

The Iroquois Waterfront Advisory & Implementation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m.,
(Meeting in person in Iroquois Civic Centre)

Minutes

Present were John Ross, Pierrette Racine, Walter Bailey, Diane Ross, Jim Millard, Keith Poore and Austin Marcellus. Regrets from Mayor Steven Byvelds. Also present were two guests, Bill & Laura Young, representing seasonal campers at the municipal campsite.

John began by announcing that our newest committee member, Stephen MacDonald has submitted his resignation due to health and personal reasons, leaving two openings.

The agenda was **approved on a motion by Pierrette and seconded by Walter. Carried.**

The Minutes from our most recent meeting on Nov. 25 were approved on a **motion by Keith and seconded by Pierette. Carried.**

John asked for approval to adjust the order of items in the agenda.

First item was a report from Austin on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan that is in the final stages of research. Jim and John were participants last week in one of several focus groups providing input from user groups on how our parks and recreation facilities fit in with other needs in the municipality.

The ten-year plan outlines the needs of user groups, new programs and facilities, available grants will be presented in draft form in the spring and the final report should be available in late June. John asked how the plan would affect our committee and was assured that it would have no jurisdiction on our operation but could provide suggestions for guidance.

Photocopies of a letter to all members from Mayor Steven Byvelds were handed out. The mayor provided comment on all our agenda items. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

There was discussion of the long-term plans for the municipal campground. John referred to our mandate, indicating that according to our Terms of Reference, our group was within its rights to make recommendations on the matter. He invited comment from all members and from our guests. The results of the discussion indicate that the management of the campground has been spotty over the past few years and the campers themselves have been doing much of the day-to-day cleaning and check-in of new campers. John proposed the formation of a not-for-profit corporation that would assume management of the campground under a lease arrangement similar to the one in place for the Iroquois Golf Club. This would provide on-site management and supervision of part-time staff. **It was moved by Walter and seconded by Pierrette that John proceed with investigation of setting up a corporation for the purpose of leasing and managing the campground. Carried.**

A brief discussion took place regarding the reimbursement for expenses incurred by John in the bench prototype project. Austin reported that all the benches that were ordered late in the year are now on

municipal property and the plaques are in production.

John was pleased that Austin confirmed that John's donation of a bench would be treated just the same as the benches donated by other donors. John then agreed to re-submit his previous list of expenses as a donation, except for deleting a charge from the bench manufacturer of approximately \$600 for the re-making of the slats which hold the plaque. The day after the order for the benches had been placed by the municipality, John found problems with inseting the plaque and sent a detailed change requirement to Austin to be passed on to the manufacturer. A month later John found that Austin did not receive it and by then, the benches had already been made with the plaque inset done to the wrong dimensions. Subsequently, the manufacturer remade the slats and billed John. **Moved by Keith, seconded by Jim that John will re-submit his list of expenses omitting the replacement slats and the manufacturer be asked to invoice the municipality for the slats. Carried**

Discussion took place on our committee's projects for the coming year. Austin noted that he would like to have most things ready to go by Canada Day, adding that all the items on our project list had been approved by council during the budget meetings.

There was some confusion around the water fountain/water bottle filling station regarding whether the unit had been purchased. Austin agreed to investigate and report back.

Three new historic plaques are to be installed along the path as well as a replacement for the sign near Carman House. **Moved by Pierrette and seconded by Walter that Jim work with John Gleed to create the art work and Bill Morrow will print the signs. Austin will order the steel pedestals for the three new signs if the price is roughly the same as last year. Carried.**

Pierrette will work with the historic society to select photos for the three new pathway signs. Pierrette will also work on layout of the information sign boards for use at the beach, airstrip and marina, Jim offered to help and they will have something for the committee to look at next time we meet.

At this point, as time was running short, it was **moved by Walter, seconded by Keith that the committee move in camera to review applications from potential new members. Carried.**

A motion to come out of Camera was made by Pierrette and seconded by Jim. Carried.

The meeting adjourned on a **motion by Walter.** Next meeting is March 8/22

Iroquois Waterfront Committee

February 8, 2022

Committee Members.

I will not be able to attend tonight's meeting. I have looked over the agenda and will provide input, guidance, and a response to the items within them. I ask that Secretary Jim attach this to the minutes.

Council has approved the budget for the 2022 Project List. They did however comment to be cautious with Disc Golf as others have tried and failed [Parks of the St. Lawrence at the Chrysler Marina]. I still would be cautious on the natural growth area by the Carman House and any remedial work desired there. Council and I are looking forward to the Pollinator or Wildflower planting. I would be willing to help with some of that work once spring comes. Please keep in mind that all projects will need to be re-approved via the minutes complete with action plan. You must also work with staff, mainly Austin, to complete the work. Under no circumstances should work be done without following proper procurement proceedings. I also suggest, as I will with the Morrisburg Committee, that any work you would like done to get it done this year. As you all know, it is an election year and I believe it may be time to revisit both committees and what vision should be used going forward. In the end, the next council will make that decision.

John has requested an explanation on why reimbursement of costs he incurred during the so-called prototyping of the benches was denied. Council felt that proper procedure was not followed when he went on his own and acquired a bench and related material and then placed it in the park. Everyone within the Municipality must follow procedure unless granted special permission from council through a council meeting. Council did allow for a donation receipt to be issued for the amount spent however it was clear that in the future, procedure must be followed by working with staff and council to accomplish your goals.

During budget, I did bring up the possibility of allowing a private contractor to run not only the Campground but also the Marina. Both areas have become work and I believed it was time that the Municipality look at getting out of lines of businesses that we did not need to be in as we have enough to do. I did also raise concerns specifically with the Campground budget that it did not reflect accurately the true cost of running the enterprise as upper level staff [Manager of Parks and Recreation, Manager of Facilities, Treasury, CAO] costs were not accounted for along with no charge for the Campground Building [yes, part was paid for by John but \$350,000 plus some sundry costs along with all maintenance costs, now and in the future, are the responsible of South Dundas]. Council will be having a further discussion on the Campground operations in the near future. I will remind the committee that the operation of the campground is a management [council and staff] decision and is not part of the committee mandate. Since the Marina was also brought up, it has lost money in all its operational years during my time on council and I did propose at budget to divest of it. However, after some consideration, council and I decided to go ahead with signing the lease renewal from OPG along with staff direction for them to bring to council a fully costed operational plan and a new lease form with the Boathouse owners targeting insurance requirements.

The new Parks and Recreation plan is proceeding well. I believe that the chair and secretary have participated in a visioning session. All committee members are encouraged to do the online survey. I

am not sure if it will look at changing anything at both waterfronts but having a new look along with input from South Dundas residents is not a bad thing. Once the draft is out, it can be looked at to see if there are any major concerns. Remember, it is everyone's waterfront, and we should appreciate what we have to enjoy and share.

If you want to share your concerns or thoughts with me, either as a group or individually, please contact me.

Steven Byvelds, Mayor