materials to be used are stone, logs, plants and rubber play surfacing. Picnic Grove will be adjacent to the play area and will have furnishings for families to spend time at the waterfront.

Question was raised about long term maintenance. Parks are overgrown and the city does not do maintenance. Will the City maintain these new areas?

Response from the supervisor - landscape architecture & horticulture Guy Walter: Yes, Parks will be managing the grass cutting and there will be perennials/native plants from our region that will be planted that require much less maintenance.

A concern was raised regarding the maintenance of the new events space, as the current events space has not received many updates/ upgrades and the paths need to be renewed.

Response from the supervisor - landscape architecture & horticulture Guy Walter:

The waterfront plan has been in development for over 10 years, and the events area has been maintained for safety but no new construction or updates have been completed as they didn't want to waste financial resources when the new construction would be taking place.

Questions were raised to when the work will begin, how long is the project and is the city sourcing materials for this project from outside of Canada.

Response from the supervisor - landscape architecture & horticulture Guy Walter:

Construction will begin in the fall after the Wake the Giant event and should be completed by September 2028. He also responded that they are trying to keep materials sourced locally.

The Chair thanked Guy Walter for the overview and for attending the ward meeting.

6. Ward and City Issues

6.1 Roundabout

A discussion had taken place relative to the roundabout being built on Cumberland/Water Street/ Marina Park Overpass. It was advised that it would include streetscaping, with sidewalk replacements, bump outs and landscaping. The roundabout will also be larger than the one located in Northwood as tractor trailers have to be considered. A further discussion was held relative to cost savings in the long term due to the removal of traffic lights. Information and pictures regarding roundabouts can be found on the City Website.

6.2 Road Construction

A discussion had taken place regarding the roads in current river that need repairs. Concerns were raised regarding Dewe and Velva Avenue road conditions. The Chair provided information relative to the budget, and advised that the City completes a highest use of roads study and an asset management plan, which helps determine which roads should be included in the budget for each year.

6.3 Noise Complaints

A concern was raised as to the loud music playing at a neighbouring property which impacts the homeowners enjoyment in their own yard. The Chair advised that they would need to contact the Municipal Enforcement

Services and file a complaint. The office can be contacted at 807-577-6536 or you can file a complaint on-line through the City Website.

6.4 Code of Conduct

A resident suggested that the City of Thunder Bay have a Code of Conduct for employees to ensure integrity, honesty, conflicts of interest are disclosed and to prevent overspending and fraud.

The Chair advised that the city currently has a Code of Conduct for Members of Council but we don't currently have one for employees.

6.5 Materials and debris left behind on Huron Avenue

A resident raised a concern relative to materials and debris that were left behind on Huron Avenue from city staff who were working on a sidewalk and have not been back to pick it up.

The Chair advised that he would contact Administration.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.